

Update is a monthly newsletter from the
European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.



EDCTP

The Power of Sharing Science

EDCTP Update

December 2017 - January 2018

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Ethiopia and Angola join the EDCTP Association

On 1 December 2011, Ethiopia and Angola became member countries of the EDCTP Association. Dr Leonardo Simão, the EDCTP High Representative South, called the participation of Ethiopia (full member) and Angola (aspirant member) in the EDCTP Association "a significant and welcome measure of their respective government's commitment to developing health research capacity for the ultimate benefit of their people." He said he expected that "EDCTP's support of health research and related capacity-building activities will enhance the Ethiopian and Angolan governments' commitment to improving the health of their people so that no one should be left behind."

The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health will be represented in the EDCTP General Assembly by Dr Taye Tolera Balcha (Director General, Armauer Hansen Research Institute) and Dr Tsigereda Kifle (deputy representative; Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute).

The Angolan National Institute of Public Health will be represented by Dr Joana Filipa Machado de Morais Afonso (Director, National Institute of Public Health), and Dr Moisés Francisco (deputy representative; Director, Angolan Health Research Centre).

[Read more on the EDCTP website.](#)

East Africa Consortium for Clinical Research launched

The East Africa Consortium for Clinical Research 2 (EACCR2) - the EDCTP Regional Network of Excellence for Eastern Africa, one of the four EDCTP-funded regional networks of excellence - was launched on 24 and 25 January 2018. The consortium is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union. EACCR2 was awarded approximately 3 million euros by EDCTP. Switzerland provided additional funding. EACCR2 brings together 31 institutions from 6 Sub-Saharan African countries and 8 European countries.



The network plans to contribute to human capacity development through both short and long-term courses, to conduct clinical, epidemiological and surveillance studies including geographical information system mapping and participating in clinical trials to evaluate new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines.

The official launch took place on 24 January in the afternoon. Speakers included Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu, EDCTP Executive Director Dr Michael Makanga and the Representatives to the EDCTP General Assembly for Tanzania, Dr Khadija Malima, and Uganda, Dr Sam Okware. Dr Okware is the Director General of the [Uganda National Health Research Organisation](#)

and Dr Malima is the Chief Research Officer - Health at the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology ([COSTECH](#)). The Uganda Ministry of Health was represented by the Director of

Clinical Services, Dr Charles Olaro and the African Health Research Commission ([EAHRC](#)) was represented by the Executive Secretary Prof Gibson Kibiki.

The consortium is coordinated by Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu, Director of the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe, Uganda. The two-day kick-off meeting at UVRI was organised to discuss the governance structures and implementation of EACCR2. Ms. Michelle Nderu, who participated in the meeting, is the EDCTP Project Officer for the network.



Consortium representatives and guests.

Call for Nominations: EDCTP Prizes 2018

On 8 december 2017, EDCTP opened its call for nominations for the 2018 Prizes. The Prizes in four categories will be awarded at the Ninth EDCTP Forum which will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 17-21 September 2018.



Applications for a prize can be submitted in the categories: Scientific Leadership; Outstanding Female Scientist; Outstanding Research Team; Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize.

DEADLINE for Nominations of candidates: 28 February 2018, 17:00 CET.

[Read more on the EDCTP website.](#)

EDCTP and GHIT partnership

On 8 December 2017, the [Global Health Innovative Technology Fund](#) (GHIT; Japan) and EDCTP concluded a strategic partnership to support product development research. The partners' first action was to invest in a paediatric formulation for schistosomiasis.

They will co-fund the PZQ4PSAC phase III clinical study, which is sponsored by Merck KGaA and conducted by the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium. This study will provide clinical data and support for registration of a new praziquantel (PZQ) tablet formulation to treat schistosomiasis in preschool-aged children (PSAC). EDCTP will be contributing €1.99 million and GHIT €3.22 million to the study consortium which has a total project value of €12.10 million, including in-kind and cash contributions by all related parties.

