

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



**E D C T P**

## **EDCTP Update**

July 2019

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### Highlights

- **Seven EDCTP calls are open in early August**
- **African High Commissioners and Ambassadors meet EDCTP**
- **Funding opportunities**

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### **Our global health partnership needs further backing**

Science Business News published on 1 August 2019, an article based among more on an interview with EDCTP Executive Director, Dr Michael Makanga under the title: "Viewpoint: Our global health partnership is delivering. Now it needs further backing". The EU-Africa clinical research scheme is promoting deep collaboration and leading to improved treatments, says director Michael Makanga. It should be bigger and better in Horizon Europe".  
[Read more](#)

## Viewpoint: Our global health partnership is delivering. Now it needs further backing

*The EU-Africa clinical research scheme is promoting deep collaboration and leading to improved treatments, says director Michael Makanga. It should be bigger and better in Horizon Europe*

By Éanna Kelly



Michael Makanga speaking at an EDCTP event. Photo: [www.blog.edctpforum.org](http://www.blog.edctpforum.org)

The EU-backed global health partnership supporting the development of new or improved drugs against HIV, tuberculosis,

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## Director-General Paquet visits CHAPS study in Cape Town

On 8 July 2019, the European Commission Director-General for Research and Innovation, Jean-Eric Paquet, visited the Emavulandleni Research Centre in Cape Town, South Africa together with colleagues from the European Commission and representatives of the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa, the South African Medical Research Council and EDCTP. This research centre is one of the sites for the EDCTP-funded 'Combined HIV Adolescent Prevention Study' (CHAPS), which is led by Professor Linda Gail-Bekker and conducted in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

[Read more](#)



## African High Commissioners and Ambassadors meet EDCTP

African High Commissioners and Ambassadors from 28 countries accredited to South Africa met with EDCTP in Pretoria on 11 July 2019. The meeting was hosted by the Mozambique High Commission and EDCTP. The objective of the meeting was to inform the Ambassadors and High Commissioners about the EDCTP activities in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP aims to increase the political and financial support of African countries for clinical research and the development of the associated research capacity in Africa, as part of the common pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

[Read more](#)



## Recently signed projects

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

- **Albuminuria and ACEI/ARB among HIV-patients** | Fellow: Dr Mosepele Mosepele | Albuminuria among virally-suppressed HIV-infected patients in Botswana: longitudinal changes and association with inflammation and ACEI/ARB use in a clinical setting

### Career development fellowships - 2018

- **PEAK** | Fellow: Dr Charles Sande | Proteomic-based aetiological biomarkers of acute pneumonia in Kenyan children

### Ethics and regulatory capacities (2018)

- **LiberHetica** | Coordinator: Mr Jemee Tegli | Increasing the ethics capacity of oversight for clinical trials in Liberia by establishing European-African collaborations that facilitate the implementation of efficient processes, harmonised procedures, standardised guidelines and educative training programs.

### Mobilisation of research funds in case of public health emergencies - 2018

- **AdjustEBOVGP-Dx** | Coordinator: Dr Misaki Wayengera | Biochemical adjustments of native EBOV Glycoprotein in patient sample to unmask target-epitopes for rapid diagnostic testing
- **EPIRISK-Ebov** | Coordinator: Professor Francine Ntoumi | Epidemic preparedness and risk assessment for Ebola virus disease outbreaks in the Republic of the Congo

### Targeting control and elimination of NIDs through clinical trials (2017)

- **MoxiMultiDoseMod** | Coordinator: Dr Michel Vaillant | Moxidectin for accelerating onchocerciasis elimination: a paediatric dose-finding study, two phase IIIb trials comparing efficacy and safety of single or annual and biannual moxidectin or ivermectin treatment and mathematical modelling of moxidectin- and ivermectin-based elimination strategies to support country policy decisions

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## Projects

### **TRUST | UCLAN commits to Global Code | 01 July 2019**

The University of Central Lancaster has adopted the [Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-poor Settings](#). The code was designed by the [EU-funded TRUST project](#) to prevent the export of unethical research practices to low and middle-income countries. [UCLAN is the first European university to do so.](#)

### **PZQ4PSAC | Pediatric Praziquantel for Schistosomiasis | project video**

Informative and engaging video (credits: GHIT Fund) on mission and objectives of the [Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium](#), funded by the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund. It is set to create a urgently needed schistosomiasis treatment formula suitable for young children. The consortium is mainly funded by the GHIT Fund with co-funding from EDCTP.

