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Executive Director's note

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the first issue of the EDCTP newsletter. In this edition I am introducing you to EDCTP and to its latest developments and I would like to keep you updated on the progress of the EDCTP activities and projects.

**Upcoming Event:
The Third EDCTP
Annual Forum
8-11 October 2006**

EDCTP is now a two-year old organisation, which is embracing an ambitious project namely the integration of the European Research for a noble cause - the fight against three major killers in sub-Saharan Africa: HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

In December 2005, the EDCTP General Assembly has unanimously approved Switzerland as an associated member. The Swiss contribution to the EDCTP's collaborative effort to accelerate the development of new clinical interventions to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries will be an important boost to the work currently being carried out.

Since 1 January 2005, Prof. Charles Mgone has accepted the position of Head of the Africa Office. He will be the keystone for promoting the African leadership in the fight against the poverty related diseases on the African continent.

Be prepared, within few weeks EDCTP will launch the 2006 calls.

In the future, we will use this newsletter to keep you updated on progress with the EDCTP activities, including details of funding opportunities, meetings and ongoing EDCTP funded projects.

So enjoy the reading and stay on board.

Dr Odile Leroy
Executive Director

What is the EDCTP?

The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) was created two years ago, by a co-decision of the European Parliament and the European Union Council, based on Article 169 of the European Treaty.

The mission of EDCTP is to accelerate the development of new clinical interventions to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries (DCs), particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and to generally improve the quality of research in relation to these diseases.

The activities of EDCTP include:

- Stepping up cooperation and networking of European National Programmes accelerating clinical trials of new and improved existing products, in particular drugs and vaccines in DCs
- Ensuring that research effectively addresses the needs and priorities of DCs
- Helping to develop and strengthen capacities in DCs
- Encouraging the participation of the private sector
- Mobilising additional funds to fight these diseases

News about the EDCTP governance

* Switzerland joins the EDCTP



The Hague, 19 December 2005. During the General Assembly, the EDCTP representatives unanimously approved Switzerland as new associated member state.

EDCTP is pleased to welcome Switzerland to its ranks. The Swiss contribution to the EDCTP's collaborative effort to accelerate the development of new clinical interventions to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries will be an important boost to the work currently being carried out. It will open up new and exciting possibilities for international cooperation to improve the fate of those plagued by these diseases in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Switzerland joins Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and The United Kingdom. This decision reinforces the participation of Swiss scientists in the field of poverty related diseases.

On 19 December 2005, Dr Odile Leroy, Executive Director of EDCTP, Mr Simon Belcher, EDCTP Financial Manager and Mr Charles Kleiber, Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research signed the agreement after the approval of the Swiss Federal Council.

This unprecedented partnership between European countries and African partners is enhanced with each new member state adding its research potential to the mammoth task of tackling diseases, which are crippling an entire continent and much of the developing world.

*** EDCTP welcomes Charles Mgone as the Head of the Africa Office**

Prof. Charles Mgone joined the EDCTP team as the Head of the Africa Office in Cape Town on 2 January 2006.



"I have joined EDCTP at an exciting period when European member states have shown genuine interest to work together through joint programmes and in partnership with their African counterparts. My mission in this is to mobilise and galvanise a strong African input to provide ownership and leadership for developing a genuine and sustainable partnership that will live well beyond the existence of the programme"

Prof. Charles Mgone, born in Tanzania, has considerable experience in research, research administration and training, particularly in malaria and HIV/AIDS. Previously the Network Director of the African Malaria Network Trust ([AMANET](#)), Charles Mgone has been extensively involved in capacity building and networking of African researchers and institutions to create enabling environment for their participation in product development and clinical trials in malaria.

Charles Mgone appeals to all Africans working on poverty related diseases of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis to join hands in the EDCTP effort of alleviating the burden of these diseases and the poverty they cause in the continent.

*** Germany supports a seconded North-North Networking Officer**



The EDCTP Secretariat welcomes Dr Stefan Wagener as the new North-North Networking Officer.

"The goals of the EDCTP as an Article 169 initiative as well as a partnership with Africa can only be reached by properly networking the participating parties. I hope to be able to make a positive contribution in this process which the EDCTP in the long run can benefit from"

Stefan Wagener has been appointed the North-North Networking Officer, seconded by Germany. As a scientific officer at the DLR-Project management agency (PT-DLR), working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research ([BMBF](#)), he has several years of experience on research programme development and funding activities. Since late 2003 he assisted the former EDCTP-EEIG Chair Dr Peter Lange for nearly two years. Due to Stefan's involvement in many national funding activities on infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS networks, the joint national malaria programme and the initiative to set up an ERA-Net on

Infectious Diseases (CID-ERA), he has an insight into networking and national as well as European requirements for the proper implementation of an Article 169 initiative, like EDCTP.