[Read more on the EDCTP website](#)

Recent events

IGORCADIA | Project kick-off meeting | Brussel, Belgium, 13 December 2017 | On 13 December 2017 the kick-off meeting for [the project IGORCADIA](#) "Improved Governance and Research Capacities in Diagnostics for Infectious Diseases" (EDCTP project identifier: CSA2016ERC-1420) was held at the headquarters of the Liberian Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Authority (LMHRA) in Monrovia, Liberia. Representatives from the coordinating institution, Barcelona Institute for Global Health ([ISGlobal](#)) and partners in the IGORCADIA consortia, NGO Juan Ciudad Foundation and Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital, attended.

IGORCADIA will use a training-through-research approach which may enable the LMHRA to become a leader in the West African region on development and harmonisation of the regulatory framework for diagnostics. Dr Alfredo Mayor, coordinator of the project at ISGlobal, pointed out the importance of a regulatory framework that will provide guidance to the national and international scientists interested in the conduct of diagnostics performance, accuracy and validation studies in Liberia. Updates on progress with activities and dissemination will be regularly available on the website: www.igorcadia.org. The EDCTP Project Officer for this project is [Ms Nuraan Fakier](#).

WHO Stakeholder consultation on Preferred Product Characteristics for next generation cholera vaccines | Geneva, Switzerland, 14-15 December 2017 | Dr Gabrielle Breugelmans, North-North Networking Manager, participated in this meeting on behalf of EDCTP.

Shigella -ETEC Funders Workshop | Gates Foundation | London United Kingdom, 18 January 2018 | Shigella and enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC) have been targets of vaccine development by the global public health community over the past 25 years or so, and have recently been prioritized by the WHO Product Development Vaccines Advisory Committee (PDVAC). Recent data from burden of disease studies have highlighted the important role of these pathogens in young children in developing countries and still contribute significantly to under-5 mortality in many countries.

The objective of the meeting was to create a forum for the international funding community to discuss and develop a transparent approach for sharing new, emerging data and to outline a strategic vision and prioritisation for decision-making processes with global partners funding the development of enterotoxigenic E coli (ETEC) and Shigella vaccines. [Dr Gabrielle Breugelmans](#), North-North Networking manager, and [Dr Michelle Helinski](#), Project Officer, participated in the meeting for EDCTP.

WORKSHOP Grant Proposal Writing | Portuguese-speaking researchers | Maputo, Mozambique, 29-31 January 2018 | EDCTP organised a workshop on EDCTP Calls for Proposals and grant proposal writing. The workshop was conducted in Portuguese and aimed at Portuguese-speaking scientists from sub-Saharan Africa in early stages of their career. The workshop was organised by EDCTP North-North Networking Officer [Ana LÃ°cia Weinberg](#) and hosted by the [Manhiça Health Research Centre \(CISM\)](#) in Maputo, Mozambique. ISGlobal provided the training materials and conducted the workshop. Some more information [here](#).



Publications

Upcoming: Stakeholder meeting report



The report of the Stakeholder meeting on Co-infections and co-morbidities will be published soon. These conditions are among the priority topics for EDCTP to be addressed in 2018. The recommendations of the meeting have been taken into consideration by the Scientific Advisory Committee in preparing for the 2018 Strategic Research Agenda.

Upcoming: EDCTP Newsletter



The next EDCTP Quarterly Newsletter (Vol 13, 1 January 2018) will be published soon on the website. The Newsletter features the 'EDCTP 2017 portfolio of investments in clinical research', and Dr Michael Makanga's 'Taking stock of progress'. Among the other topics are strategic capacity development' and 'Investment in research to end TB in 2030'.

EDCTP | Tackling TB: achievements of EDCTP1 |

The EDCTP secretariat analysed the achievements of the first EDCTP programme (EDCTP1) in the field of tuberculosis (TB). An overview of the results was published in the [International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease on 1 December 2017](#).

The publication 'Tackling tuberculosis in sub-Saharan Africa: EDCTP achievements and the road ahead' was authored by [Dr Monique Surette, Dr Pauline Beattie, Dr Thomas Nyirenda, and Dr Ole Olesen](#) and gives an overview of EDCTP1's contributions to the first three elements of the WHO DOTS TB control strategy, which mobilised European and African funding for TB-related research and generated important evidence on TB diagnostics and treatment regimens. The programme also significantly enhanced the capacity of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to undertake clinical research.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) | The first independent assessment of pharmaceutical company action on AMR, the [Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark 2018](#) was published by the [Access to Medicine Foundation](#) in January 2018.

