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EDCTP Update | May 2026



Highlights



Clinical Trials Day: EDCTP2 clinical research transforming lives across Africa

On International Clinical Trials Day 2026, the EDCTP Association celebrates the science that saves lives and the people who make it possible: community workers, patients and volunteers, researchers, health workers, and policymakers working together to support clinical trials across Africa. As 'Research Rising' continues, the Association remains committed to ensuring that high-quality clinical research in Africa leads to faster access to safe, effective and affordable interventions for those who need them most.

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Applications are now open for the EDCTP Prizes 2027

Global Health EDCTP3 is now inviting applications for the EDCTP Prizes 2027, recognising outstanding individuals and research teams from Africa and Europe for their achievements in global health research and innovation.

The 2027 edition will award four prize categories, highlighting excellence in scientific leadership, collaborative team research, and gender-balanced scientific contributions. Prize winners will be announced at the EDCTP Forum 2027 in Madrid, Spain. Submissions are open until 2 September 2026.

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Recent events



EDCTP Association at the WHS Regional Meeting 2026: Advancing Innovation and Impact in Africa's Health Research Ecosystems

The EDCTP Association took an active role in the World Health Summit Regional Meeting held from 27–29 April 2026 at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya, and collaborated with Global Health EDCTP3 to host a high-level session on strengthening Africa's health research ecosystems—from maternal vaccine readiness and HIV research training to immunisation strategies and digital health systems.

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EDCTP Association at the INTEREST Conference 2026

At INTEREST 2026, Africa's leading HIV conference, the EDCTP Association and Global Health EDCTP3 led a Grantsmanship Workshop to help researchers navigate funding opportunities and strengthen their grant-writing skills. The session walked participants

through applying via the EU Funding and Tenders portal and featured practical insights from EDCTP grantee Dr Blandina T. Mmbaga on securing and managing research grants.

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EDCTP Association at ESSENCE Annual Members Meeting

Members of ESSENCE on Health Research met on 7–8 May 2026 for their Annual Members Meeting, organised by TDR and hosted by Global Health EDCTP3. Under the theme “Aligning funding, evidence and country priorities in a shifting global health research landscape,” funders discussed how to better coordinate global health research and support country-led agendas. The EDCTP Association, acting as the GloPID-R Secretariat, was represented at the meeting.

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Financial and project management training workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa

The EDCTP Association and Global Health EDCTP3 recently hosted a three-day financial and project management training workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, for principal investigators and project teams from Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Through presentations, practical exercises and Q&A sessions, participants strengthened their skills in managing Global Health EDCTP3 grants.

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EDCTP2 project news



MTBVACN3 advances phase 3 tuberculosis vaccine trial and strengthens african research capacity

The MTBVACN3 project held its 4th Annual Meeting in Durban, South Africa, from 21–23 April 2026, where partners reviewed progress achieved following the completion of the period supported by EDCTP2 funding. The project is advancing the phase 3 clinical development of MTBVAC, a novel tuberculosis (TB) vaccine candidate for newborns in sub-Saharan Africa. The meeting served as an opportunity to provide project partners with the latest recruitment figures and to discuss operational and scientific challenges.

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Global Health EDCTP3 projects

In this section, you will find news, events and other relevant activities related to Global Health EDCTP3 projects, including those for which EDCTP serves as the Coordinator.



AFRITRAC project secures Global Health EDCTP3 grant to strengthen Africa's disease modelling capacity

The African Training Network for Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Infectious Diseases Modelling (AFRITRAC) has been awarded a €1.3 million grant by Global Health EDCTP3 to build critical expertise in data-driven infectious disease control across sub-Saharan Africa. Running from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2030, AFRITRAC is a 14-partner consortium coordinated by the EDCTP Association with the Uganda National Institute of Public Health (UNIPH) as Scientific Lead.