News about calls and grants

* EDCTP is pleased to announce its calls for proposals for 2006

EDCTP offers four types of funding which will be provided on a competitive basis through the following grant schemes:

Clinical Trials

Malaria:

- Treatment of uncomplicated malaria
- Treatment of malaria in pregnant women
- Capacity building for the conduct of malaria vaccine trials

Tuberculosis:

- Treatment of tuberculosis using new drugs and drug combinations
- Treatment of tuberculosis in patients infected with HIV
- Proof of principle studies of treatment shortening, evaluating diagnostics in HIV positives and children and optimising anti-TB treatment/ART co-treatment regimes

HIV:

- Simplification of treatment of HIV
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Capacity building for the conduct of HIV vaccine trials

Networking

- Providing incentives for joint capacity building programmes in Africa with two or more European institutions
- Promotion of networks of training facilities for clinical monitors in Europe and Developing Countries
- Sponsorship of meetings or workshops of sustainable networks on an EDCTP relevant subject
- Coordination and Networking of research activities in Africa
- Support to national networking of African scientists working on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis in Africa

Capacity Building

EDCTP is supporting:

- Training of staff working on an African clinical trial site
- Baseline epidemiological studies
- Establishment of regional nodes of excellence with a focus on reference laboratories and data management centres
- Support for courses and seminars for ethics
- Support for the establishment of African National Ethical Review Committees

Training Awards

- Senior Fellowships
- Career Development Fellowship
- MSc Studentship
- PhD Scholarship

Please visit our [website](#) regularly for more information on the deadlines for applications, a description of the granting scheme and the eligibility and selection criteria.

* EDCTP ongoing projects by country and grant type

EDCTP current projects are located in 17 different countries in Africa and are engaged in several partnerships around

Europe.

Mali: Senior Fellow Malaria; **Gambia:** Clinical Trial Malaria, Senior Fellow HIV; **Ivory Coast:** Senior Fellow HIV; **Burkina Faso:** Clinical Trial Malaria; **Nigeria:** Clinical Trial Malaria; **Ghana:** Clinical Trial Malaria; **Gabon:** Clinical Trial Malaria; **South Africa:** Clinical Trial TB, Senior Fellow TB; **Uganda:** Clinical Trial Malaria; **Rwanda:** Clinical Trial Malaria; **Kenya:** Clinical Trial Malaria, Senior Fellow Malaria; **Tanzania:** Clinical Trial TB & Malaria; **Malawi:** Clinical Trial Malaria; **Sudan:** Senior Fellow TB; **Zambia:** Senior Fellow HIV, Clinical Trial HIV, Malaria & TB; **Zimbabwe:** Clinical Trial TB; **Mozambique:** Clinical Trial Malaria & TB

Events: The Annual EDCTP Forum 2006

EDCTP announces that the next annual Forum will take place in Stockholm, Sweden from 8-11 October 2006:

"Through Partnership to African Leadership". For achieving its mission, EDCTP is facing a major challenge; the development of a sustainable health research capacity in Africa. A strong African leadership is essential for identification of research capacity gaps, prioritisation of research problems, setting up of the required appropriate research agenda, facilitation of translation of research findings into control measures and assurance of the programme sustainability well beyond the current framework. Furthermore, this will create a true sense of partnership, commitment and ownership, whereby all partners will offer strong contributions for the mutual interest of the programme. Dr Cynthia Naus is the chair of the Organising Committee and Prof. Charles Mgone is the chair of the Programme Committee.

More information will follow shortly on the [Events section](#) of our website.

Meetings and visits

* Executive Secretariat

Since September 2005, Dr Odile Leroy, Executive Director, has initiated a series of meetings with the **representatives of European Member States**, in Norway, Germany, France, The United Kingdom, Ireland, The Netherlands and Denmark to discuss the process and the means for implementing the article 169 and the mechanisms of the contribution of the Member States.

EDCTP is also investigating potential synergies with **product developers** such as like-minded organisations ([AMANET](#), [DNDI](#), [EMVI](#), [IAVI](#), [MMV](#) and others) and pharmaceutical companies (GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi-Aventis and others).

In December 2005, Dr Odile Leroy and Dr Marianna Karras were invited by **Dr Jose Esparza**, at the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#) to discuss possible joint actions in capacity building for HIV vaccine.

In January 2006, Prof. Charles Mgone and Dr Odile Leroy have met in South Africa with Prof. Eric Buch, [NEPAD](#) Health Advisor, Prof. Anthony MBewu, President of the [South African Medical Research Council](#) and with Dr Dhesigen Naidoo, Deputy Director General responsible for the [International Co-operation and Resources at the](#)

Department of Science and Technology. Those visits aim to strengthen the collaboration of EDCTP with African Stakeholders.

*** High Representative**

From October 2005 to January 2006, the High Representative (HR), **Dr Pascoal Mucumbi**, in his role on advocacy for EDCTP, has attended many meetings and forums of stakeholders: AMREF Board meeting in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), 2nd EDCTP Forum in Durban (South Africa), 2nd conference of African Ministers of Health in Gaborone (Botswana), AVVP Forum in Yaounde (Cameroon), Commissioners' meeting in Washington, IOM meeting in Washington, MMV meeting in Geneva, First Funders Forum of GHAVE at the Wellcome Trust in London, CSDH regional civil society meeting in Nairobi (Kenya) and the CSDH meeting in Tehran (Iran).

Join the EDCTP listserv

EDCTP is pleased to announce its continued welcome to all new members wishing to join its listserv launched twelve months ago. To join please send the email address you wish to use for subscribing to nyirenda@edctp.org. This listserv provides weekly updates and discussion forum.

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