"Schistosomiasis is the second-most socioeconomically devastating parasitic disease after malaria. Exposure leaves infected children vulnerable to increased risk for anaemia, stunting, and a reduced ability to learn, although the effects are usually reversible with treatment. Praziquantel (PZQ), an affordable, gold-standard drug, exists, but treatment for preschool-aged children has not been implemented due to several key obstacles: difficulty in swallowing and risk of choking give the large-sized commercially available tablets and high rejection rates due to bitter taste when pills are crushed and dispersed in liquids."



Pediatric Praziquantel for Schistosomiasis - Video credits: GHIT Fund

### **PediCAP project | new project website | July 2019**

With a budget of approximately EUR 7 million, PediCAP is one of the major projects in the EDCTP portfolio of studies on lower respiratory tract infections. The project will enroll 1100 children between 3 months and 10 years of age with diagnosed severe or very severe pneumonia, being treated with injectable antibiotics.

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

PediCAP is the project acronym for 'Impact of duration of antibiotic therapy and of oral step-down to amoxicillin or co-amoxiclav on effectiveness, safety and selection of antimicrobial resistance in severe and very severe childhood community-acquired pneumonia (CAP): a randomised controlled trial'. The project is coordinated by Prof. Carlo Giaquinto (Italy).

### **WHO AFRO & EDCTP | African Health Research Systems | publication**

The WHO Regional Office for Africa and EDCTP conduct a joint project to strengthen African National Health Research Systems (NHRS). The objective is to increase the capacity of African governments to align national and international health research with national priorities, take better ownership of research done in the countries and be more involved (policy-wise and financially) in determining the international research agenda on poverty-related diseases.

One of the outcomes of the project is [a publication in \*Globalization and Health\*](#) (2019) 15:50: S. Rusakaniko, M. Makanga, M.O. Ota, M. Bockarie, G. Banda, J. Okeibunor, F. Mutapi, P. Tumusiime, Th. Nyirenda, J. Muthuri Kirigia, J. Nabyonga-Orem: Strengthening national health research systems in the WHO African Region - progress towards universal health coverage'. The article gives an assessment of the progress in strengthening NHRS among the 47 member states of the WHO Africa Region.

## **LOCATOR | Agnes Kiragga | Next Einstein Fellowship**

EDCTP warmly congratulates Dr Agnes Kiragga, one of its Career Development Fellows (project: LOCATOR: Tracing non-retained HIV-positive pregnant women and their babies) who has been selected as [one of the 2019-2020 Next Einstein Fellows](#) .

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## **Recent events**

### **EDCTP | Training on management of EDCTP2 grants | 5 July 2018**

EDCTP organised a one-day workshop on financial and project management of EDCTP2 grants in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 5 July 2019. Participants were financial or project/technical managers of EDCTP2 projects. [Event page on EDCTP website](#). The training was conducted by Abdoulie Barry, Director of Finance and administration, and Dr Ole Olesen, Director of International Cooperation, with assistance of Nora Buenemann, Administrative Support Officer.

The next workshop (participation by invitation) will take place in Libreville, Gabon, from 16-18 October 2019. It will be preceded on 14-16 October 2019 by an EDCTP Grant Writing Workshop (participation by invitation) in French in collaboration with AREF.

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

### **PDP workshop | access to health innovation | 12 July 2019**

EDCTP participates in the informal PDP Funders Group. As one result of a series of meetings on access to health innovation, The Global Fund, WHO and FIND organised a workshop on 'Tackling bottlenecks that impede access to health innovation'. Representing EDCTP, Strategic Partnerships Officer Lara Pandya was among the 60 participants.