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Reaching Mobile Men: a new front in Africa's HIV prevention efforts

The Mobile Men Programme is a groundbreaking HIV prevention initiative targeting a long-overlooked group in Africa: heterosexual men with mobile, high-risk jobs. Led by the Africa Health Research Institute and partners in South Africa and Uganda, the study compares long-acting injectable cabotegravir with on-demand oral PrEP among truck drivers, taxi drivers, migrant farm workers, and fishermen. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, EDCTP Association, visited AHRI to learn more about the project.

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EDCTP Fellows



EDCTP Fellow awarded Wellcome Leap grant for TB research

EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Virginie Rozot, a research officer at the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), has been awarded a multi-year contract under Wellcome Leap's Delta Tissue (Δ T) programme. Her research will investigate how the human immune system responds to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in the thoracic lymph nodes, and why these responses sometimes fail, allowing the bacteria to spread to other organs. The findings are expected to inform future TB vaccine design and vaccination strategies.

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Publications

EDCTP is a member of [Europe PMC](#). This enables EDCTP-funded researchers to share their publications via one central location. Sharing publications by EuropePMC also ensures compliance with EDCTP grant requirements to make publications openly accessible as soon as possible. [Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#).

- npj Antimicrobials and Resistance: [Impact of co-amoxiclav versus amoxicillin on the gastrointestinal microbiota in sub-Saharan children hospitalized with pneumonia](#). Rodriguez-Ruiz JP, et al. 22 May 2026
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Association of Human Cytomegalovirus exposure with tuberculosis disease in South African adults with presumptive tuberculosis](#). Semugenze D, et al. 19 May 2026
- BMC infectious diseases: [Whole-genome sequencing suggests recent transmission of rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis in Botswana](#). Mogashoa T, et al. 19 May 2026
- Trials: [Understanding trial designs and acceptability of participation in an HIV vaccine trial with concurrent randomisation to oral pre-exposure prophylaxis in East and Southern Africa: a longitudinal qualitative study](#). Kawuma R, et al. 16 May 2026
- BMC Women's Health: [Genital inflammation screening for predicting sexually transmitted infections and bacterial vaginosis: an updated cost analysis from the GIFT study in Madagascar, South Africa, and Zimbabwe](#). Smith E, et al. 14 May 2026
- BMC Health Services Research: [Partnerships and organizational capacity drive sustainability of integrated hypertension-HIV care in primary health care in Uganda](#). Byamukama A, et al. 11 May 2026
- Infectious Diseases of Poverty: [Diagnostic accuracy of plasma cell-free DNA qPCR for Schistosoma haematobium assessed by Bayesian latent class analysis in a cohort of pregnant women from Lambaréné, Gabon](#). Hamway Y, et al. 9 May 2026
- PLoS Medicine: [Point-of-care early infant HIV diagnosis at birth in a pragmatic cluster-randomized trial in Mozambique and Tanzania: A comparative cost and cost-effectiveness study](#). Elsbernd K, et al. 6 May 2026
- HIV Medicine: [Prevalence of cardiometabolic diseases among ART-naïve people with HIV: A global systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Ebasone PV, et al. 6 May 2026
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Refining research outcomes: Lessons from the setup of an endpoint review committee and radiological review in tuberculosis observational diagnostic studies](#). Larsson L, et al. 30 April 2026
- Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science: [Training Needs Assessment and Capacity Building of Clinical Trial Assessors and Ethical Reviewers to Strengthen Regulatory Review in Tanzania](#). Mwamwitwa KW, et al. 27 April 2026
- EclinicalMedicine: [Feasibility, accuracy, and effect of a rapid point-of-care serological test \(SeroSelectTB\) to identify presumptive pulmonary TB patients for confirmatory testing in Ethiopia, South Africa, and Tanzania: a multicenter, open-label, parallel-group, randomized, controlled trial](#). Savic M, et al. 24 April 2026
- Scientific Reports: [Population pharmacokinetics of tenofovir alafenamide delivered via an annual subdermal implant in South African women](#). Beliveau M, et al. 21 April 2026
- HIV/AIDS (Auckland, N.Z.): [Patient-Led Peer Support Groups Improve Anti-Hypertensive Drugs Access for Adults Living with HIV and Hypertension in Rural Uganda - A Cross-Sectional Study](#). Atukunda M, et al. 16 April 2026
- European Journal of Pediatrics: [Real-world use of Serial Clinical Observation in culture-proven early-onset sepsis: timing of recognition, treatment and retrospective comparison with the Neonatal Sepsis Calculator](#). Miselli F, et al. 16 April 2026
- EclinicalMedicine: [Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of valganciclovir in infants with severe HIV-associated pneumonia in Africa: a sub-study of the EMPIRICAL randomised controlled trial](#). Jacobs TG, et al. 13 April 2026
- Frontiers in Antibiotics: [Simultaneous measurement of 16S-rRNA and pre-16S-rRNA as a strategy to monitor clinical tuberculosis](#). Dombay E, et al. 8 April 2026
- Frontiers in Parasitology: [Haplotype diversity of Plasmodium falciparum circumsporozoite protein prior to malaria vaccine implementation in Kaelé Health District, Cameroon, 2022–2023](#). Ali IM, et al. 7 April 2026
- BMC Public Health: [Operational performance of a programmatic mass drug administration campaign for malaria in southern Mozambique: a comprehensive](#)

