

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



**E D C T P**

## **EDCTP Update**

November 2018

Supported by the European Union



### Highlights

- [\*\*EDCTP presentation at EMA\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Open calls for proposals\*\*](#)

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## World AIDS Day 2018

This 2018 World AIDS Day marks its 30th anniversary. Significant progress has been made in the fight against the disease during these three decades. However, the [Global AIDS Update 2018 report](#) 'Miles to go' shows that much needs to be done to reach the 2020 targets. According to the report, 'new HIV infections are rising, HIV-related deaths are not falling fast enough and flat resources are threatening success'.

Over the last 15 years, EDCTP has achieved significant progress in bringing together researchers and institutions in Europe and Africa to advance medical interventions against HIV. EDCTP-funded studies on HIV have made vital contributions, for example, to the development of antiretroviral drug formulations tailored to children and facilitating their widespread introduction in Africa.

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## Recently signed projects

[Senior Fellowships 2017](#)

- **BioStat-LAB Africa:** Fellow: Prof. Maria Lesosky

Biostatistical methods for longitudinal analysis of burden of lung health and tuberculosis in Africa

### [Career Development Fellowships 2016](#)

- **Kenya CVHIV:** Fellow: Dr Tecla Temu

Inflammation, T Cell activation and sub-clinical atherosclerosis in treated HIV infection

### [Career Development Fellowships 2017](#)

- **Informa-TB:** Fellow: Dr Marisa Klopper  
The role of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* compensatory mutations in metabolic fitness via the structure and function of mycolic acids

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## Projects

### **PredART | results published in NEJM | 14 November 2018**

The results of the PredART clinical trial co-funded by EDCTP were [published in the New England Journal of Medicine](#) on 14 November 2018. Prof. Graeme Meintjes (University of Cape Town) and his team showed that a moderate dose of prednisone given over four weeks to patients with HIV-TB co-infection most at risk of developing TB IRIS, reduces their risk by 30%. The results have already influenced national and international guidelines for managing HIV-TB co-infection.

[Read more](#)

### **AMBITION | Trials journal | 23 November 2018**

The Ambitioncm project team published its [study protocol in Trials](#) on 23 November 2018: David S Lawrence et alii, 'AMBIsome Therapy Induction Optimisation (AMBITION): High Dose AmBisome for Cryptococcal Meningitis Induction Therapy in sub-Saharan Africa: Study Protocol for a Phase 3 Randomised Controlled Non-Inferiority Trial' For the kick-off meeting [Botswana launch of AMBITION-cm project on HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis](#)

### **LusoAfro-BioEthics | public project launch in Mozambique | 23 November 2018**

The public launch of the EDCTP-funded project "LusoAfro-BioEthics - Strengthening Bioethics Committees in Lusophone African Region" (coordinated by Prof. Maria Rosário Oliveira Martins, Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - University NOVA of Lisbon) was held in Maputo at the Ministry of Health of Mozambique. The ceremony was presided over by the Deputy Minister of Health, PhD João Leopoldo da Costa.

Participants in this event were members of the Mozambique National Bioethics Committee, IHMT-NOVA Deputy Director, researchers from UniCV and UAN (Angola), Deputy National Directors of the Ministry of Health, researchers and members of the eight Mozambique institutional committees.

## Lancado Projecto da Boetica nos PALOP



MISAU-GCRP

Photo: courtesy of LusoAfro BioEthics team

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### Recent events

#### **EMA | presentation on EDCTP | 26 November 2018**

On 26 November 2018, Dr Michael Makanga presented EDCTP and its role in R&D for poverty-related infectious diseases at the [European Medicines Agency](#). Approximately 55 staff attended the well-received presentation.



From left to right: Mr. Martin Harvey Allchurch (EMA, Principal International Affairs Officer); Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Executive Director); Prof. Guido Rasi (EMA, Executive Director); and Dr Agnes Agnes Saint-Raymond (EMA, Head of International Affairs Division).

### **CANTAM | EDCTP visit | 29-31 October 2018**

EDCTP visits are made to countries where substantial financial investments have been made. The visits are an excellent opportunity to discuss how standards in project implementation, documentation, reporting and financial control can be met.

The Republic of Congo has seen an increase in the number of EDCTP-funded projects which has attracted more than 4,977,244 Euro to the country since 2004. This visit aimed to assess the scientific and financial management capacity of [CANTAM](#), the Central Africa Network on Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and Malaria. The objective was to ensure that the project and its sites improve or maintain compliance with contractual obligations and can stand a test of future independent audits or assessments.

An EDCTP team, Project Officer [Michelle Nderu](#) and [Mary Jane Coloma-Egelink](#), Grants Finance Officer, visited the CANTAM coordinating research institute Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Médicale (FCRM) and its partner sites in Congo from 29 to 31 October 2018.



CANTAM project team and EDCTP Officers.

### **Institut Pasteur | International Network symposium | 15-16 November 2018**

On 15-16 November 2018, [Dr Ole Olesen](#), EDCTP Director of International Cooperation (Europe) and EDCTP Project Officer [Jean Marie Vianney Habarugira](#) attended the 4th edition of the Institut Pasteur International Network Symposium held in Paris.

The theme of this year's edition was [Combating Resistance: microbes and vectors](#), an area which fits EDCTP's mission, considering the growing public health threat caused by resistance to treatment of infections including bacterial infections, malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

On 16 November, the poster session featured part of the work JMH Habarugira is carrying out in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Barcelona, exploring the potential role of pharmacovigilance intelligence systems in tracking antimicrobial resistance.

The symposium featured several presentations from Pasteur institutions with EDCTP-funded projects, including Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Centre Pasteur du Cameroun, Institut Pasteur de Bangui, Institut Pasteur de Cote d'Ivoire and Institut Pasteur du Madagascar.



JMV Habarugira at poster session

### **EDCTP Fellows | Prizes**

EDCTP congratulates two of its Fellows for having received prestigious awards:

- Dr Christine Sekaggya-Wiltshire was awarded [The Stephen Lawn TB-HIV Research Leadership Prize](#) by the Union.
- Dr Ifedayo Adetifa (a fellow of the first EDCTP programme) was awarded a [2018 MRC/DFID African Research Leader Fellowship](#) which will start with effect from January 2019.

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## **Funding and awards**

### **EDCTP Calls for proposals**

The following 2018 calls for proposals are open:

- [Preparatory Fellowships - Joint call with AREF](#) closes 1 February 2019
- [Senior Fellowships](#) closes 28 February 2019
- [EDCTP Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships](#) closes 7 March 2019

See also the TDR parallel call for proposals:

- [Clinical Research and Development Fellowships](#) closes 7 March 2019

**IAS - CIPHER | Call for applications | till 07 January 2019**

CIPHER, the Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research, an IAS programme, launched its '[Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship Programme](#)' in 2017 "to build and support clinical research leadership in paediatric and adolescent HIV in low- and middle-income countries, particularly high-burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa."

"CIPHER Fellows are medical practitioners from sub-Saharan Africa with clinical research experience and the potential to become the next generation of leaders in paediatric and adolescent HIV clinical science. Each fellow receives \$70,000 over two years, and has already linked with a potential mentor. The mentor is an internationally renowned researcher in paediatric and adolescent HIV with an established clinical research collaboration based at an institute of excellence in sub-Saharan Africa."  
Application deadline: 07 January 2019

### **Swiss TPH & Ifakara Health Institute | Call for applications | till 15 January 2019**

The 5th edition of the '[Malaria Course with a Focus on E-Learning](#)' will take place from 25 March to 19 April 2019 in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. The course is offered by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in collaboration with the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Bagamoyo Branch.

### **LSHTM | Greenwood Africa Award | Nominations by 9 December 2018**

The [Greenwood Africa Award](#) recognises the research achievements and future potential of a mid-career African scientist in contributing to the control of infectious disease in sub-Saharan Africa. It is awarded to an individual who shows exceptional promise as an African research leader. Nominations by Sunday 9 December 2018

The Award is being inaugurated to mark Professor Greenwood's 80th birthday in 2018. Professor Sir Brian Greenwood, British physician, biomedical research scientist, and academic, has spent over 50 years carrying out research in Africa. His work has had an extensive impact on major infectious diseases including malaria, meningitis, pneumonia and Ebola.

### **MRC UK | Joint Global Health Trials scheme - call 9 | Development Grants**

The UK Department for International Development (DFID), the UK Medical Research Council (MRC), the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Wellcome are pleased to announce the launch of the [ninth call for proposals under this initiative](#) to fund global health trials. Call opens 14 November 2018 and closes 05 February 2019

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## Resources

### **New EDCTP resources**

EDCTP published the report on the EDCTP high-level meeting [Engaging African governments to strengthen national health research systems with complementary international cooperation](#). The meeting took place in Dakar, Senegal, on 30 August 2018. It was organised as a side meeting during the 68th session of the WHO AFRO Regional Committee meeting.

[More on the meeting](#)

### **Other EDCTP resources**

- [Tackling infectious disease in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP-funded clinical studies for medical interventions 2003-2018](#)

- [EDCTP Annual Report 2017 - Maintaining momentum](#)
- [Strategic Research Agenda \(2017 update\)](#)
- [Strategic Business Plan 2014-2024](#)
- [EDCTP Corporate brochure 2018](#)
- [EDCTP2 policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing](#)
- [Acknowledging EDCTP: A guide for grantees](#)

### **WHO | World Malaria Report | 2018**

The WHO [World malaria report 2018](#) was published on 19 November 2018, together with a new strategy document: [High burden to high impact: a targeted malaria response](#)

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