The bottlenecks discussed were grouped under three themes: Regulatory and policy pathways; Funding and business models; and National implementation. The intention is to develop the meeting into an annual workshop which in future will hopefully attract more participants from the pharmaceutical sector and African governments.

### **WANEC | Workshop of national ethics committees in West Africa | 22-23 July 2019**

Prof. Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa, participated in the second regional workshop of the West African Network of National Ethics Committees (WANEC) in Dakar, Senegal, on 22-23 July 2019.



The WANEC network is convened by WAHO (West African Health Organisation), an agency of ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States. WANEC aims to harmonise the operations of the national ethics committees across the region. The recommendations of the workshop include proposals for harmonisation, standardisation, digitalisation of procedures and many more in line with the general aims of the EDCTP support for ethics and regulatory capacity in Africa. The WANEC network will compete for an EDCTP grant to implement a project that takes into account the recommendations of the workshop.



Photo of the workshop tweeted by @johnson\_ermel

## OHCEA | One Health Central and Eastern Africa | 24-26 July 2019

The third [One Health Central and Eastern Africa International One Health Conference](#) (OHCEA) was held in Kampala on 24-26 July 2019. Its theme was 'Harnessing One Health for Global Health Security'. There were approximately 400 participants with the majority coming from sub-Saharan Africa. Represented were different areas of medical research (including zoonotic diseases, anti-microbial resistance, (re)emerging infectious diseases), veterinary and agricultural institutes, environmentalists, wildlife conservationists and policy makers involved in "one health" issues. (Download full programme [here](#).)

EDCTP Project Officer, Jean Marie Habarugira, attended the conference and was one of the panelists in the session 'Taking One Health approach to Improve Policy and Practice'. The EDCTP-funded PANDORA-ID-NET, which is by design a multidisciplinary 'One Health' initiative, was taken as an example for the discussion. The [Pan-African Network for Rapid Research, Response, Relief and Preparedness for Infectious Diseases Epidemics](#) addresses broad themes in the response to emerging infections in Africa and supports this through capacity development. It is gaining an important place in the One Health community, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

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## Open EDCTP Calls for proposals

### Two new EDCTP calls for proposals just opened

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

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

Open to application: 01 August 2019

Deadline for application: 21 November 2019

#### [Career Development fellowships 2019 \(TMA\)](#)

Open for application: 06 August 2019

Deadline for application: 27 November 2019

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

Open to application: 06 August 2019

Deadline for application: 27 November 2019

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

**Wellcome Trust | Impact of Vaccines on AMR | 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. One 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](#):

### **GHIT Fund | Request for proposals| Deadline 02 September 2019**

The 11th Request for Proposals for the Hit-to-Lead Platform to support drug discovery and development process to address malaria, tuberculosis, Chagas disease, and visceral leishmaniasis. For detailed Request for Proposals information, please download [PDF](#) or visit [RFP-HTLP-2019-002](#). The deadline to submit the Intent to Apply form is by 10am JST on September 2, 2019.

### **AREF | Scholarships for Epi course in The Gambia | Deadline 11/09**

Up to five [AREF-sponsored scholarships are available for an Introductory Course in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics](#) organised by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine at MRC The Gambia Unit from 11-29 November 2019.

Applications are open to clinicians and other graduates who work in medical research units, academic departments or health services for a three-week sponsored course focusing on the design and interpretation of epidemiological studies. Interested applicants may submit a complete application to [arefinfo@aref-africa.org.uk](mailto:arefinfo@aref-africa.org.uk) no later than 16.00 hours GMT on 11th September 2019.

### **Joint Global Health Trials | Late-stage clinical trials | Deadline 13 September 2019**

This [scheme funds late-stage trials of interventions that will provide evidence to help improve health in low- and middle-income countries](#). It's a partnership between the UK Department for International Development, the UK Medical Research Council (MRC), the National Institute for Health Research and the Wellcome Trust.

