

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



EDCTP Update

April 2018

Supported by the European Union



E D C T P

Highlights

- **[Funding & Training opportunities](#)**
- **[EDCTP Forum: application closes on 04 May 2018](#)**
- **[Open Data: support for sharing clinical research data](#)**

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EDCTP at MIM2018

MIM 2018 | Dakar, Senegal | 15-20 April 2018

EDCTP supported the 7th MIM Pan African Malaria Conference as a sponsor and with contributions to the programme and the exhibition of this successful malaria conference. The Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) established in 1997, aims to strengthen and sustain through collaborative research and training, the capacity of malaria-endemic countries in Africa to carry out research needed to develop and improve tools for malaria control. The conference was attended by the EDCTP High Representative for Africa, Dr Leonardo Simão.

EDCTP organised two well-attended sessions, one on 'Malaria in pregnancy programmes' (17 April; organised and co-chaired by EDCTP Project Officer Dr Montserrat Blazquez) and one on 'Empowering African institutions and future malaria research leaders through capacity development and partnerships' (18 April; organised by EDCTP Project Officer Michelle Nderu and co-chaired by Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP South-South Networking and Capacity Development Manager).

On 20 April, EDCTP Project Officer Nuraan Fakier presented the EDCTP effort 'to expand the support for ethics and regulatory capacity strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa through EU- AFRICA partnership' in a session on bioethics. EDCTP Communications Officer Daniela Pereira fielded many questions at the EDCTP booth, which also hosted the EDCTP Network of Excellence CANTAM (Central Africa Network on Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and Malaria). CANTAM was represented at the booth by Léonard Numfor Nkah.

[More information](#)



Prof. Feiko ter Kuile (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom) presenting at the session on malaria in pregnancy.

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World Malaria Day and EDCTP: A growing malaria R&D portfolio

On the occasion of World Malaria Day 2018, Dr Michel Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director pre-announced new calls for malaria research:

"We plan to bolster our malaria R&D investment this year by launching two large calls for proposals covering malaria vaccine and novel antimalarial drug clinical development. The novelty in our approach this time is to support strategic clinical research projects that - as part of bigger malaria portfolios - will make a significant difference in the development of new medical interventions for prevention and treatment."

[Read our message](#)

and do not miss the [seven interviews provided by WHO](#)

or ALDE MEP [@CharlesGoerens](#)'s opinion piece on malaria, the European effort against malaria and the next European Union Research and Innovation framework programme '[The clock is ticking on malaria](#)' in Euractive.

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EDCTP at World Health Summit regional meeting Coimbra

The ninth World Health Summit 2017 Regional Meeting took place in Coimbra, Portugal on 19-20 April 2018. Together with [FCT, the Portuguese agency for research and technology](#), EDCTP contributed a symposium to this [regional meeting of the World Health Summit](#). The meeting was focused largely on health care and equity in low- and middle-income countries.

The EDCTP-FCT symposium presented research networks in sub-Saharan Africa under the title: Networking the networks: Maximising impact by strengthening collaboration, capacity and quality of clinical research in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more on the symposium](#)



Speakers and Chairs (left to right): Dr Eusebio Macete (Manhica, Mozambique), Dr. Mahnaz Vahedi (WHO-TDR, Switzerland, Co-Chair Dr Leonardo Simão (EDCTP High Representative for Africa), Co-Chair Prof. Paolo Ferrão (President of FCT), Prof. Marleen Temmerman (Aga Kahn University, Kenya), and Prof. Maria Rosário Oliveira Martins (University NOVA of Lisbon, Portugal).

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Projects

DITECT-HAT | Diagnostic tools for human African trypanosomiasis |

The EDCTP-funded [DITECT-HAT \(diagnostic tools for human African trypanosomiasis\) project](#) is coordinated by Dr Veerle Lejon of the IRD, France. The video below - produced by the [French Institute of Research for Development IRD](#) - is not part of the project but gives an impression of case detection of sleeping sickness in Côte d'Ivoire. The video follows Louis N'Dri, a laboratory technician at the Institut Pierre Richet (Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire) and his team.



