EDCTP

European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Joint Programme Activities

1 Joint Programme Activities

Joint Programme Activities projects

Project Acronym (Coordinator)	Type fo project / Phase of trial	Product(s)	Manufacturer / Developer	Study population	Status
TriMSID (Kalanda)	Networking and capacity building, linking NACCAP and EDCTP funded malaria and TB projects	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Completed
PFRGIT (Mordmüller)	Quality control systems related to *P. falciparum* culture; Demographic and clinical data assessment	*In vitro* testing of different malaria drugs and vaccines	-	Blood samples from Gabonese patients older than 6 months	Completed
IMPDIAGNOST (Schön)	TB diagnostic and prognostic tools	Placebo Albendazole		Objective 4: 300 patients Objective 5: Target 400 patients	Ongoing
ITAFR (Sonnerborg)	Training and IT infrastructures	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Ongoing

1.1.1 TriMSID

EDCTP Project Coordinator:	Gertrude Kalanda (University of Malawi)
EDCTP Call Title:	Call for Identification and Strengthening of Joint Programme Activities
EDCTP Project Title:	To develop a clinical trial management and support infrastructure at the College of Medicine, Blantyre, Malawi
EDCTP Project Code:	JP.2008.10800.001
EDCTP Project Start Date:	6 April 2009
EDCTP Project End Date:	6 April 2012
Collaborators:	• Exnevia Gomo (University of Malawi) • Christa Janko (Vienna School of Clinical Research, Austria) • Sian Roberts (University of Liverpool, UK) • Feiko ter Kuile, (University of Liverpool, UK) • Boele van Hensbroek (International Centre of Reproductive Health (ICRH), Netherlands)
Trial/Study title:	To develop a clinical trial management and support infrastructure at the College of Medicine, Blantyre, Malawi
Goal:	This project aims to develop clinical trial monitoring, administrative trial coordination and trial data management in Malawi, as recognised roles of clinical trial management require appropriate training, a continuous professional development programme and defined career structure. The project focuses on local training of Malawian clinical trial monitors to monitor trials on behalf of academic trial sponsors; clinical trial coordinators' who support the principal investigators (PIs) in the conduct of clinical trials; and data managers to set up, maintain and operate trial databases.
Primary Objective(s):	The objective is to build on existing developments to provide a comprehensive clinical research support service through development of a programme of training and continuous professional development and the establishment of a defined career structure for clinical trial management and administration which will lead to the proactive positioning of Malawi as a location of choice for conducting good quality clinical trials.
Collaborating site(s):	• College of Medicine (Malawi) • Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (UK) • Vienna School of Clinical Research (Austria)
Status:	Completed
Results and Outcomes:	With the collaboration between VSCR, LSHTM and CoM, a critical mass of clinical research personnel has been trained by the CTU. The following courses have been given: 1. The Foundations of Clinical Research course (attended by 24 participants) included: – An Introduction to Clinical Research – Introduction to GCP – Safety definitions and reporting – Data management – Ethical Considerations in Clinical Research 2. A Trial Site Management course (12 participants) 3. A GCLP course (21 participants) 4. An online Standard Operating Procedures (12 researchers followed the course)