Academic groups based in the UK or in low- or middle-income countries can apply to the Global Health Trials scheme. The trials should be based in low- or middle-income countries.

Outline proposal deadline: 13 September 2018, 16:00 BST.

### **Joint Global Health Trials - Call 10 | Deadline 17 October 2019**

"Call 10 specifically invites applications for definitive RCTs that provide generalisable data, beyond a single country. The evidence generated should be robust and relevant to international and regional policy makers and directly answer questions to change policy and guidance.

[This call is open to and particularly encourages applicants to apply from eligible research institutions based in low and middle income countries as well as the UK.](#)"

### **Health Policy and Planning | Call for papers | Deadline 15 October 2019**

This [call for papers](#) is organised by the journal [Health Policy and Planning](#), and the [Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research](#). The theme for the call is: "Innovations in Implementation Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries".

### **Fogarty | Funding Weekly Newsletter | Subscribe**

Subscribe to the NIH Fogarty International Centre [weekly Funding Newsletter](#) for Global Health Researchers.

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## Resources

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Nature Index | concept of living systematic reviews | 30 July 2019**

Jon Brock wrote: [Out of date before it's published - Zika provides a vision for how to keep pace with a fast-moving research field](#). The article discusses attempts to develop continuous or 'living' systematic reviews to keep abreast of fast developing research, Zika being a case in point. Meet RobotReviewer.

#### **IAS2019 | HIV prevention report | 23 July 2019**

The 15th annual HIV prevention R&D resource tracking report was launched at IAS2019 in Mexico City. Full report [here](#). See also the [WHO progress report on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections 2019](#), and the UNAIDS report [Communities at the centre](#).

#### **Nature | African scientists on working in Africa | 29 July 2019**

In ['Meeting the challenges of research across Africa'](#) seven African researchers discuss "the decision to stay at home institutions or to go abroad, the best approaches to finding funding and the challenges of nurturing science on the continent".

#### **DNDi | Annual Report 2018 | July 2019**

In its 15th year DNDi celebrates successes in its [2018 Annual Report](#). Executive Director Bernard Pécol: "2018 showed us that this extraordinary experiment in innovation, the creation of an alternative drug development model for some of the world's most neglected people, is working as hoped."

#### **ESSENCE | Survey for grantees | deadline 16 August 2019**

From the announcement: "The ESSENCE on Health Research initiative has led several innovative approaches to achieve harmonisation and optimisation of research funding, including the development of a good practice document series. One of these, the [Five Keys to improving Research Costing in LMICs](#) ('the Five Keys'), has become a valuable resource for funders and research institutions since it was published in 2012 and is being updated. Grantees/recipients of research funding are invited to take a survey [by clicking here](#). The survey is available in English, French and Spanish.

### EDCTP

#### **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.

### 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

### **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. [Download here the draft programme and poster lists](#)

EDCTP will contribute to the conference as a 'silver sponsor' and have a booth at the conference. In addition, EDCTP will give one oral presentation and present two posters. See [event page on the EDCTP website](#).

### **LSTM | Seminar: Alumnus Michael Makanga on EDCTP | 20 September 2019**

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director and proud alumnus of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, will give a [presentation on EDCTP and its role in research & development for poverty-related infectious diseases](#) on 20 September at 13:00 hrs. The seminar will be live-streamed, and a recording will be available on the LSTM website the following day.

### **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](#)

### **WHS 2019 | EDCTP presence | 26-29 October 2019**

On 29 October 2019, EDCTP and the Max Planck Society will host a high-level panel discussion on 'Tackling Unmet Medical Needs of Vulnerable and Neglected Populations: Accelerating R&D of Innovative and Effective Medical Interventions through Partnerships and Strategic Alliances'. The meeting is chaired by Prof. Stefan H.E. Kaufmann and Dr Michael Makanga and is part of the [World Health Summit 2019](#) in Berlin, Germany from 26-29 October 2019.

Read [more here](#)

### **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 was extended to 9 August 2019.

[More on the ICASA website.](#)

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

STAY CONNECTED:

