



EDCTP

# EDCTP Update

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## Highlights

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## Report of Lisbon meeting on next EDCTP programme



EDCTP organised a high-level meeting on the character, scope and shape of its next programme in Lisbon, Portugal, on 17 September 2018. Approximately 100 participants representing EDCTP member countries and strategic partners in global health participated to discuss their involvement in EDCTP and their views on its future development. A summary report on the meeting is now available.

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## Recently signed projects

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

- **Bethink TB:** Fellow: Dr Virginie Rozot  
NK and B cell determinants of immunity to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in humans
- **HypnoBio:** Fellow: Dr Laurent Dembélé

Understanding the biology of *Plasmodium vivax* and *Plasmodium ovale* for the development of a field-based anti-hypnozoite drug screening model.

- **PRIMAQUINE Roll-out:** Fellow: Dr Dominic Mosh Monitoring safety of single low-dose primaquine co-administered with AL in routine healthcare practices: addressing potential implementation challenges and policy options for effective roll-out

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## Projects

### SELeCT | results to date | 12 November 2018

Interesting [overview of results](#) (including publications) of the SELeCT project which aimed to strengthen research capacity in Liberia and was conducted from early 2016 to mid 2017.

**SELeCT and IGORCADIA** | Equally interesting, the [interview with Brother Peter, i.e. Dawoh Peter Lansana](#), director of the Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital of Monrovia, Liberia on the ISGlobal website. He reflects on his experience with the introduction of research in the hospital through research capacity building projects: "SELeCT and IGORCADIA were eye-openers for the staff, for myself. These two projects have helped us better understand the need to fully participate in research activities."

### ARA trial | start of recruitment | 1 December 2018

Preparation for the ARA - Adolescents' Retention and Adherence Trial has been ongoing since June 2018. The trial is funded via an EDCTP Career Development Fellowship (TMA2016CDF-1548) and aims to study 'Conditional economic incentives and motivational interviewing to improve adolescents' retention and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in south-east Nigeria' through a cluster randomised trial. The study is coordinated by fellow Dr Obinna Ekwunife at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Awka, Nigeria. The ARA trial started recruitment of patients on 1 December 2018. The trial makes use of 12 trial sites (HIV treatment hospitals) and 36 health professionals. A team comprising a doctor, nurse or pharmacist and a laboratory technologist work to implement the trial at each trial site. A one-day central training on good clinical laboratory practice for the laboratory technologists was organised before recruitment as part of trial preparation.

### Ethics in Sudan | results presented | 5-7 December 2018

Results of one of the EDCTP 2015 Ethics and Regulatory Capacities projects were presented at the [14th World Congress of Bioethics](#) / 7th National Bioethics Conference in Bangalore, India, from 5-7 December 2018. Programme here ([PDF download](#)). Dr Shaza Abass (Coordinator) and Dr Shahd Osman presented results from the grant 'Enhancing Ethics in Sudan' (CSA2015ERC-873). Dr Abass presented an 'Assessment of the capacity of higher education institutes in Sudan' and Dr Osman had a poster presentation titled 'A review of the national guidelines for research ethics in Sudan'.



Dr Shahd Osman

### TRUST | end of project | 31 December 2018

The *Global code of conduct for research in resource-poor settings* is part of the [Ethics section in the Participants Portal's Horizon 2020 Online Manual](#). Already among the reference documents, the Code was recently moved from 'General guidance' documents to 'Rules & codes of conduct' documents. The [Global code](#) is available in Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish on the [dedicated website for the code](#).

TRUST produced a [policy brief on healthy volunteers in clinical trials](#), written by Dr François Bompert (DND) and Dr Francesca Irene Cavallaro (consultant for the UNESCO Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology section). Among other things, the TRUST group "Recommends National Healthy Volunteer

Registries to significantly reduce risks for healthy volunteers by monitoring repeated involvement of healthy volunteers in clinical trials."