1.1.2 PFRGIT

EDCTP Project Coordinator:	Benjamin Mordmüller (University of Tübingen, Germany)
EDCTP Call Title:	Call for Identification and Strengthening of Joint Programme Activities
EDCTP Project Title:	Implementation and standardization of in vitro Plasmodium falciparum culture for resistance phenotyping and immune-mediated growth inhibition testing
EDCTP Project Code:	JP.2008.10800.004
EDCTP Project Start Date:	31 March 2009
EDCTP Project End Date:	31 March 2012
Collaborators:	• Saadou Issifou (Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Gabon) • Pierre-Blaise Matsiegui (Centre international de recherches médicales de Franceville (Ngounie), Gabon) • Maria Yazdanbakhsh (Leiden University, Netherlands)
Clinical Trial/Study Sponsor:	The Medical Research Unit of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné (MRU), Gabon
Trial/Study title:	*In vitro* resistance phenotyping and immune-mediated growth inhibition of *Plasmodium falciparum* clinical isolates.
Goal:	The overall objective of this project is to create a network of mutual exchange of techniques, reagents, protocols, as well as training (face-to-face and internet-based), and set up a quality control system relating to P. falciparum culture.
Primary Objective(s):	1. To implement continuous culture of P. falciparum in malaria endemic countries 2. To standardize parasite culture, perform regular training, and assure quality of results across sites 3. To built-up a repository of frozen parasite stocks, standards, and protocols.
Secondary Objective(s):	1. The development of a methodology to measure immune-mediated growth inhibition within the framework of malaria vaccine trials 2. The development of new drug candidates 3. To compare laboratory and clinical isolates.
Clinical Trial/Study site(s):	The Medical Research Unit of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné (MRU), Gabon
Collaborating site(s):	• Department of Parasitology of the University of Tübingen (UKT, Germany) • MRU (Gabon) • The Medical Research Center of the province Ngounie in Fougamou (CRMN, Gabon) • Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC, Netherlands) Other associated partners include the EDCTP project “Artesunate Treatment for Severe Malaria in African Children” coordinated by Prof. Kremsner and the Medical University Vienna, Austria Other partners: Members of the CANTAM Project
Study design:	Laboratory and epidemiological studies
Status:	Completed
Results and Outcomes:	Through this JPA grant, the following capacities have ben developed: • Implementation of continuous parasite culture in Lambaréné and Fougamou • The two sites in Gabon are now able to perform laboratory studies on parasite biology and growth properties, including immune-mediated and drug-induced growth inhibition • Provision of equipment and training for parasite culture and sample handling • Capacity to perform parasite cell culture and growth assays

	on site • A workshop on *in vitro* parasite culture and sample tracking was given in Gabon.
Total number of subjects (cohort/epidemiological/ other studies):	Up to 2995
Other/Sub-studies:	Other training: Anne-Marie Nkoma received additional training in parasite culture at the University of Tübingen.
Publications:	1. Joanny F, Held J, Mordmuller B. *In vitro* activity of fluorescent dyes against asexual blood stages of *Plasmodium falciparum*. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* Vol 56, 5982-6985, 2012

1.1.3 IMPDIAGNOST

EDCTP Project Coordinator:	Thomas Schön (Kalmar County Hospital, Sweden)
EDCTP Call Title:	Call for Identification and Strengthening of Joint Programme Activities
EDCTP Project Title:	Improved diagnostic and prognostic tools to combat tuberculosis in high endemic areas from bench to clinical trials
EDCTP Project Code:	JP.2009.10800.006
EDCTP Project Start Date:	27 April 2010
EDCTP Project End Date:	27 April 2013
Collaborators:	• Peter Aaby (Bandim Health Project, Guinea) • Ebba Abate (Linköping University, Sweden) • Abraham Aseffa (Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), Ethiopia) • Sven Britton (Karolinska Institute, Sweden) • Ermias Diro (Gondar University, Ethiopia) • Daniel Elias (ACE Biosciences, Denmark) • Assefa Getachew (Gondar University, Ethiopia) • Jonna Idh (Linköping University, Sweden) • Paulo Rabna (Bandim Health Project, Guinea-Bissau) • Cesaltina Silva Vieira (Bandim Health Project, Guinea-Bissau) • Olle Stendahl (Linköping University, Sweden) • Christian Wejse (University of Aarhus, Denmark) • Sisay Yifru (Gondar University, Ethiopia)
Site Principal Investigator(s):	• Thomas Schön (Ethiopia) • Christian Wejse (Guinea Bissau)
Trial/Study title:	Immunonutrition and Deworming Against Tuberculosis
Goal:	To develop improved tools for clinical diagnosis and surrogate markers of treatment response in patients with tuberculosis (TB) with a special emphasis on methods that could be easily implemented in high endemic areas.
Primary Objective(s):	1. To evaluate and develop a recently published clinical scoring system adopted for field use in Guinea Bissau and Ethiopia (TB-score: Wejse et al SJID 2008) in relation to outcome and response to chemotherapy 2. To introduce a cost effective, quality controlled methodology for drug susceptibility testing of the first and second line drugs against Mycobacterium tuberculosis adopted for high endemic areas such as Ethiopia and Guinea Bissau (Schön et al, JAC 2009, in press and van Klingeren et al, JCM 2007) 3. Development of a new scoring system for chest x-ray for tuberculosis validated against clinical outcome and adopted for areas where TB/HIV-co infection is high. The present classification originating from 1961 needs to be updated for the use in high endemic areas since it does not consider HIV/TB co-infection 4. To evaluate the role of the biomarker soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor (suPAR) as an early prognostic marker of mortality in TB suspects in combination with the TB-score 5. To describe the role of adjuvant deworming in patients with smear-positive TB in relation to clinical outcome and enhanced immune effector functions. The surrogate markers of improvement and diagnostic tools outlined above (1-4) will be integrated in ongoing and planned clinical trials.

