

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



**E D C T P**

## **EDCTP Update**

June 2019

Supported by the European Union



### Highlights

- **Three more calls to open in early August**
- **Two large malaria treatment studies - ASAAP and PYRAPREG**
- **Africa - EU collaboration on Research and Innovation**

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## EDCTP grants management training

**A few places still available!**

### **EDCTP | Training on management of EDCTP2 grants | 5 July 2019**

EDCTP will organise a one-day workshop on financial and project management of EDCTP2 grants. The workshop will be held in the Mercure Hotel, The Hague, the Netherlands, on 5 July 2019. Participation in the workshop is open to all but priority will be given to financial or project/technical managers of EDCTP2 projects. **BOOK EARLY!** There are 70 places in the training; placement will be in order of application. EDCTP cannot provide support for travel or accommodation. Participants have to arrange their own travel and accommodation but please wait for confirmation of participation. [Event page on EDCTP website.](#)

Please note | The EDCTP website has a [guidance page for financial grant management.](#)

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## Recently signed projects

### [Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children - 2017](#)

- **PREGART** | Coordinator: Dr Birkneh Tadesse | Safety and efficacy of dolutegravir and EFV400 for pregnant and breastfeeding women: a randomised non-inferiority clinical trial

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

- **PREVAC-UP** | Coordinator: Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah (INSERM, France) | The partnership for research on Ebola vaccinations - extended follow-up and clinical research capacity build-up

### [Career development fellowships \(2017\)](#)

- **ERAIN** | Fellow: Dr Moses Masika | Emerging and re-emerging arboviral infections in Nairobi, Kenya
- **HighRif-C** | Fellow: Hadija Semvua | Evaluation of pharmacokinetics and safety/tolerability of higher doses of rifampicin in children with newly diagnosed, uncomplicated tuberculosis

### [Mobilisation of research funds in case of public health emergencies \(2018\)](#)

- **CAPA-CT-II** | Coordinator: Dr Mohammed Lamorde, IDI, Uganda | Leveraging capacity for early-phase clinical trials for filoviruses in Uganda

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## Projects

### **ASAAP | Kick-off meeting in Accra, Ghana | 17 June 2019**

The ASAAP consortium held its kick-off meeting in Accra Ghana on 17 June 2019. This multicountry, multisite clinical study evaluates a malaria tritherapy for children. The consortium strategy is to develop new antimalarial regimens by combining currently effective antimalarial drugs having different modes of action. The combination of these three antimalarials may reduce the incidence of parasite resistance, thereby prolonging the effectiveness of the drugs. This will contribute to a transition to next-generation antimalarials without a lapse in gains made in malaria control.



Left to right: Dr Anthony Afum-Adjei Awuah (researcher), Priscilla Adjei-Kusi (research student), Leslie Mawuli Aglanu (management support), Dr Oumou Maiga-Ascofaré (management and coordination), Dr Montserrat Blazquez Domingo (Senior project officer EDCTP), Dr John Amuasi (networking and dissemination), Golda Addo (project manager) and Lady Wright (management support).

The project is led and coordinated by Dr Oumou Maiga-Ascofaré of the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (Kumasi, Ghana). It is conducted in collaboration with six research institutions in Benin, Burkina Faso, France, Gabon, Germany and Mali. EDCTP is investing EUR 7.6 million in the project, which has additional funding from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). EDCTP Senior project officer, Dr Montserrat Blázquez Domingo took part in the meeting.

Read the ASAAP press release in [English](#) and [French](#)



### **PYRAPREG | Consortium kick-off meeting, Bamako, Mali | 27 May 2019**

On Monday 27 May, the PYRAPREG consortium had its kick-off meeting in Bamako, Mali. PYRAPREG is coordinated by Professor Kassoum Kayentao from the Malaria Research

and Training Centre (MRTC) - Parasitology / University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB).

