

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



EDCTP Update

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E D C T P

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EDCTP commits EUR 34 million to TB vaccine clinical trials

True to the World Tuberculosis Day 2018 theme 'Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world', the European Union and European member states continue to take an important role in fighting this disease. Recently, EDCTP committed EUR 34 million in funding for four large clinical trials on candidate TB vaccines. This is the largest European investment into clinical development of TB vaccines to date ...

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On line! EDCTP platform for its African research fellows

To support the networking of African researchers, EDCTP has launched its Alumni Network platform. This online interactive platform makes the professional profiles of all current and past EDCTP fellows easily accessible. Moreover, it facilitates reflection and collaboration among the more than 100 EDCTP fellows from sub-Saharan Africa to date. ...

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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 20 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 nomination of candidates: 20 April 2018, 17:00 CET.

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Projects

TB treatment consortium PanACEA2 held second annual meeting

The EDCTP-funded PanACEA2 consortium held its second annual meeting in Cape Town, South Africa from 28 February to 1 March 2018.

[Read more](#)

POR-TB | Prevention of Tuberculosis Recurrence Consortium launched in Cape Town, SA

The Prevention of Tuberculosis Recurrence Consortium (POR-TB Consortium) was launched in Cape Town, South Africa on 12-13th March 2018. EDCTP is investing €13.8 million in the consortium, which is coordinated by Professor Peter L. Andersen of Statens Serum Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark.

[Read more](#)

DiTECT-HAT | Annual Meeting | Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 6-8 March 2108 | Second Annual meeting of the DiTECT-HAT (Diagnostic tools for human African trypanosomiasis) project. More on the [project website](#) and in [local press](#).

TREATS: Largest ever whole-of-population study on the impact of TB and HIV interventions on the burden of TB launched in sub-Saharan African communities

[Article on the Union website.](#) EDCTP invested EUR 12.9 million in the TREATS (Tuberculosis Reduction through Expanded Anti-retroviral Treatment and Screening) project.

[More on the TREATS website.](#)

Epidemic preparedness: consortia ALERRT and PANDORA-ID-NET

At the 1st International Conference on (Re-)Emerging Infectious Diseases (ICREID) which took place in Addis Ababa on 12-14 March 2018, a symposium was dedicated to two EDCTP-funded epidemic research preparedness consortia: ALERRT and PANDORA-ID-NET.

[Read more](#)

Clinical research network for epidemics ALERRT launched

ALERRT - African coALition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training - new clinical research and response network for epidemic infections was launched with the support of a €10 million grant from EDCTP.

[Read more](#)

UPCOMING

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 will have a joint kick off meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 30th April to 2nd 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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EDCTP Grant proposal writing workshop in French

EDCTP invites applications from French-speaking researchers interested in participating in a workshop on EDCTP calls for proposals and grant proposal writing.

The workshop will take place in Abidjan in May 2018. It will be conducted in French and is aimed at French-speaking scientists from sub-Saharan Africa in early stages of their career.

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Recent events

Malaria | WHO | Dr Leonardo Simão | Dr Leonardo Simão (EDCTP High Representative South) was recently appointed as member of the [WHO Malaria Elimination Oversight Committee](#) (MEOC). The committee works with countries to achieve malaria-free status. Established in the first half of 2018, the committee aims to maintain a 360-degree overview of how countries and regions are advancing towards malaria elimination. For the [members of MEOC go here](#).

HUGO African Prize | Dr. Collen Masimirembwa | Dr Collen Masimirembwa, the President & Chief Scientific Officer of the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (Harare, Zimbabwe) was awarded the prestigious HUGO Africa Prize for his contribution to genetics research in Africa, at the [Humane Genome Meeting 2018 in Yokohama, Japan 12-15 March 2018](#). Recently, Dr Masimirembwa received an EDCTP Senior Fellowship grant for his project on 'Pharmacogenomics research and clinical excellence in the treatment of infectious diseases in African populations (PRACE)'.

AREF-EDCTP | AREF and EDCTP organised an 'essential grant writing skills' workshop in Entebbe, 12-14 March 2018.



Seated from L-R: Dr Jane Kengeya-Kayondo (AREF Senior Science Programme Manager and workshop coordinator); Dr Samuel Okware (Director General, Uganda National Health Research Organisation & GA representative for Uganda in the EDCTP Association); Prof Tumani Corrah (Director, AREF); Mayor Kayanja Vincent De Paul (Mayor of Entebbe Town); Prof Vinand Nantulya (Vice chancellor, Busiteme University & former board chair of the Uganda Country Coordinating mechanism for the Global Fund to fight TB, HIV & Malaria) and Prof Gibson Kibiki (Executive Secretary, East African Health Research Commission).

HIV | Europe Roundtable | Brussels, 20 march 2018 | Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, participates in the [ICPS HIV/AIDS Europe Roundtable](#), in Brussels on 20/03/18. The meeting examined current policy guidelines and strategies on combating HIV/AIDS in the EU.