Clinical Trial/Study site(s):	Objective 4: Bandim Health Project, Guinea Bissau Objective 5:The College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS), University of Gondar, Ethiopia
Collaborating site(s):	• AHRI (Ethiopia) • Bandim Health Project (Guinea-Bissau) • Gondar University (Ethiopia) • Kalmar County Hospital (Sweden) • Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) • Linköping University (Sweden) • University of Aarhus (Denmark)
Study designs:	Objective 4: Prospective observational clinical study Objective 5: A placebo controlled randomised prospective study
Product(s):	Albendazole
Cofunders:	• Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation (Sweden) • Swedish Association of Medicine (Sweden) • DANIDA (Denmark) • SIDA (Sweden)
Trial Registration number(s):	ATMR2009110001673419 (Objective 4: PREDINAM study) NCT00857116 (Objective 5)
Status:	Ongoing
Results and Outcomes:	Master thesis by Wssihun Wedajo (Ethiopia): "Drug Susceptibility Testing and Molecular Characterization of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Isolates from Pulmonary TB Patients at the End of Two Month Intensive Therapy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia" See publications
Total number of subjects (clinical trials only):	Objective 4: Target 300 patients Objective 5: Target 400 patients
Total number of subjects (cohort/epidemiological/ other studies):	Objective 1: Target 500 patients Objective 2: Target 200 patient isolates Objective 3: Target 200 patients
PhD studies	Objective 5: Deworming against tuberculosis Candidate: Ebba Abate (Gondar University and Linköping University)
	Objective 4: suPAR as an early prognostic marker in TB and TB suspects Candidate: Frauke Rudolf (Bandim Health Project and Aarhus University)
MSc study	Objective 2: A new strategy for second line drug susceptibility against tuberculosis Candidate: Wassihun Wedajo (Armauer Hansen Research Institute. Addis Abeba, Ethiopia)
Publications:	1. Frauke Rudolf, Grethe Lemvik, Victor Francisco Gomes, Morten Sodemann, Jay Verkuilen, Ebba Abate, Thomas Schön, Jesper Eugen-Olsen, Lars Østergaard, Christian Wejse. TBscoreII: refining and validating a simple clinical score to monitor Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients on treatment. *Scand J Infect Dis*. 2012 accepted 5th July 2013. 2. Helena Janols, Meseret Senbeto, Jonna Idh, Sven Britton, Ebba Abate, Thomas Schön. Early treatment response evaluated by a clinical scoring system correlates with the prognosis of pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Ethiopia: a prospective follow-up study. *Scand J Infect Dis*. 2012 Nov; 44(11):828-34. 3. Schön, Thomas. Stendahl, Olle; Lerm, Maria. Shortening the "short-course" therapy – how insights in host immunity may contribute to new treatment strategies for

	tuberculosis*. J Intern Med*. 2013 Apr;273(4):368-82. Review. 4. Ebba Abate, Jonna Idh, Aschalew Gelaw, Shitaye Alemu, Ermias Diro, Assefa Getachew, Sven Britton,Daniel Elias, Abraham Aseffa, Olle Stendahl, Thomas Schön. Rapid decline in helminth infection after treatment initiation for tuberculosis among HIV positive but not HIV negative patients. *PLoS One*. 2012;7(8):e42901. 5. Rudolf F, Joaquim LC, Vieira C, Bjerregaard-Andersen M, Andersen A, Erlandsen M, Sodemann M, Andersen PL, Wejse C.The Bandim tuberculosis score: reliability and comparison with the Karnofsky performance score. *Scand J Infect Dis*. 2013 Apr;45(4):256-64. **Other publications resulting from this work** 1. PhD Thesis: Ebba Abate. The impact of helminth infection in patients with active tuberculosis. Linköping University June 2013. 2. PhD Thesis: Frauke Rudolf. The Bandim TBscore – reliability, further development and evaluation of potential uses. Århus University June 2013. 3. PhD Thesis: Jonna Idh. The role of nitric oxide in host defence against Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Clinical and Experimental Studies. Linköping University June 2012. 4. Master Thesis: Wassihun Wedajo. Drug susceptibility testing and molecular characterization of Mycobacterium tuberculosis isolates from Pulmonary TB patients at the end of two month intensive therapy in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia (awarded the Tore Godal medal by the Ethiopian Medical Association). Ethiopia 2012.