PYRAPREG - Efficacy and safety of a newly registered artemisinin-based combination (pyronaridine-artesunate - Pyramax®) for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in African pregnant women - brings together eight academic partners, five in Africa and three in Europe. All partners have a long history of collaboration in medical research. The research team comprises Prof Kayentao (study coordinator) (USTTB, Mali), Prof. Halidou Tinto (IRSS, Burkina Faso), Prof. Umberto D'Alessandro (MRC Unit The Gambia & United Kingdom), Dr Hypolite Muhindo (UNIKIN, Democratic Republic of Congo), Prof. Esperança Sevens (CISM, Mozambique), Prof. Clara Menéndez (ISGlobal, Spain), Prof. Henk Schallig (AMC, the Netherlands), and Dr Thomas Dorlo (NKI, the Netherlands).

[Read PYRAPREG press release](#)

Read more in media (French):

- [MRTC-Parasitologie lance PYRAPREG pour lutter contre le paludisme chez les femmes enceintes](#)

### **PediCAP | Pneumonia treatment trial - AMR | project website launched**

PediCAP launched its [project website](#). With a budget of approx. EUR 7 million, the project will enroll 1100 children between 3 months and 10 years with diagnosed severe or very severe pneumonia, being treated with injectable antibiotics. PediCAP is one of the major projects in the EDCTP Lower Respiratory Tract Infections part of its portfolio.

The study will seek evidence for the best oral option to switch to, after treatment by injection. At the same time, tackling the growing antimicrobial resistance, especially to the widely used amoxicillin, the study will be investigating the optimal antibiotic treatment duration for this specific category of children who are likely going to use these first-line antibiotics multiple times in the course of their lives for various bacterial infections.

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## **Recent events**

### **ARESA | 8th Annual ARESA Research Ethics Seminar | 4-5 April 2019**

The Advanced Research Ethics Training in Southern Africa ([ARESA](#)), a programme led by Prof. Keymanthri Moodley (Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)) convened its 8th Annual Research Ethics Seminar on 4 and 5 April 2019. For the highlights see the [ARESA newsletter Vol.9 June 2019](#). EDCTP Project officer Dr Michelle Singh contributed a presentation on 'Community engagement and the [TRUST project](#)'.

### **AREF-EDCTP Essential grant writing workshop | 6-8 June 2019**

The AREF-hosted grant writing skills workshop is integral to the current EDCTP-AREF Joint Preparatory Fellowship call. This developmental fellowship aims to enhance the competitiveness of post-doctoral African scientists and clinicians in securing regional, national and international grant support and fellowships.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants from 13 countries. They were selected from the EDCTP-AREF joint call or nominated by the Centre Muraz, Burkina Faso, the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP), and the AREF Excell Programme).

The facilitator team comprised Dr Peter Dukes, Dr Bridget Bannerman, Dr Ifedayo Adetifa, Dr Hazel McCullough, Dr Eugene Ruzagira, Dr Modibo Sangare and Dr Michelle Singh (EDCTP).

The intensive programme included highly interactive sessions about research career and personal development planning, mentorship & coaching, confidence & resilience, peer support, grant intelligence, designing research questions, building research portfolios, developing proposals, peer review, ethics, impact statements, project planning and communication.

### **European Commission | European Development Days 2019 | 18-19 June 2019**

Europe's leading forum on development since 2006 is organised by the European Commission. EDD 2019's title is "Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind".

[See the EDD website](#)

### **WHO PDVAC | Vaccine development | 26-27 June 2019**

The WHO Advisory committee on product development for vaccines (PDVAC) held its 2019 meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 26-27 June 2019. On behalf of EDCTP, Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation (Europe) was an observer to the meeting.

The purpose of the committee is to provide WHO with advice and priorities regarding the development of new vaccines. The committee reviewed the progress of the development of several specific candidate vaccines, discussed R&D priorities for 2021-2030 and how WHO could facilitate those efforts.

As stated in the introduction to the agenda, the strategic role of the committee has evolved in recent years. It aims to "anticipate the near- and long-term barriers and roadblocks to investment in product development, by developing approaches to ensure a clear understanding of country preferences and development of products that meet the needs of LMICs. Consideration of the full public health value (FPHVV) for vaccines and novel technologies is becoming an increasingly critical element of the PDVAC approach to identifying public health priorities."