[Read more on the dedicate AMR benchmark website.](#)

European Commission | Public consultation on the next EU Research & Innovation programme | On 10 January 2018, the European Commission launched a series of public consultations clustered by key policy areas, in preparation for the EU's next long-term budget after 2020. Citizens, organisations and businesses can give their views online **until 8 March 2018**.

Your feedback is essential. The moment to express your support is now, based on the EU added value of EU R&I programmes¹, building on the success of Horizon 2020 and given the importance of research and innovation in extending the frontiers of knowledge. The consultation on EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market [can be found here](#).

Opportunities for funding and training

The last EDCTP 2017 Calls for proposals will be open for a short time only:

- [Senior Fellowships](#) - close on 2 February 2018
- [EDCTP-GSK Senior Fellowships for co-morbidities between poverty-related diseases \(PRDs\) and non-communicable diseases \(NCDs\)](#) - closes on 2 February 2018
- [EDCTP-TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships](#) - closes on 28 February.

More opportunities:

- **Alan J. Magill Fellowship** | Open only to low/low-middle-income country ASTMH Members. The Magill Fellowship will support mentorship, career and/or leadership development projects for ASTMH members in the early to middle stage of mid-career in low/low-middle income countries focusing on leadership development in tropical medicine. The fellowship will provide funding of \$50,000 for a period of up to two years to one recipient. [Call for concept papers](#) (PDF). Submission DEADLINE: 14 February 2018
- **McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health | Montreal, Canada, 11-22 June 2018** | [Accepting applications now](#) | Deadline (in case visa is needed) 28 Feb 2018.
- **MMV | Medicines for Malaria Venture | 16th Call for proposals** | MMV's 16th Call for proposals is open, including a 1st Call for African Proposals, i.e. proposals from endemic region African scientists focused in the following priority areas:
 1. **Compounds with confirmed activity on any antimalarial lifecycle stage.** Novel families of molecules with confirmed activity (EC50 < 10uM) and a medicinal chemistry plan that tackles any known or anticipated liability.
 2. **Assay development and screening** Assay development and screening to support discovery or development of novel antimalarials. Priority will be given to proposals that maximize use of local, field isolates. [DEADLINE for all proposals: 23 march 2018, 12:00 CET.](#)
- **LSTMH | Postgraduate Training Fellowship in Medical Statistics for African Scientists** | The Tropical Epidemiology Group (TEG) at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is advertising two funded fellowships for training in Medical Statistics. For the first year the successful applicants will study for the MSc degree in Medical Statistics at LSHTM and in the second year there will be a professional attachment at one of the African centres associated with the research programme of the MRC Tropical Epidemiology Group (TEG) at LSHTM. To be eligible, candidates must:
 - (i) be resident in and a national of a country in sub-Saharan Africa;
 - (ii) be in possession of an excellent first degree with a background in mathematics, statistics or a related subject
 - (iii) have at least 1 year of work experience in medical statistics or epidemiology

The CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS is 13th April 2018.

[More information here.](#)

- **TRANSVAC** | Open call for applications for vaccine development support | Transvac is a collaborative infrastructure project funded by the European Commission, currently under Horizon 2020. The project is a joint effort of leading European groups working in the field of vaccine development, and is coordinated by the [European Vaccine Initiative](#) (EVI). TRANSVAC is designed to accelerate vaccine development by enhancing European vaccine research and training, and increase sustainability of EC vaccine projects by implementing a permanent research infrastructure for early vaccine development. The current [call for applications](#) was launched on 15 October 2017.

On a different note: Humanitarian and development journalism (students):

- **IRIN internship programme** | Various internships | IRIN, an independent non-profit media organisation, now headquartered in Switzerland, is looking for smart, hard-working individuals to join our small, passionate team, which works remotely around the world. [IRIN offers editorial and external relations internships](#) at several intervals throughout the year (the start and length are flexible depending on availability).

Recently signed projects

Grant agreements have been signed for the following projects, all resulting from the 2016 EDCTP Calls for proposals:

Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children

FREEBILY | Fast and reliable easy-to-use-diagnostics for eliminating Bilharzia in young children and mothers. Project Coordinator: Dr Govert J. van Dam, LUMC, Leiden, the Netherlands.

