



E D C T P

# EDCTP Update

January 2019

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## Recently signed projects

### [Strategic actions supporting large clinical trials \(2017\)](#)

- **THECA:** Coordinator: Dr Florian Marks  
Effect of a novel typhoid conjugate vaccine in Africa: a multicentre study in Ghana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **ETEC Vaccine Efficacy:** Coordinator: Mr Björn Sjöstrand  
Field studies of an oral whole cell ETEC vaccine candidate in African toddlers and children: Assess efficacy and set parameters for pivotal phase III trials
- **CAP012 SAMBA Trial:** Coordinator: Prof. Salim Abdool Karim

CAPRISA 012: Phase I/II trial of subcutaneous administration of monoclonal broadly-neutralising antibodies

### [Treatment innovations for poverty-related diseases \(2017\)](#)

- **Prava-TB:** coordinator: Dr Reto Guler

Preventing TB relapse and chronic lung disease: a proof-of-concept, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of

pravastatin to reduce inflammation after TB treatment completion in HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected adults measured by FDG-PT/CT

### [Targeting control and elimination of NIDs through product-focused implementation research \(2017\)](#)

- **PEP4LEP:** Coordinator: Ms. Liesbeth Mieras

Chemoprophylaxis for leprosy: comparing the effectiveness and feasibility of a skin camp intervention to a health centre-based intervention. An implementation trial in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Tanzania

### [Ethics and regulatory capacities \(2017\)](#)

- **ERUDIT:** Coordinator: Prof. Mireille Prince David  
Enhancing Togo's ethical review and regulatory competencies for health research

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

- **CaNPSTS:** Fellow: Dr Charles Drago Kato

Clinical evaluation of novel plasma biomarkers for stage diagnosis among sleeping sickness patients in Uganda

- **PERHAPS:** Fellow: Dr Gbolahan Ajibola - Effects of preterm birth on HIV acquisition risk and antiretroviral prophylaxis safety in HIV-exposed infants in Botswana
- **Preg multidrug:** Fellow: Dr Tacilta Nhampossa - Understanding the determinants of the effectiveness of HIV control strategies targeting HIV-infected pregnant women in Mozambique

### [EDCTP-TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships \(2017\)](#)

- **ONYEJEPU:** Fellow: Dr N. Onyejebu (Nigeria)

Nigerian Institute of Medical research (NIMR), Lagos, Nigeria

Host organisation: Novartis AG Pharma, Switzerland

- **ONYEMATA:** Fellow: Dr E. Onyemata

Institute of Human Virology Nigeria LTDGTE (IHVN), Abuja, Nigeria

Host organisation: European Vaccine Initiative, Germany

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## Network of Excellence WANETAM meets in Ghana

More than 60 representatives of the West African Network for TB, AIDS and Malaria (WANETAM) met for a retreat in Accra, Ghana, from 14-16 January 2019. The aim of the

meeting was to prepare for the 2nd year of implementation. Prof. Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation (Africa), joined the meeting. WANETAM incorporates 14 institutions from Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone countries in West Africa and 4 European institutions.

The theme for the retreat 'Empowering African Research Institutions through Capacity Building, Partnership and Networking' highlighted the challenges of strengthening institutions from resource-limited countries in West Africa. The success rate of EDCTP grant applications from national institutions in West Africa is lower than for the southern and eastern African regions. This is particularly true for low-income countries like Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone that are lagging in clinical research capacity. WANETAM is invested in working with researchers from these countries to assist them improve their success rate in winning EDCTP grants.

Professor R. Adegbola, Chair of the WANETAM independent steering committee, summarised the key take-home messages:

- The Ebola work package should be expanded to include other emerging and re-emerging diseases as the countries will need to prepare their response to emergency outbreaks.
- Increased facilitating enhanced engagement of African institutions in the malaria activities and can also accelerate the implementation of HIV activities.
- Strengthening the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) portfolio through further engagement of the NTD Support Centre at The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana.

Coverage of the meeting:

- News Ghana: [Noguchi Hosts West African Researchers' Meeting](#)
- University of Ghana: [Noguchi Hosts West African Network for TB, Aids and Malaria \(WANETAM\) retreat](#)
- See also the [WANETAM website](#)

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## Projects

### **ARA | Study protocol | Fellowship Ekwunife**

The study protocol for the project coordinated by EDCTP Career Development Fellow Obinna Ikechukwu Ekwunife was [published in Trials](#) on 29 December 2018: O.I. Ekwunife et alii: Conditional economic incentives and motivational interviewing to improve adolescents' retention in HIV care and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Southeast Nigeria: study protocol for a cluster randomised trial.

### **DiTECT-HAT | 3rd Newsletter | 03 January 2019**

The DiTECT-HAT (Diagnostic Tools for Human African Trypanosomiasis Elimination and Clinical Trials) [project](#) published its third newsletter [in English](#) and in [French](#).

### **IGORCADIA | blog post by Cristina Muñoz | 22 January 2019**

[Blog post by Cristina Muñoz about her work in Monrovia for the IGORCADIA project](#) (Improved governance and research capacities in diagnostics for infectious diseases of the Liberian Medicines and Health Products Authority).

### **TRUST | dissemination | 31 January 2018**

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

On 31 January 2019, *The Economist* used the discussion of the genome editing of two Chinese girls as point of departure for a broader discussion of 'ethics dumping': '[Recent events highlight an unpleasant scientific practice: ethics dumping](#)'. Prof. Doris Schroeder (University of Central Lancashire, UK, and coordinator of the [@Trustproject](#)) was interviewed. There is also an Economist [podcast on the topic](#).

### **LIFE | neonatal HIV diagnostics | 31/01-01/2 2019**

The EDCTP-funded LIFE project: 'Neonatal HIV early infant diagnosis (EID) versus standard-of-care EID - a feasibility study of point-of care testing in relation to uptake of ART and infant prophylaxis, rates of infant survival, morbidity and retention in care' is coordinated by DR Ilesh Jani (Mozambique). The project team held its kick-off meeting in Maputo, Mozambique from 31/01 to 01/02 2019.



Kick-off meeting Life consortium, 31-01-2019 (Courtesy Life project)

### **VxMedSS | safety surveillance | 01 February 2019**

The EDCTP-funded Career Development Fellowship project on 'Vaccines and Medicines Safety Surveillance' (VxMedSS) is coordinated by Dr Dan Kajungu. The kick-off meeting took place in Kampala, Uganda on 01 February.

Read [more here](#).

Also: journalist Esther [@Nakkazi](#) tweeted from the meeting.

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## **Recent events**

### **ECRAID | Kick-Off Meeting | 17 January 2019**

The European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases (ECRAID) held its kick-off meeting in Brussels to start the development of its business plan. The alliance envisages "to establish a coordinated and permanent European clinical research infrastructure for

clinical research on infectious diseases".

On behalf of EDCTP, Jean Marie Vianney Habarugira (Project Officer) attended the meeting. Two EDCTP-funded consortia, PANDORA-ID-Net (Pan-African Network for Rapid Research, Response, and Preparedness for Infectious Diseases Epidemics, coordinated by Prof. Francine Ntoumi, Brazzaville, Congo) and ALERRT (African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training, coordinated by Prof. Peter Horby, Oxford, UK) contributed presentations to the programme.

Read [more here](#).

### **ICPS | HIV/AIDS Europe Roundtable | 23 January 2019**

Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation (Europe), participated in the [ICPS HIV/AIDS Europe Roundtable](#), Brussels, Belgium, on 23 January 2019. The meeting examined current policy guidelines and strategies on combating HIV in the European Union, especially long-term treatment. Following the Roundtable, an HIV/AIDS Report will be published within the Government Gazette.

[Programme here](#)

### **Policy Cures Research | Launch of G-Finder report 2018 | 24 January 2019**

The [G-Finder report 2018](#) was launched in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 January 2019. The report, produced by Policy Cures ...EDCTP was represented at the event by Lara Pandya (Strategic Partnerships Officer)

From the report, Funder overview (p. 81; bold added):

**"The growth in UK government funding** was driven in roughly equal proportions by a sharp increase in funding from DFID (up \$46m, 83%, following a strategic review of its research portfolio), and a new ODA funding stream managed by the Department of Health and Social Care (UK DHSC), which disbursed \$40m in 2017. **The increase from the EC was the result of a nearly seven-fold increase in its funding to the EDCTP** (up \$47m, 571%). Although this was partly due to abnormally low funding in 2016 related to the scheduling of payments, it was also a record disbursement to EDCTP, reflecting the significantly increased budget of EDCTP2. **The slight US increase** came in equal parts from the US DOD (up \$12m, 15%), USAID (up \$12m, 16%) and the US CDC (up \$10m, 77%, returning towards normal levels), which offset a small drop in US NIH funding (down \$12m, -0.8%). **Other large increases came from India** (up \$21m, 38%), driven by increased investment from ICMR (up \$23m, 52%); **and Germany** (up \$18m, 39%), primarily due to additional funding from the BMBF (up \$12m, 40%) as well as the DFG (up \$5.2m, 44%). Canada (up \$6.2m, 89%) and South Africa (up \$2.7m, 24%) both re-entered the top 12. **Public funding from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) reached \$105m (up \$17m, 19%), representing its highest share of public funding (4.5%) since 2013.** India was responsible for the lion's share of both the total LMIC public funding (accounting for 72%) and the increase in LMIC public funding, while South Africa provided its highest ever level of government funding. **This higher share for LMICs was achieved despite a large decrease in Brazilian funding** (down \$6.6m, -42%, dropping out of the top 12 in 2017) in the face of deep cuts to overall public spending."