- [mixed-methods evaluation of implementation outcomes](#). Fuente-Soro L, et al. 7 April 2026
- Viruses: [Characterisation of RT Connection and RNase H Polymorphisms in HIV-1 Subtype C in Botswana](#). Zuze B J L, et al. 3 April 2026
 - Scientific Reports; [The value of the monocyte-to-lymphocyte ratio and osteopontin \(SPP1\) in tuberculosis treatment response monitoring](#). Motaung B, et al. 1 April 2026
 - African Health Sciences: [Gut microbial profiles of COVID-19 patients in Uganda](#). Kateete D P, et al. 1 March 2026
 - American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine: [Lung Function in the Second Decade of Life in Children after Early HIV Diagnosis and Antiretroviral Therapy Initiation](#). Gie A G, et al. 1 May 2025

Resources

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
- ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)
- TRUST project | [A Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships](#)
- PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
- PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)
- PREPARED | [Free training materials on research ethics](#)
- WHO-TDR | [Global Health Matters podcast](#)

Training and funding opportunities

Infectious Disease Clinical Trial Award: Optimising interventions for impact

A new funding call is inviting randomised controlled trials aimed at optimising existing vaccines and therapeutics for infectious diseases. Priority areas include mycobacterial infections, bacterial infections, invasive fungal infections, dengue, leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis. The initiative is supported by the Wellcome Trust in partnership with the NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office – Research, Science and Technology. Application deadline: 2 June 2026.

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Africa-Europe Innovation Platform (AEIP): Thematic Challenges

AEIP invites expressions of interest for its Thematic Challenges to develop practical, scalable public health solutions. Focus areas include equitable access to medicines, local production and value chains, stronger health systems, digital tools, and health security. The challenge is open to innovators from Africa and Europe — including startups, SMEs, researchers, students, corporates, policymakers, and civil-society actors — with a special encouragement for women and youth. Application deadline: 19 June 2026.

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Mark your calendar

18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) of the International Association of Bioethics | 8-10 July 2026

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics will host the 18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) from 8-10 July 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa. This marks the first time the Congress is held in Africa, supported by leaders from various African countries through the Congress Africa Committee. The theme is “Comforting and Disturbing Bioethics,” and will include full and short oral presentations, posters, workshops, and panel sessions.

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5th International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) | 1-5 November 2026

The 5th International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2026) will be held from 1–5 November 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Co-hosted by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Government of Ethiopia, this conference will bring together political leaders, policymakers, researchers, innovators, civil society, and youth. Participants will work to define Africa’s pathway to stronger, more resilient health systems and to reducing dependence on foreign aid.

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EDCTP Forum 2027 | 5-9 April 2027

The 13th edition of the EDCTP Forum will take place from 5-9 April 2027 in Madrid, Spain. The EDCTP Forum 2027, under the theme ‘Innovating together for resilient global health’, will offer researchers, policymakers, funders and implementers the opportunity to showcase their work at a flagship global health event.

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EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.





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