Project identifier: [RIA2016MC-1626](#)

Ethics and regulatory capacities

DREIN | Deepening research ethics in Nigeria. Project coordinator: Prof. Clement Adebamowo (Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria). Project identifier: [CSA-Ethics-1416](#)

Research and clinical management of patients in poverty-related disease epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa

ALERRT | African coalition for epidemic research, response and training. Project coordinator: Prof. Peter Horby (University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom. Project identifier: [RIA2016E-1612](#)

Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials

PZQ4PSAC | Phase III clinical trials and registration of a new praziquantel orally disintegrating tablet formulation suitable for preschool-aged children with schistosomiasis. Project coordinator: Dr Remco de Vruh (Lygature, the Netherlands). Project identifier: [RIA2016S-1641](#)

TREATS | Tuberculosis reduction through expanded antiretroviral treatment and screening for active TB. Project coordinator: Prof. Helen Ayles (LSHTM, London, United Kingdom). Project identifier: [RIA2016S-1632](#)

Vaccines for poverty-related diseases

MTBVAC-Newborns | Phase 2a dose-defining safety and immunogenicity study and capacity building to support vaccine efficacy trials in tuberculosis-endemic regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Project coordinator: Ms. Ingrid Murillo, Biofabri S.L., Spain. Project identifier: [RIA2016V-1637](#)

PrePVacc | A combination effect study in Africa of two DNA-MVA- or DNA- Env protein HIV-1 vaccine regimens with pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Project coordinator: Prof. Jonathan Weber (Imperial College, London, United Kingdom). Project identifier: [RIA2016V-1644](#)

upcoming events

1st Congress of African Association for research ad control of Antimicrobial Resistance | Bamako 26-28, February 2018 | The conference will discuss the topic of resistance to antimicrobials and the challenges it poses for Africa. [More here](#)

2018 Events EDCTP will contribute to:

- **Joint EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development | Kampala, Uganda, 21-22 February 2018** | This high-level policy event will be attended by Heads of State of the East African Community as well as high-level guests including Ministers, Permanent/Principal Secretaries and Senior Officials from Partner States and representatives from the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, UN Agencies, multi-lateral and bi-lateral development partners, international financing institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, was invited to give a thematic presentation on "Strengthening the Capacity to Conduct and Regulate Research, Development and Clinical Trials of Pharmaceutical Products in EAC region" at the health sector investors' and development partners/donor's round table and also participate at the retreat. For more information, [visit the Retreat website](#).
- **5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines | New Delhi, India, 20-23 February 2018** | The full program for the 5th Global Forum is [available online](#). The program will cover the full spectrum of issues relevant to TB vaccine research and development (R&D), including basic research, preclinical research, novel concepts and approaches to TB vaccine R&D, clinical trials, and community engagement - presented by experts from around the world. [Dr Ole Olesen](#), EDCTP director of North-North Cooperation, will represent EDCTP at the meeting and co-chair the plenary session on 'Partnering for progress and innovation'.
- **7th Pan African Conference on Malaria** of the [Multilateral Initiative on Malaria](#) (MIM), Dakar, Senegal, from 15-20 April 2018. EDCTP will contribute an information booth and possibly a symposium;
- **[22nd International AIDS Conference \(AIDS 2018\)](#)** in Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 23-27 July 2018;
- **[49th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#)** (with a focus on human rights), in The Hague, The Netherlands, from 24-27 October 2018
- **9th World Health Summit 2017 Regional Meeting | Coimbra, Portugal | 19-20 April 2018** Click [here](#) for preliminary information. Brochure [here](#).

Ninth EDCTP Forum | Lisbon, Portugal | 17-21 September 2018 | The theme of the Forum will be 'Clinical research and sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa: the impact of North-South partnerships'. The [Ninth EDCTP Forum 2018](#) is held in partnership with the [Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology](#) and the [Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation](#).



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Save the date!

Ninth EDCTP Forum 2018

*Clinical research and sustainable
development in sub-Saharan Africa:
the impact of North-South partnerships*

When: 17-21 September 2018

Where: Lisbon, Portugal

Who: Scientists, policy makers, funders and global health partners in the field of clinical research and development for poverty-related diseases

The Ninth EDCTP Forum 2018 is held in partnership with the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

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