LA MALADIE DU BOUT DE LA PISTE by Luc Riolon

AFREENET | Project launch | 27-28 March 2018 | AFREENET, an EDCTP-funded project to strengthen national ethics committees in francophone Africa had its [kick-off meeting in Abidjan](#), Côte d'Ivoire on 27-28 March 2018. AFREENET, coordinated by the Pasteur Institut (Paris, France), brings together the Research Ethics Committees of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Benin with the aim of strengthening their role and their operating conditions. Moreover, AFREENET aims to create an exchange platform and a network of excellence between National Ethics Committees, within the consortium, and in Africa, for researchers and research institutes, regulators and drug agencies, as well as international organizations. [More EDCTP-funded projects on research ethics](#)

Malaria | WANECAM study | 29 March 2018 |

West African Network for Clinical Trials of Antimalarial Drugs: 'Pyronaridine-artesunate or dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine versus current first-line therapies for repeated treatment of uncomplicated malaria: a randomised, multicentre, open-label, longitudinal, controlled, phase 3b/4 trial' [Lancet online 29 March 2018](#). See also [Comment](#): Quique Bassat and Sanjeev Krishna: 'Widening the options for recurrent malaria' and [news item from Medicines for Malaria Ventures](#)

MAMAH | R&D Helping the Most Vulnerable Women | 9 April 2018 | [Exploring new ways to prevent malaria in HIV-infected women living in sub-Saharan Africa](#). ISGlobal 'Health is Global' blog post, also [published in Spanish in in El Pais - Planeta Futuro](#)

AFRI-KA-DIA | Project launch | 13 April 2018 | Clinical trial to find new treatment for visceral leishmaniasis begins in eastern Africa. EDCTP is a co-funder of this phase III clinical with a grant amount of EUR 5.56 million under its call 'Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials 2016'.
Read consortium [press release](#)

VirTUAL Consortium | Kick-off meeting | Entebbe, Uganda | 16 April 2018 |

The [VirTUAL Consortium](#) (Vulnerable patient Tuberculosis Antiretroviral) is led by the University of Liverpool Institute of Translational Medicine. It seeks to define the best and safest treatments for patients who require treatment for tuberculosis (TB) whilst receiving second-line antiretroviral therapy (ART). It is funded under EDCTP's Call for proposals 2016 '[Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children](#)'.
Check the 2nd Clinical Pharmacology Networking Meeting of the VirTUAL Consortium via [@VirTual_UoL](#) or [the post event press release](#) on the meeting and the three-day Pharmacokinetics training for African researchers in Entebbe, Uganda.



Dr Marco Siccardi _Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology_ University of Liverpool_ and the trainees

PAVIA / PROFORMA | Joint kick-off meeting | Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 30 April - 02 May 2018 | PAVIA and PROFORMA are two consortia (with mutually supportive objectives) recently co-funded by EDCTP. Both consortia focus on strengthening the coordination and support mechanisms for responsible uptake of new drugs and vaccines in sub-Saharan Africa and aim to strengthen local capacity for pharmacovigilance. PAVIA and PROFORMA have a joint kick off meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 30 April to 02 May 2018. The projects were funded under the EDCTP 2016 Call for proposals 'Strategic actions supporting health systems/services optimisation ... in cooperation with development assistance initiatives'.

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Recent events

OPEN DATA | Geneva Health Forum 2018 | Geneva, Switzerland 10-12 April 2018 |

The Geneva Health Forum on innovative practices in global health aims to showcase innovative, accessible and sustainable practices in order to facilitate access and health equity. EDCTP North-North Networking Officer, Dr Magda Moutaftsi participated and held a presentation on 'A toolkit for researchers to facilitate open access to clinical data' in the session on the open access and open data movement. Twitter: [@genevaforum](#) and [#GHF2018](#)

Magda Moutaftsi presented several EDCTP initiatives (supported by the European Union) to support open access to clinical data:

- the development of a single entry portal for researchers/generators of primary clinical data on poverty-related infectious diseases. The portal will offer practical information on how and where to share and/or access primary clinical trial data, clinical trial reports and protocols. For this project a contract was signed with The Global Health Network.
- The Global Health Network was contracted as well for the development of an open, online electronic tool to develop, discuss and improve draft protocols for clinical trials. The focus is on studies conducted in resource-limited settings on medicinal products (such as drugs, vaccines, microbicides and medical diagnostics) for poverty-related infectious diseases.
- EDCTP opened a tender (closing on 1 May 2018) to commission the development of an online digital resource centre for data management. The target audience comprises clinical researchers in low- and middle-income countries, including EDCTP-grantees. The digital resource centre should include guidance and practical information on good clinical data management, and provide easy access to the most suitable, free-of-charge, online data management tools.

EDCTP | Financial & Project Management Training | Entebbe, Uganda|

EDCTP organised its seventh Financial & Project Management training for grantees in Entebbe, Uganda from 25-26 April 2018. Eighty invited coordinators, project managers and financial managers attended the training which was given by Abdoulie Barry, Director of Finance and Administration, and Dr Ole Olesen, Director of North-North Cooperation.

