

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



**E D C T P**

## **EDCTP Update**

August 2019

Supported by the European Union



### Highlights

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### Data sharing: how to make it feasible, easy and accessible

The *BMJ Global Health* published a Commentary piece on data sharing, written by staff of the Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, University of Oxford (United Kingdom) and EDCTP (The Hague, the Netherlands):

Gabriela Karolina Hajduk, Nina E Jamieson, Bonny L Baker, Ole F Olesen, Trudie Lang: 'It is not enough that we require data to be shared; we have to make sharing easy, feasible and accessible too!' [BMJ Global Health Journal July 2019](#). Dr Ole Olesen is EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Europe and Prof. Trudy Lang ([The Global Health Network](#)) is the corresponding author.

The item reflects the work done to create the EDCTP Knowledge Hub on data sharing, a project funded by EDCTP. The 'hub' is developed in collaboration with The Global Health

Network. With the support of the European Union, EDCTP aims to facilitate the sharing of data resulting from the clinical research it funds.

As the Commentary explains, it is not enough to just require grantees to share data. Currently, there are "no clear standards and guidelines of how, where and when researchers should share their data". This has led to initiatives by funders "to provide their grantees, and the wider scientific community within the field of global health research, with clear guidance and a range of tools to facilitate the data sharing process".

EDCTP is working in collaboration with The Global Health Network "to assess whether a cross-cutting knowledge hub around data sharing would help researchers find the optimum repository and to gather their data in a form that is ready for sharing." A first version of the 'knowledge hub' was shared and discussed with an audience of researchers at the Ninth EDCTP Forum in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2018.

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## CRIGH: Mapping global clinical research support organisations

The Clinical Research Initiative for Global Health (CRIGH) was launched on 01 January 2017 and aims to be "support international collaboration on clinical research for the benefit of patients, healthcare professionals, and health systems".

The initiative seeks to optimise clinical research programmes in participating countries, to develop global standards on clinical research, and to promote the take-up of innovative methodology and technologies. To date, 14 organisations have joined as members; WHO and OECD are observers. Its secretariat is jointly held by ECRIN, the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network and the National Institutes of Health (USA).

[More on the CRIGH website](#) and [@CRIGH\\_global](#)

One of the current CRIGH projects is to map clinical research support organisations around the world. To this end, a survey was developed to understand how support services for academic clinical research are organised in various countries and world regions and to identify funding opportunities for multinational studies.

EDCTP invites African stakeholders in clinical research support to join the survey. From the CRIGH project manager: "The mapping of organisations supporting clinical research throughout the African continent is key for future international collaborations. The outcomes of the survey will be made publicly available through a report that will boost the visibility of participating organisations, integrating them into the global landscape of clinical research support, and facilitate the creation of forthcoming consortia. All survey respondents, and their corresponding institutions will be cited in the report. The CRIGH initiative continues to welcome institutions who are interested in joining. For more information on joining CRIGH, please contact the CRIGH secretariat at: [serena.battaglia@ecrin.org](mailto:serena.battaglia@ecrin.org)"

To download the survey questions (for preview / preparation) [go here](#)

To complete the online survey [go here](#) (to start look for grey button NEXT at bottom of the page).

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## EDCTP active at 69th Session of WHO Regional Committee for Africa

Dr Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative for Africa and Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, participated in the 69th session of the Regional Committee (RC69) for Africa held in the WHO Regional Office for Africa in Brazzaville, Congo from 19-23 August 2019. EDCTP is now an officially recognised WHO-AFRO partner with a dedicated observer in the annual regional committee of health ministers meeting.

The event presented EDCTP also with important opportunities for bilateral meetings with several country delegations, in most cases led by their Ministers of Health. Delegations were informed of EDCTP-funded activities in their respective countries and EDCTP's added value for Africa. Scaling up of national investment in health research and related capacity was encouraged. Moreover, efforts were made to reach out to the Portuguese speaking community of states.

Besides participation in the RC69 in Brazzaville, the EDCTP delegation met with Professor Francine Ntoumi, EDCTP coordinator for the Central African EDCTP Network of Excellence CANTAM and the PANDORA-ID NET consortium. Secondly, EDCTP was received by the Minister of Science & Technology, the Hon. Mr Aime Parfait Mavoungou, and senior officials of his ministry. This visit was aired on national Congolese television.



EDCTP delegation received by Minister of Health of the Republic of the Congo

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## EDCTP seeks candidates for EDCTP Audit Committee

EDCTP invites suitable candidates to apply for membership of the EDCTP Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of internal control principles, including reviewing financial, operational and compliance controls, as well as risk management systems.

Candidates are requested to apply before midnight of 30 September 2019.

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## EDCTP contribution to World Health Summit 2019, October 2019

EDCTP will actively participate in the [World Health Summit programme](#) in Berlin, Germany from 26-29 October 2019.

### **EDCTP workshop on health research capacity**

On 28 October EDCTP, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Institut Pasteur will host a workshop on 'Capacity Building in Health Research in Low- Resource Settings'- How can funders and implementers better coordinate capacity building efforts in sub- Saharan Africa'.

The workshop is chaired by Dr Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative for Africa, and Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation for Europe.

[More information](#)

### **Panel discussion of medical needs of vulnerable populations**

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 discussion is chaired by Prof. Stefan H.E. Kaufmann and Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director.

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## Recently signed projects

### **[Career development fellowships - 2018](#)**

- **PrazOpt** | Fellow: Dr Solomon Mequante Abay | Optimisation of praziquantel therapy for Schistosoma mansoni infection in preschool-aged children in Ethiopia

### **[Ethics and regulatory capacities \(2018\)](#)**

- **BCA-WA-ETHICS** | Coordinator: Ass. Prof. Guillermo Martínez Pérez | Building capacities in gender mainstreaming for ethics committee members from Senegal to West Africa
- **SCINE-U** | Coordinator: Dr Mastula Nanfuka | Strengthening community structures in clinical research to improve oversight role of national ethics regulatory bodies in Uganda

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## Projects

**EBOV-RDT-ROC** | Fellow Dr Misaki Wayengera | Receiver operator characterisation of novel EBOV/MARV-GP epitopes using 2014-2015 Sierra Leonean Ebola patient samples at the NICD BSL-IV.

EDCTP warmly congratulates Dr Wayengera (currently an EDCTP Career Development Fellow) and his team at Makerere University (Uganda) with the first prize in the WHO innovation competition. On Monday 19 August 2019, the World Health Organisation Regional office for Africa awarded Dr Misaki Wayengera the first prize for the WHO Innovation Challenge in the Product Development Category.



### **IGORCADIA | ethics project in Liberia project |**

The Liberian Observer published a [short news item on the activities of IGORCADIA](#) (Improved governance and research capacities in diagnostics for infectious diseases of the Liberian Medicines and Health Products Authority).

## **LOCATOR | Agnes Kiragga | Einstein Fellow 2019-2021**

EDCTP proudly congratulates Dr Agnes Kiragga - one of our Career Development Fellowship: LOCATOR - Tracing non-retained HIV-positive pregnant women and their babies) with [her Next Einstein Fellowship](#). Her fellowship challenge is "to merge data science and machine learning methods to available "large data" and health records as to predict and prevent HIV among high-risk groups in Africa, especially adolescent girls and young women."

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## **Funding opportunities: EDCTP and others**

### **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

#### **[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 02/09 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 2019**

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 13/09 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.

### **COR-NTD | African Researchers' Small Grants Program | Deadline 3/09 2019**

Through the Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD), the African Research Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ARNTD) with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and UK AID (UK) is seeking proposals for both operational and social science research on "Emerging Challenges facing NTD program implementation in Africa."

This third edition of the Small Grants Program (SGP III) is to support African researchers in both early and mid/late career to undertake operational research aligned with the goals established in the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases. SGP III is comprised of two small grant funding tracks: a) Small grants for junior researchers, and b) Small grants for mid-career and/or senior researchers.

[More information](#)

### **Joint Global Health Trials - Call 10 | Deadline 17/10 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."](#)

### **VALIDATE Network | Pump-priming grants | Deadline 22/10 2019**

The VALIDATE Network aims to accelerate vaccine research and development for complex intracellular pathogens that cause diseases significant to low and middle-income countries (LMIC), with an initial focus on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Leishmania spp.*, *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and *Mycobacterium leprae*.

Grants are available for pump-priming projects of up to £50,000 (at 100% FEC), via competitive application to the Network's Management Board. Projects should run for a maximum of 12 months and should lead to relevant and useful data for the field or produce pilot data that will lead to a larger grant application to an external funder. Collaborative projects led by and/or involving LMIC researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

[More information](#)

### **Other opportunities**

#### **LSHTM | Free online course 'Disease outbreaks in LMICs | starts 16/09 2019**

Free, open online course (to explore disease outbreaks and outbreak preparedness. Recent outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases have shown we need to be able to coordinate responses to disease outbreaks at the regional, country and global level. On this course you will explore disease outbreaks, and also consider the future of outbreak preparedness.

Course developed and taught by experts at LSHTM which is also part of the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST) partnership.

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## **Resources**

### **CHAGAS | IDDO and DNDi new patient data website | Launched 07/08 2019**

IDDO (the [Infectious Diseases Data Observatory](#)) has launched a new global scientific collaboration with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) on Chagas disease. The [new platform](#) will collate and standardise data to accelerate better treatments for the 6-7 million people worldwide with Chagas disease.

[More information](#)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Wellcome Trust | Global Monitor 2018 |**

The Wellcome Trust published the Wellcome Global Monitor 2018 "the world's largest study into how people around the world think and feel about science and major health challenges. It surveys over 140,000 people from more than 140 countries."

Go the [Wellcome Trust website](#)





Who does science leave behind?

### **DFID UKAID | Research capacity strengthening | literature review**

The UK Department for International Development commissioned and published an interesting literature study on research capacity strengthening in low- and middle-income countries. The report was produced by Research Consulting

Mattia Fosci, Lucia Loffreda, Lennart Velten, Rob Johnson (2019) '[Research Capacity Strengthening in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: a Rapid Evidence Assessment of the literature on interventions to strengthen research systems and organisations](#)'.

In the conclusion, the authors point to several good practices for research capacity strengthening both at the system level and the institutional level. They also highlight three evidence gaps: 1) "lack of up-to-date baseline data on research systems"; 2) "a lack of evidence about the effectiveness of specific interventions and intervention strategies"; 3) "a limited understanding of strategies that support the use of research in policy making and the economy".

### **CAPRISA | August 2019 Newsletter | 29/08 2019**

Congratulations to Prof Salim Abdool Karim on his appointment as Adjunct Professor in Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard University and to Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim who "has been invited to serve as an advisor on the Coalition for African Research and Innovation (CARI) that focuses on advancing scientific capacity in the development of sub-Saharan Africa."

[Download newsletter](#)

### **MMV | Pandemic Response Box | Newsletter 30 August 2019**

MMV's August 2019 newsletter (subscribe [here](#)) features [an interview with Dr Kirandeep Samby, Medicinal Chemist, MMV Consultant, India](#), on the latest open-source library, the Pandemic Response Box, launched by MMV and the Drugs for Neglected Disease *initiative* in January 2019: "The Pandemic Response Box is a new library of 400 diverse compounds with antibacterial, antiviral or antifungal activity. It is freely available to members of the scientific community upon request. In return, researchers are required to publish any findings in an open-access journal within two years of data generation."

### **WHO AFRO | Newsletter | 30/08 2019**

Interesting item on a side event during the Tokyo International Conference on African development this week in Yokohama, Japan. WHO and other Harmonization for Health in Africa partners called for better coordination of efforts to support strengthening national health systems. See message

['Health leaders see urgency of better coordination among partners for delivering universal health coverage in Africa'](#)

### **AAS | DELTAS Africa Scientific conference | 15-17/07 2019**

Video explaining the aim of the DELTAS programme of the African Academy of Sciences on the occasion of the DELTAS Africa Scientific Conference, in Dakar, Senegal from 15-17 July 2019.



Highlights of the DELTAS Africa Scientific Conference 2019

## **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)

### 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

### **ECTMIH2019 | Liverpool United Kingdom | 16-20/09 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 as a 'silver sponsor' and have an information 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 | 20/09 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 | 24-26/09 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 planned 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](#)

### **EDCTP | Financial and project management training | 17-18/10 2019**

EDCTP Director of Finance and Administration, Abdoulie Barry, and the Director of International Cooperation Europe, Dr Ole Olesen, will conduct a financial and project management training in Libreville, Gabon, for finance and project management personnel of EDCTP-funded projects based in West Africa. The training will take place in Libreville, Gabon on 17 and 18 October 2019.

Participants have been nominated by their institutions based in Gabon, Congo, DRC, Cameroon, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo.

[More information](#)

### **GDN | 19th Global Development Conference | 23-25/10 2019**

The Global Development Network holds its 19th conference in Bonn, Germany from 23-25 October 2019 under the theme of "[Knowledge for Sustainable Development: the Research-Policy Nexus](#)".

The theme will be approached from several angles: 1) From research to sustainable development action: interdisciplinary research, knowledge sharing, evidence brokering; 2) The global and shared challenges of sustainable development: migration, climate change, health, etc.; 3) Next frontier challenges: Big Data, AI, digital transformation; 4) Greater local ownership and sustainability: implications for research policies and funding

### **ICASA 2019 | Intern. Conf. on AIDS and STIs in Africa | 2-7/10 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.*

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