

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



E D C T P

EDCTP Update

February 2018

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Engagement with East African Community - Health investment Priorities

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, was invited as a speaker at the EAC Round Table on health investment priorities 2018-2028 in Kampala, Uganda on 21 February 2018. He presented EDCTP's strategy and support of research capacity development for clinical trials of pharmaceutical products in the EAC region.

The East Africa Community (EAC) convened its 19th Summit of EAC Heads of State and [Joint Retreat on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development on 21-23 February 2018 in Kampala, Uganda](#). The Retreat was preceded by the first Round Table on 'investing in health infrastructure, systems, services and research for the accelerated attainment of universal health coverage and sustainable development goals' on 21 February. Dr Makanga participated in the Retreat together with the EDCTP High Representative South, Dr Leonardo Simão.

[Read more on the EDCTP website](#)



Left to right: Dr Makanga (EDCTP); Hon. Ummy Mwalimu, Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Tanzania); Hon. Sarah Achieng Opendi, Minister of State for Health (Uganda); and Hon. Patrick Ndimubanzi, Minister of State for Health in charge of Public Health and Primary Healthcare (Rwanda).

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Call for nominations! EDCTP Prizes 2018

The closing date of the EDCTP call for nominations for the 2018 Prizes has been extended to 6 April 2018.

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



The Prizes will be awarded at the Ninth EDCTP Forum which will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 17-21 September 2018.

DEADLINE for Nominations of candidates: 6 April 2018, 17:00 CET.

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

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Recent events

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

AVAREF | 4th Technical Coordinating and Steering Committee meeting | The purpose of the meeting was to prepare the follow-up on the implementation of the decisions endorsed at the Accra AVAREF Assembly meeting: among other things the implementation of the strategic plan and full domestication of AVAREF key guidelines and documents. At the meeting, [Dr Thomas Nyirenda](#), EDCTP South-South Networking and Capacity Development Manager, made a presentation to update the members on EDCTP's support to ethics committees, national regulatory agencies and PACTR, all of direct relevance to the business and success of AVAREF.

5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines | New Delhi, India, 20-23 February 2018 | The programme covered the full spectrum of issues relevant to TB vaccine R&D, including basic research,

preclinical research, novel concepts and approaches to TB vaccine R&D, clinical trials, and community engagement. Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP director of North-North Cooperation, represented EDCTP and co-chaired the plenary session on 'Partnering for progress and innovation'.

TBVI | Symposium on TB vaccines | Les Diablerets, Switzerland, 30 January 2018 | The Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI) organised a symposium on "Therapeutic vaccination and host-directed (immuno) therapy against TB". Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP Director of North-North Cooperation, chaired the session on 'EDCTP-supported new TB vaccine clinical projects' where four projects recently selected for EDCTP funding presented their plans. Dr Michelle Helinski, EDCTP Project Officer, also participated in the meeting.

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Publications

Stakeholder meeting report



On 9 February 2018, the [report of the Stakeholder meeting on co-infections and co-morbidities](#) was published.

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.

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 EDCTP staff: [Dr Monique Surette](#), [Dr Pauline Beattie](#), [Dr Thomas Nyirenda](#), and [Dr Ole Olesen](#).

European Commission | Research & Innovation |

- The European Union's departing director-general of research, [Robert-Jan Smits was interviewed for Nature News](#) (27 February) on his parting thoughts on successes, disappointments; he also touches on aspects of the next EU R&I programme.
- The **EU debate over the next EU budget and R&I programme** is clearly advancing: follow for example EU Commissioner for Research & Innovation, Carlos Moedas at [@Moedas](#).

EDCTP Newsletter



The [EDCTP Quarterly Newsletter \(Vol 13, 1 2018\)](#) was published on 1 February 2018.

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'.

- Prof. Mariana Mazzucato, founder and director of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at University College London, UK, explains ([Horizon The EU Research & Innovation Magazine](#)) the importance of the concept of 'missions' for the next R&I programme. At UCL, she holds the chair in the economics of innovation and public value and she is an adviser on the topic to Commissioner Moedas.

MMV | 27 February 2018 | [WHO provides first-ever approval for rectal artesunate product for severe malaria](#)

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Opportunities for funding

All EDCTP 2017 Calls for proposals are closed now.

Opportunities:

- **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, and 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.
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). The current [call for applications](#) was launched on 15 October 2017.

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Recently signed projects

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

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

- **VirTUAL** | Vulnerable population tuberculosis anti-retroviral. Project Coordinator: Dr Catriona Waitt, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom. Project identifier: [RIA2016MC-1606](#)

Ethics and regulatory capacities

- **AFREENET | Africa ethics excellence network.** Project coordinator: Mrs. Virginie Pirard (Institut Pasteur, Paris, France). Project identifier: [CSA-Ethics-1416](#)

Strategic actions supporting health systems/services optimisation research capacities in cooperation with development assistance initiatives

- **PAVIA** | Pharmacovigilance Africa. Project coordinator: Prof. Frank Cobelens (AIGHD, the Netherlands). Project identifier: [CSA2016S-1627](#)
- **PROFORMA** | Pharmacovigilance infrastructure and post-marketing surveillance system capacity building for regional medicine regulatory harmonization in East Africa. Project coordinator: Prof. Eleni Aklilu (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden). Project

identifier: [CSA2016S-1627](#)

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Upcoming events

PanACEA2 | 1st Annual General Assembly meeting | Cape Town, South Africa, 28 February-1 March 2018 | [PanACEA2 is a consortium](#) with the task to execute a programme consisting of three clinical trials:

- **HIGHRIF**: It's aim is to optimise the dose of rifampicin by continuation of the previous maximum tolerated dose study of rifampicin;
- **14+14 SMART** trial: It's aim is to assess the safety and efficacy of Q203 and BTZ043 which is expected to enter the clinical phase later in the programme. These compounds will be evaluated with novel mechanisms of activity through an innovative phase study design, '14+14' phase IIA SMART (Sequential, Multiple Assignment, Randomized Trial).
- **STEP** trial: The aim of this study is to evaluate several combinations of the optimal doses of rifampicin, Q203, and an optimised dose of pyrazinamide of 40 mg/kg complemented by isoniazid and ethambutol, in a six-arm study using the novel STEP design (the Phase IIC Selection Trial with Extended Post-treatment follow-up). This closes the gap between Phase II and Phase III studies.

This work programme aims for a result of at least two promising regimens with sound prediction data for a successful phase III evaluation. Dr Monique Surette, EDCTP Senior Project Officer, will participate in the meeting.

2018 Events EDCTP will contribute to:

- **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;
- [49thÂ 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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Supported by the
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*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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