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Funding and training opportunities

EDCTP | Ninth EDCTP Forum | 17-21 September 2018 |

EDCTP offers scholarships for many young researchers to attend the Ninth EDCTP Forum in combination with an accepted abstract. Submission of abstracts and applications closes on 04 May 2018. Go to [Forum website](#)



African Postdoctoral Training Initiative | Application deadline 11 May 2018 |

The initiative (APTI) is a partnership of the African Academy of Sciences, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The research priority areas are in infectious diseases, nutrition, and reproductive, maternal, and child health, and developing skills for clinical and translational research. [A two-year fellowship; training will be at the intramural laboratories of the NIH.](#)

AAS | AESA | Antimicrobial Resistance | Call for proposals closes 16 May 2018

The African Academy of Sciences launched a new Grand Challenge: [New Approaches to Characterize the Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance](#). These grand challenge innovation grants will be issued and administered under the banner of Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa), a program implemented in partnership with the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency (NEPAD) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Unitaid | Call for proposals | child fever diagnostics | Unitaid opened a [Call for Proposals 'Better tools for integrated management of childhood fever'](#) in low-resource countries, particularly seeking to introduce smart handheld devices. Ideal proposals would set out ways to introduce newly adapted devices as standard items in countries' primary healthcare toolkits. **Intention to submit form by 01 June 2018**

Kenya Biology of Parasitism course | Wellcome Trust Research Programme | Kilifi, Kenya 3-7 September 2018 |

A week long course (KENBOP2018) targeted at PhD students and postdocs interested in interaction between immune system and pathogens, and how this underlies pathogenesis of infectious and non-communicable disease. Intensive learning sessions and symposium on the most recent advances in the immunology & parasitology of malaria, HIV, TB and helminths. Participants will also benefit from grant writing and career sessions run by scientists who have a strong track record in obtaining research grants. [Apply before 15 June 2018.](#)

HIVRP | Journalist Fellowships | Madrid Spain, 21-25 October 2018 |

HIV Research for Prevention (HIVR4P 2018) is the only global scientific conference focused exclusively on the challenging and fast-growing field of biomedical HIV prevention research. The programme also offers a [Journalist Fellowship Programme](#). HIVR4P is accepting **applications from journalists until 21 May**. Selected journalists will receive a full scholarship including travel to HIVR4P 2018, and will participate in a 1.5 day training with prevention research experts and other activities designed to support their HIV reporting skills.

Gulbenkian Science Institute (IGC) | Master's Projects |

[Applications for Master Projects at IGC](#) are open until the end of June 2018.

NIH Fogarty International Centre | Open Calls for proposals |

- [Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program](#) | Applications from institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are encouraged. Deadline Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to Deadline full application: **26 July 2018**.
- [Reducing Stigma to Improve HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#) | Applications from non-domestic entities are restricted to higher education institutions and other non-profit organizations in LMICs. Deadline Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to Deadline full application: **01 August 2018**
- [Fogarty HIV Research Training Program](#) Solicitation of applications under three different Funding Opportunities Announcements (FOAs) including for institutions from

- LMICs Deadline Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to Deadline full application: **23 August 2018**
- [Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award](#) | For LUMIC researchers; see eligibility rules.
Deadline for Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to Deadline for application: 07 November 2018

European Commission | EIC Horizon Prize | Early Warning for Epidemics | On 26 April 2018, the European Commission launched a [EUR 5 million prize to find the best solution for setting up an early warning system for epidemics using Earth observation data](#) and other kinds of geo-located data to forecast and monitor outbreaks of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, zika, dengue or yellow fever. Deadline for applications: 1 September 2020.

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Resources

Career survey | Early-career paths for researchers in Africa | The Global State of Young Scientists (GLOSYS) Africa Survey is still open. The GloSYS Africa study is conducted by the [Global Young Academy](#) (GYA), an international society of young scientists, in collaboration with research partners in four African regions. Our study investigates the challenges and motivations that shape the career trajectories of early-career researchers in Africa and the African diaspora.

[Go to survey](#)

Career and funding | Nature | 23 April 2018 | Nature News featured an [article on the effect of early grant success on career paths](#). In a Dutch study, scientists' early grant success is shown to fuel further funding. "Young researchers who narrowly miss out on postdoctoral grants struggle to compete with those who just qualify. ... Researchers who secure post-PhD cash go on to win more than twice as much funding in the next eight years as their peers who missed out. Scientists who win these grants are also 50% more likely to become professors."

Data sharing | Springer Nature | Whitepaper | 'Practical challenges for researchers in data sharing', a whitepaper based on a large survey of researchers about research data (with over 7,700 respondents) by Springer Nature. The whitepaper discusses the challenges that researchers face in sharing their data and looks at data sharing attitudes globally, and in relation to region, subject and seniority. [Go to whitepaper](#) Anonymised data and infographics [here](#).

Data Sharing | Wellcome Trust | Paper |

Pisani, E.; Merson, L.; Ghataure, A.; Castillo, G.; Castillo, A-M; Moride, Y (Wellcome Trust paper) 2018): [Sharing health research data in low-resource settings: Supporting necessary infrastructure and building on good practices](#)!. The report is partly based on a consultative session held during the ECTMIH2017 at which EDCTP was represented. Primary purpose of the report is "to provide an overview of emerging good practices in sharing of data related to infectious diseases in low- and middle-income settings, and to suggest how funders of health research can best support systems and infrastructures that make data sharing more useful, equitable, ethical and efficient".

TB | TB Alliance | [Turning the Tide - Annual Report 2017](#)

African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization Initiative | Annual Report 2017 |

Nepad [published the AMRH Annual Report 2017](#). Following endorsement of the AU Model Law on Medical Products Regulation by the AU Heads of State and Government Summit in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, twelve (12) out of 55 countries have either reviewed or are in the process of reviewing their national laws, in line with the AU Model Law. These countries are: Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, the Gambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Mozambique.

African Society for Laboratory Medicine | Diagnostics | Two new Resources |

- [Key Considerations for Introducing New HIV Point-of-Care Diagnostic Technologies in National Health Systems](#)
- [HIV-Point-of-Care Diagnostics toolkit](#)

The Global Health Network | SiteFinder Facilitating partnerships | This tool was created to enable access to research opportunities. Research sites (and potential research sites!) can register and let would-be collaborators and sponsors know about them. In turn, research groups wishing to find other sites to collaborate with can post their research plans and explain what they are looking for. [Go to SiteFinder](#)

Clinical Practice Guidelines | PLOS One | 30 March 2018 | S. Machingaidze, S. Grimmer, Quinette Louw, Tamara Kredo, Taryn Young, Jimmy Volmink: [Next generation clinical guidance for primary care in South Africa - credible, consistent and pragmatic](#). Shingai Machingaidze is a Project Officer in the EDCTP Office in Cape Town, South Africa.

Friends of the Global Fight | Report | April 2018 | At the tipping point. U.S leadership to end HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. [Download the report](#) | Read Chris Collins (Pres. of the Friends of the Global Fight): 'American leadership against deadly epidemics reaches decision point' [The Hill, 12 April 2018](#)

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Recently signed projects

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

[Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children](#)

- **CHAPS** | Coordinator: Prof. Julie Fox Combined HIV African prevention study: on-demand Truvada and F/TAF pre-exposure prophylaxis to protect adolescents from HIV

[Strategic actions supporting health systems/services optimisation research capacities in cooperation with development assistance initiatives](#)

- **EXIT-TB** | Coordinator: Dr Esther S. Ngadaya
Translation research into policy and practice: scaling up evidence-based multiple focus integrated intensified TB screening to end TB in the East African Region

[Vaccines for poverty-related diseases](#)

- **MMVC** | Coordinator: Prof. Adrian V.S. Hill
Multi-stage malaria vaccine consortium: field efficacy testing of a multi-stage malaria vaccine
- **NIFTY** | Coordinator: Prof. Philip Bejon Non-inferiority of fractional-doses trial for yellow fever vaccine.

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Upcoming events

- [European Parliament | 29 June 2018 | Ethics Dumping - Looking for Justice](#) | The final event of the TRUST project on double standards, the export of non-ethical research practices to low- and middle-income countries, and equity in international research. For this TRUST event "Ethics Dumping - Looking for Justice" speakers Prof. Jeffrey Sachs and Irina Bokova have confirmed. EDCTP is a participant in the TRUST project which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 664771. [@TRUST_Project](#)

The event is hosted by the [European Parliamentarian Groupe GUE/NGL](#)

Main events EDCTP will contribute to:

- [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

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**Ninth
EDCTP
Forum**

Clinical research and sustainable
development in sub-Saharan Africa:
the impact of North-South partnerships
17-21 September 2018, Lisbon, Portugal

Register today

**Abstract
submissions open**
Deadline: 4 May 2018

**Scholarship
applications open**
Deadline: 4 May 2018

**Symposia
applications open**
Deadline: 4 May 2018

**Sponsorship
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www.edctpforum.org



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