ETHICS | WHO-ALERT Consortium | The ALERT consortium in collaboration with WHO organised [a workshop on "Ethics preparedness: Facilitating ethics review during outbreaks"](#) in Dakar, Senegal, on 20-21 March 2018 on the eve of the [Global Summit of National Ethics/Bioethics Committees](#). The workshop was attended by 50 participants from over 20 countries. The recommendations from the workshop will be available soon.

CRISPR | Launch of ARRIGE | 23 March 2018 | An international "Association for Responsible Research and Innovation in Genome Editing" ([ARRIGE](#)) was launched in Paris, France on 23 March 2018. Its aim is to promote a global governance of genome editing. The meeting was attended by 180 participants from 35 countries, mostly in Europe, Africa (Gabon, Mali, Congo, Nigeria, South Africa), Asia (India, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Singapore), and the Americas (Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina). EDCTP (present as observer) was represented by Dr Anne-Laure Knellwolf, EDCTP Programme Portfolio Manager. The meeting was reported on in [Science 27 March 2018](#).

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Publications



EDCTP Alumni Network launch

- **TB | REMoxTB** | Conor Duncan Tweed et alii: Liver toxicity associated with tuberculosis chemotherapy in the REMoxTB study. [BMC Medicine \(2018\) 16:46](#)
- **TB | PanACEA** | Elin M. Svensson et alii: The Potential for Treatment Shortening With Higher Rifampicin Doses: Relating Drug Exposure to Treatment Response in Patients With Pulmonary Tuberculosis. [Clinical Infectious Diseases 21 March 2018](#)
- **CRISPR | Nature | 21 March 2018** | Comment by Sheila Jasanoff and J. Benjamin Hurlbut '[A global observatory for gene editing](#)'. Authors call for an international network of researchers and organisations to "support a new kind of conversation".
- **Survey | Global Young Academy** | What shapes early career paths for researchers in Africa? Survey organised by the The Global Young Academy, an international society of young scientists. It wants to investigate challenges and motivations that shape the career paths of early-career researchers in Africa and the African diaspora. [Go to survey](#).
- **European Commission | World TB Day 2018 | Antimicrobial resistance** | The European commissioners for International Cooperation and Development (Neven Mimica), Health and Food Safety (Vytenis Andriuskaitis), Research and Innovation (Carlos Moedas), and Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (Marianne Thyssen) released a [common statement, recognising the link between TB and anti-microbial resistance](#).

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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

- **MAMAH** |Coordinator: Prof. Clara Menéndez Santos
Improving maternal and infant health by reducing malaria risks in African women: evaluation of the safety and efficacy of dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in HIV-infected pregnant women.

- **RaPaed TB** | Coordinator: Mr Frank Spiekermann
Rapid and accurate diagnosis of paediatric TB.

Ethics and regulatory capacities

- **HATUA-KENYA** | Coordinator: Prof. Elizabeth Anne Bukusi
Enabling compliance and building capacity and community for clinical research in Kenya.
- **LusoAfro Bio-Ethics** | Coordinator: Prof. João Schwalbach
Strengthening bioethics committees in lusophone African region.

Vaccines for poverty-related diseases

- **POR TB Consortium** | Coordinator: Prof. Peter Andersen
Phase 2 trial to determine efficacy of the multistage vaccine H56:IC31 for prevention of recurrent TB disease.

Senior Fellowships 2016

- **BuruliNox** | Fellow: Prof. Richard Odame Phillips
Evaluation of a nitric oxide generating dressing (EDX) to improve management of Buruli ulcer disease.
- **MEPIE Study** | Fellow: Dr Peter Olupot Olupot
Strengthening malaria epidemiological, pathophysiological and intervention studies in highly endemic Eastern Uganda.
- **PRACE** | Fellow: Prof. Collen Masimirembwa
Pharmacogenomics research and clinical excellence in the treatment of infectious diseases in African populations.
- **REMODEL-TZ** | Fellow: Dr Stella Mpagama
Research capacity strengthening programme for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases control in Tanzania.
- **ROVAS-2** | Fellow: Dr Roma Chilengi
A randomised controlled trial of two versus three doses of Rotarix™ vaccine for boosting and longevity of vaccine immune responses in Zambia.

Career Development Fellowships 2016

- **Evaluate 4mTB** | Fellow: Dr Fanie Malherbe
Evaluating the response to 4 and 6 month treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by 18F-FDG PET/CT lung imaging.
- **MyTB** | Fellow: Dr Nelita Du Plessis
Host-directed therapy: Myeloid derived suppressor cell ablation by phosphodiesterase inhibitor.

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Upcoming events

Main 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;
- **9th World Health Summit 2017 Regional Meeting | Coimbra, Portugal | 19-20 April 2018** Click [here](#) for preliminary information. Brochure [here](#). EDCTP will contribute a symposium on research networks and collaborative research.
- [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 and exhibitor opportunities

www.edctpforum.org



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