#### **Also of interest in this context:**

*The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, Ole Olesen et alii: [New hope for tuberculosis vaccines](#)

This editorial was written by the steering committee of the Global TB Vaccines Partnership (GTBVP), of which EDCTP is a founding member together with other major funders and implementers of TB vaccine research. The article summarises some promising recent results from TB vaccine research and calls for continued global support of this research area.

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## **Open EDCTP Calls for proposals**

The following EDCTP Calls for proposals are open for applications. Kind advice - do not wait till the last day before the closure of the call.

### **[Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials \(RIA\)](#)**

Open to application: 03 June 2019

Deadline for application: 07 November 2019

### **[New drugs and vaccines for priority pathogens in antimicrobial resistance \(RIA\)](#)**

Open to application: 03 June 2019

Deadline for application: 07 November 2019

### **[Paediatric drugs formulations for poverty-related diseases \(RIA\)](#)**

Open to application: 10 June 2019

Deadline for application: 10 October 2019

### [Strategic actions on product-related implementation research \(RIA\)](#)

Open to application: 10 June 2019

Deadline for application: 10 October 2019

## Another three calls will open in early August

[Ethics and regulatory capacities](#) (01 August 2019)

[Career Development fellowships 2019](#) (06 August 2019)

[Preparatory Fellowships 2019 - in collaboration with the Africa Research Excellence Fund](#) (06 August 2019)

Please note | The EDCTP website offers guidance for grant application: a page with [FAQs on Calls](#) and one with [Templates, guides and policies](#).

## TDR | Call for applications: Postgraduate Scholarship in Implementation Research

With these scholarships, TDR supports fellows accepted into specific university programmes. More details on the TDR Post-Graduate Support Scheme [here](#).

The fellowship referred to here, is the joint call with the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Public Health, Johannesburg, South Africa: [Postgraduate Training Scholarships in Implementation Science for 2020 Academic Year \(starting January 2020\)](#). The degree programme is open to candidates from a range of disciplines including clinical and other health-related fields; statistics and other quantitative fields, as well as demography and social sciences. **Application deadline: 31 July 2019**

## Wellcome Trust | Impact of Vaccines on AMR Grant | Deadline 06-09-2019

This scheme supports researchers investigating the impact of vaccines on antibiotic use and/or antimicrobial resistance. The aim is to support and inform vaccine decision-makers around the world and tackle antimicrobial resistance.

The award is open to individuals or teams of up to seven people, from anywhere in the world. Team members can be based in different organisations and countries. Your programme must aim to analyse data on AMR or antibiotic use in the context of a human vaccine study. You can propose to work on vaccines that are marketed or in development. The vaccines should target pathogens that are becoming more difficult to treat with antibiotics and/or cause symptoms that drive antibiotic use. These may include (but are not limited to) vaccines against: *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, *S. Typhi*, Rotavirus, Influenza and Malaria. For more information visit the [Wellcome Trust website](#):

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## Resources

**AMR | Report ReACT and Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation | February 2019**  
[When the Drugs Don't Work - Antibiotic Resistance as a Global Development Problem](#)

Please note | The ReAct Africa Conference is under Upcoming events

**ECDPM | Paper on EU Africa research collaboration | June 2019**

The independent think tank and consultancy firm [ECDPM](#) (European Centre for Development Policies Management) is based in Maastricht, the Netherlands and Brussels, Belgium. It published two papers on Africa-EU collaboration on research and innovation.

The discussion paper [Refresh and reload: EU and Africa working together on research and innovation](#) is focused on the European Union. The first paper looked into African perspectives on this collaboration - [Assertive, appreciative and aloof: South Africa, Cabo Verde and Ghana reflects on EU research and innovation collaboration](#).

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, was interviewed for the 'Refresh' paper.

### **Ethics of implementation research | New TDR - WHO course | 28 June 2019**

TDR and WHO created a new training course on ethics in implementation research to ensure appropriate engagement with research subjects and relevant communities and to safeguard against any potential harm. See the [press release here](#). The documents (facilitator's guide and participant's guide) can be [downloaded here](#).