Launch event video stream [here](#)

### **TBVI / TBVAC2020 | project meeting and symposium | 29 January 2019**

TBVAC2020 held its project meeting and a symposium in Les Diablerets in Switzerland on 29 January 2019. The theme of the symposium was "TB Vaccines: Global Collaboration and Recent Advances in the Field". Dr Ole Olesen, Director of international Cooperation (Europe) participated and presented on EDCTP and its future activities.

Event information and [programme](#) on the TBVI website. See also the [TBVI twitteraccount](#).

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## Funding

### EDCTP Calls for proposals

The following 2018 calls for proposals are still open:

- [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

### 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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### **Cures within Reach | open call repurposing projects| Deadline 14 February 2019**

[Cures within Reach](#) has an [open call for proposals seeking "clinical repurposing trials](#), up to five of which will be selected to pitch at a live event, held on May 23, 2019 in the Boston area. This CureAccelerator Live! will showcase clinical repurposing trials for any disease that primarily impacts patients in the developing world. **Deadline for proposals is 14 February 2019.**

### **MMV / DNDi | Pandemic Response Box | 29 January 2019**

The Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) make 400 compounds available to stimulate research into new drugs for pandemic diseases. The tool is called the Pandemic Response Box and is a "collection of structurally diverse antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal compounds - selected by disease experts - for screening against infective and neglected diseases.

[Read more here](#)

### **MMV | 17th Call for proposals | Deadline | 29 March 2019**

The 17th call for proposals of the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is open, including a Call for African proposals. Two proposals are expected to be funded. See the [Information required for submission of Proposal to Medicines for Malaria Venture's 2nd African Call for Proposals](#)

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## **Resources**

### **New EDCTP resources**

EDCTP updated its:

- [Guidance for applicants on preparing full proposals and annex1 of the grant agreement](#) (available with all 2018 calls)

### **Recent publication on 'parachute research'**

- Prof. Moses Bockarie (EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa) published (with contributions from EDCTP Project Officer Shingai Machingaidze) an article in the Conversation on EDCTP's contribution to creating more equity in North-South research partnerships: ['How a partnership is closing the door on "parachute" research in Africa'](#).

Background for this article is the 2018 discussion in *The Lancet Global*

Health on '[parachute research](#)' with regard to [secondary data analysis](#). EDCTP authors Moses Bockarie, Shingai Machingaidze, Thomas Nyirenda , Ole Olesen, and Michael Makanga contributed [Parasitic and parachute research in global health](#) (published 01 September 2018).

### Other EDCTP resources

- [The added value of EDCTP to Europe](#)
- [The added value of EDCTP to Africa](#)
- [Tackling infectious disease in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP-funded clinical studies for medical interventions 2003-2018](#)
- [EDCTP Corporate brochure 2018](#)
- [EDCTP Annual Report 2017 - Maintaining momentum](#)
  
- [Moving forward and consolidating gains for an EDCTP successor programme](#)(Report on EDCTP High-Level meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, 17 September 2018)
- [Engaging African governments to strengthen national health research systems with complementary international cooperation](#) (Report on Dakar High-Level Meeting, 30 August 2018)
- [Development and strengthening of the national health research systems in sub-Saharan Africa](#) (Report on the EDCTP-WHO meeting in Accra, Ghana, 9-10 July 2018)
  
- [Strategic Research Agenda \(2017 update\)](#)
- [Strategic Business Plan 2014-2024](#)
  
- [EDCTP2 policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing](#)
- [Acknowledging EDCTP: A guide for grantees](#)
- [Guide financier à l'intention des bénéficiaires](#)

### 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](#)

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### Vacancy: Administrative Officer (EDCTP The Hague) - temporary

EDCTP is looking for an Administrative Officer to be based at the office in The Hague. The Administrative Officer, under the supervision of the Director of Finance and Administration, will be responsible for providing administrative support to the EDCTP Secretariat in The Hague. The position will be for a period of six months. Applications are invited before midnight 15 February 2019. Please note; work permit needed.

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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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