A short video tribute was produced to the memory of Reverend Mario Mahongo, TRUST team member and Chair of the San Council. Listen to what fair research means to the San community.



Reverend Mario Mahongo - TRUST Project

Although the [TRUST project](#) closes at the end of 2018, several more publications are forthcoming while dissemination activities by individual TRUST partners will continue, including advocacy for institutional implementation of the [Fair Research Contracting Tool](#).

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## Recent events

### **Dakar, Senegal | 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.

### **Nuffield Council on Bioethics | data & sample sharing | 3-4 December 2018**

The [Nuffield Council on Bioethics](#) - an independent body funded by the Nuffield Foundation, MRC UK and the Wellcome Trust - organised a meeting on sharing research data and samples during emergencies. The Nuffield working group on data and sample sharing during emergencies had invited five external speakers including Prof. Moses Bockarie (EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa) for a two day discussion on how fair collaboration can be established. This was approached from the perspective of the donors/sources of the data in the trying circumstances of an emergencies, and from the perspective of the researchers and health professionals. Currently, EDCTP supports several projects and consortia whose work is relevant to the discussion: [ALERTT](#), [PANDORA-ID Net](#), [Networks of Excellence](#) and EDCTP's support for [strengthening national ethics and regulatory authorities](#).

### **ASLM | ASLM 2018 conference | 10-13 December 2018**

The [African Society for Laboratory Medicine](#) held its [fourth biennial conference](#) in Abuja, Nigeria from 10-13 December 2018. Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, was a speaker at the opening ceremony on 10 December. Prof. M. Bockarie (EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa) co-chaired a

session on [Africa Regional Laboratory Networks: perspective on emerging diseases threats](#) and presented on EDCTP's experience in establishing regional research networks.

## NEPAD | AMRH week in Kigali, Rwanda | 10-14 December 2018



NEPAD, the implementation agency of the African Union, organised the [African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization \(AMRH\) week in Kigali, Rwanda](#). The AMRH initiative is currently evaluated in view of further regulatory harmonisation in Africa and the establishment of the African Medicines Authority. AMRH Week focused on on-going work around alignment arrangements of different partners, stakeholders, networks and similar initiatives towards regulatory harmonisation. EDCTP was represented at this high-Level event by Dr Michael Makanga (Executive Director) and Dr Leonardo Simão (High Representative 'Africa).

*Dr Michael Makanga and the Hon. Dr. Diana Gashumba, Minister of Health of of the Republic of Rwanda.*

NEPAD AMRH initiative recently published a position paper by : [Leveraging AMRH Success - A Firm Foundation For African Medicines](#)

### [Agency](#)

Read also the new PATH report '[Making the case: how regulatory harmonisation can save lives in Africa](#)' (PDF), discussed in a blog post (11 December 2018) on the DSW website: '[Speeding up access to healthcare : how regulatory harmonisation can save lives and improve health Africa - and how the EU can help](#)'.

### EDCTP Fellows

EDCTP1 Fellow Professor Jean Nachege (Centre for Infectious Diseases, Stellenbosch University) is now a Fellow of the The African Academy of Sciences (AAS). The AAS nominates and elects individuals who have excelled in their fields of expertise as Fellows and gives prizes to recognise scientists who have contributed to developing their fields in Africa.

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## Funding

### 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.

### **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 Trust 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.

### **JPIAMR | Call on Diagnostics and surveillance | 2019**

From the call text: "The Call on Diagnostics and Surveillance 2019 will fund joint transnational research projects addressing the development of diagnostic and surveillance tools, technologies and methods to detect antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Projects should address the diagnosis of AMR infections in clinical and veterinary settings, or the surveillance of AMR in humans, animals and the environment. The call promotes projects with impact in low and middle income countries (LMICs) in Asia and Africa."