### **Data sharing | acknowledging data contribution | BMC blog post**

BMC editor Dirk Krüger discusses in this blog post the 'Data Notes' ("short data descriptors that aim to increase data visibility and support the reuse and sharing of valuable research data"): [Get credit for your data - BMC Research Notes launches data notes](#)

### **Malaria | MMV *P. vivax* malaria information hub |**

MMV announced a new website [vivaxmalaria.org](#) with "key learning, best practices, tools and resources from a consortium of stakeholders involved in the treatment and control of *P. vivax*malaria. The content is suitable for both general and technical audiences. The hub contains information on the burden of disease, lifecycle of the parasite, diagnosis, treatment, as well as country profiles and relevant research."

The *P. vivax* information site is currently housed and maintained by Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) as an extension of its work with partners on *P. vivax* malaria.

## **EDCTP resources**

### **About EDCTP and its programme**

- [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](#)
- [Short animated video on EDCTP](#)



## EDCTP: the power of sharing science

### Research and policy priorities

- [Strategy Research Agenda - version 3 - February 2019 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Strategic Business Plan 2014-2024](#)
- [EDCTP 2019 work plan](#)
- [EDCTP2 policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing](#).  
More policies [here](#)

### EDCTP projects in collaboration

- [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)

### Guidance materials for applicants and grantees

- Guidance for applicants [here](#)
- Grants manual 2019 [here](#)
- Financial grant management [here](#)
- Communication (acknowledging EDCTP and EU as funders) [here](#)

### EDCTP Forum

- [Ninth EDCTP Forum abstracts](#) published in supplement of BMJ Global Health (Vol. 4, April 2019, Suppl. 3)

### A third EDCTP programme

- [Moving forward and consolidating gains for an EDCTP successor programme](#) (Report on EDCTP High-Level meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, 17 September 2018)

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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 21-24 July 2019. Registration information [here](#). Join the IAS2019 conversation: [@IAS2019](#)

### ReAct | ReACT Africa Conference | Kenya, 23-25 July 2019

The [ReACT Africa conference: universal health care and antimicrobial resistance in Africa](#) will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23-25 July 2019.

"ReAct Africa and South Centre will host a conference with the theme, "Achieving Universal Health Coverage while addressing Antimicrobial Resistance" in Nairobi, Kenya. This year's

conference will focus on the connection between achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Specifically, the conference will focus on how addressing AMR is a path to attaining UHC and what country programs can be leveraged on."

### **ACTS | Second All Africa Clinical Trial Summit | 16-18 August 2019**

The second All Africa Clinical Trial Summit will take place at the University of Capetown South Africa from 16-18 August 2019. Its main theme is 'A strategic model for the future of clinical trial sites in Africa: A gateway to developing quality management systems'

Download programme [here](#).



**A strategic model for the future of clinical trial sites in Africa:  
A gateway to developing quality management systems**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**  
Anyone with an interest in the future of clinical trials in Africa must attend and be a part of this innovative strategy.

**16-18 AUGUST 2019**

Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Health Sciences  
University of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

### **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). The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) will host the ECTMIH 2019.

### **EC Research and Innovation | European R&I Days | 24-26 September 2019**

The European research & innovation days will take place in Brussels, Belgium, from 24-26 September 2019. Besides a science and invention fest, the event will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to suggest ideas pertaining to the strategy for Horizon Europe, the European Commission's proposal for the next EU research and innovation programme (2021-2027) with a budget of €100 billion.

More on [the EC web pages for the event](#)

### **SCOMRA 2019 | Medical products regulation in Africa | 30/09-01/10 2019**

Register now for the 4th SCoMRA conference (the 4th Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa) organised by AUDA-NEPAD in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 30 September to 1st October 2019-Victoria Falls Zimbabwe, abstract submission closing soon.

[More information](#)

### **ICASA 2019 | Intern. Conf. on AIDS and STIs in Africa | 2-7 December 2019**

The 20th ICASA conference is the biggest HIV/AIDS conference in Africa. ICASA2019 will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 2-7 December 2019. The conference theme "AIDS Free Africa - Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership". "It engages all stakeholders in the Post-SDG Framework, where sustainability of the response in reaching 90, 90, 90 will not be possible if human rights are not a key priority". Abstract submission closes on 30 July 2019.

[More on the website.](#)

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*EDCTP Communications thanks the colleagues who provided information for this Update.*

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