1.1.4 ITAFR

EDCTP Project Coordinator:	Anders Sonnerborg (Karolinska Institute, Sweden)
EDCTP Call Title:	Call for Identification and Strengthening of Joint Programme Activities
EDCTP Project Title:	Integrated training activities and IT infrastructures to improve capacities in eastern African area
EDCTP Project Code:	JP.2009.10800.002
EDCTP Project Start Date:	26 May 2010
EDCTP Project End Date:	26 May 2013
Collaborators:	• Muhammad Bakari (Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Tanzania) • Getachew Aderaye Desta (University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) • Daniel Fekade (University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) • Gian Franco Morino (Neema Mamy Hospital, Kenya) • Admasu Tenna (University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) • Mario Toti (Area Vasta Toscana Sud-Est, Italy) • Maurizio Zazzi (University of Siena, Italy)
Trial/Study title:	Integrated training activities and IT infrastructures to improve capacities in eastern African area
Goal:	To strengthen the capacity building of the ongoing Swedish, Ethiopian and Tanzanian EDCTP project “Optimisation of tuberculosis and HIV co-treatment in Africa: Pharmacokinetic and pharmacogenetic aspects on drug-drug interactions between Rifampicin and Efavirenz” managed by the Karolinska Institute (shortly: the KI project) by integrating it with the ongoing Italian and Kenyan project “NEEMA MAMY, Mothers and Children right to Healthcare in the shantytowns”
Primary Objective(s):	The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the involved partners and countries to deal with the emerging issue of resistance to antiretrovirals. The sub-objectives are: 1. To upgrade lab infrastructure at involved sites in order to perform basic resistance measurements and to send amplified proviral DNA to Karolinksa Institute (Sweden) and Area Vasta for viral DNA sequencing. The sequences will be sent back for resistance determination and phylogenetic analysis 2. To upgrade IT infrastructure at the involved sites in order to electronically store relevant clinical and resistance data 3. To train staff at involved sites 4. To merge data into the EuResist Integrated DB (EIDB) and realise a resistance prediction engine able to support doctors in Africa in providing most effective medication based on the specific situation in terms viral population, available drugs and health system.
Collaborating site(s):	• University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) • Neema Mamy Hospital (Kenya) • Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences (Tanzania) • Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) • Area Vasta Toscana Sud-Est (Italy) • University of Siena (Italy)
Cofunders:	• Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) • Tuscany Area Vasta Sud-Est (Italy) • EuResist Network (Italy)
Status:	Ongoing

Results and Outcomes:	
Total number of subjects (cohort/epidemiological/ other studies):	800
PhD studies:	Project: Development of HIV drug resistance in HIV-TB co-infected individuals Candidate: Amogne Wondwossen (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
	Project: Genotypic analysis of HIV-I drug resistance associated mutations from plasma of antiretroviraldrug naive patients, Co-receptor tropism, and impact of transmitted drug resistance on Virologicaland immunological response to HAART in Ethiopia Candidate: Amare Worku (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
	Project: Developing and Evaluating a Monitoring Algorithm for Antiretroviral Treatment Efficacy and HIV-1 Drug Resistance Mutations among Failing Patients in Ethiopia Candidate: Nigus Fikrie Telele (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
PostDoctoral study:	Project: Lab analysis of HIV drug resistance Candidate: Doreen Molka (Muhimbili University Hospital, Tanzania)
BSc study:	Project: Early infant HIV Diagnosis Candidate: Silvia Kadima (World Friends, Kenya)
Publications:	