**The call opened on 05 December and the submission deadline for pre-proposals is 18 February 2018.**

About the [Joint Programming Initiative on Anti-Microbial Resistance](#). The call was opened up to researchers from Africa and Asia through funding from the [Swedish International Development Agency](#) (Sida) and the [International Development Research Centre Canada](#) (IDRC Canada), respectively. See [news item](#).

Sida and IDRC Canada [agreed in November 2018 to a new partnership](#) to boost research in sub-Saharan Africa through contributions to the [Science Granting Councils Initiative](#) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI).

### **MRC UK/GCRF/NHS | Global Maternal and Neonatal Health |2019**

From the pre-call announcement: "The purpose of the call is to address the burden of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in low and middle-income countries (LMIC), by funding high-quality proposals across the spectrum of basic to applied research. Awards will support multidisciplinary research, build and strengthen research partnerships, and promote capacity building in global maternal and neonatal health research. Applications are particularly encouraged from principal investigators based at organisations in LMIC, as well as from eligible research organisations based in the UK working in equitable partnership with LMIC colleagues." Call opens 16 January and closes 24 April 2019

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### **MRC/DFID | African Research Leader scheme 2019 | Open date 17 Jan 2019**

From the pre-call announcement: "This MRC/DFID jointly funded scheme aims to strengthen research leadership across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by attracting and retaining exceptionally talented individuals who will lead high-quality programmes of research on key global health issues pertinent to SSA. The African Research Leader (ARL) should be supported by an enthusiastic local research environment and by a strong linkage with a UK partner."

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### **MRC UK | Health Systems Research Initiative Call 6 | Closing date 14 Feb 2019**

From the announcement: "The Department of International Development (DFID), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Wellcome jointly fund the Health Systems Research Initiative." Call 6 aims to support 'Providing evidence to strengthen health systems in low- and middle-income countries.'

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## New EDCTP resources

EDCTP published two brochures that summarise the added value of the EDCTP programmes for Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP is one of the EU's flagship initiatives contributing towards the European Research Area in multiple ways. A second brochure details EDCTP's added value for countries and organisations in sub-Saharan Africa.

- [The added value of EDCTP to Europe](#)
- [The added value of EDCTP to Africa](#)

Updated:

- [Guide financier à l'intention des bénéficiaires](#)

## Other EDCTP resources

- [Engaging African governments to strengthen national health research systems with complementary international cooperation](#)
- [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](#)

## AAS | Transparent Research Funding | 12 December 2018

The African Academy of Sciences launched a new resource document at the [Science Forum South Africa 2018](#) on 12 December 2018. The Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) is a global standard to promote transparency and strengthen the governance of grant funding worldwide. The GFGP standard was developed in collaboration with the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) and is the first such tool developed in Africa for international use.

[Read more on the AAS website](#)

## More

- [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | Year in review 2018](#)
- [DNDi | 2018 in review](#)

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## Upcoming events

### IAS2019 | Mexico City | 21-24 July 2019

The 10th IAS conference on HIV science will take place in Mexico City, Mexico, from 21 to 24 July 2019.

- Registration information [here](#)
- **Submission of abstracts is open until 22 January 2019**, in the following scientific tracks: Track A: Basic Science; Track B: Clinical Science; Track C: Prevention Science; Track D: Social, behavioural and implementation science.
- [Abstract mentor programme](#): sign up as mentor (until 01 January 2019) or submit your draft abstract (until 07 January 2019)

Join the IAS2019 conversation: [@IAS2019](#) #IAS2019 [Facebook mailinglist](#)

## **ECTMIH2019 | Liverpool United Kingdom | 16-20 September 2019**

The [11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health](#) will take place in Liverpool, United Kingdom, from 16-20 September 2019. Every two years, communities of health professionals, researchers, scientists and students come together from academic, clinical, NGO and industry settings across the world to attend ECTMIH, which is an initiative of the Federation of European Societies of Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH). Next year the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) is proud to host ECTMIH 2019.

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