

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



E D C T P

EDCTP Update

September 2019

Supported by the European Union



Highlights

- **Open consultation on future EU-Africa Global Health Partnership**
- **SCOMRA 2019 | Medical products regulation in Africa**
- **Funding opportunities**

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Open consultation on future EU-Africa Global Health Partnership

As part of the preparations for the next Research & Innovation programme (Horizon Europe, 2021-2027), the European Commission launched the [open public consultation for European partnerships in Horizon Europe](#). The consultation will be open until 06 November 2019. The consultation regards twelve proposed European Partnerships.

Particularly relevant is the proposed **EU-Africa Global Health Partnership**. [More information here.](#)

On the same topic of the 'EU-Africa Global Health Partnership', today 01 October 2019, Dr Michael Makanga participated in a meeting in Brussels, which involved the country nominees for the Global Health Partnership, EDCTP General Assembly members, African representatives to the General Assembly Working Group as observers, representatives of the EDCTP Secretariat and European Commission officials.

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EDCTP contributes to World Health Summit 2019, October 2019

EDCTP will contribute to the [World Health Summit programme](#) in Berlin, Germany from 26-29 October 2019, with a workshop and a panel discussion.

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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Call to participate in EDCTP workshop on networking

EDCTP | Workshop to enhance networking | Addis Ababa, 19-20/11 2019

EDCTP is organising a workshop to 'Enhance networking among African and European scientists to close regional and gender disparities experienced in EDCTP1 and EDCTP2 funded health research capacity activities in sub-Saharan Africa'. The workshop will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 19-20 November 2019.

[More information on the event page.](#)

Application deadline: 04/10 2019

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Recent events

WHO | Lassa fever vaccines meeting | Dakar, Senegal, 10-11/09 2019

EDCTP Operations Manager, Dr Pauline Beattie participated in the WHO-organised meeting on Accelerated Safety and Immunogenicity Evaluation for Lassa Fever Vaccines in Endemic Countries, held in Dakar, Senegal on 10-11 September 2019. The meeting discussed the clinical development status of Lassa vaccine candidates, available evidence and knowledge gaps, as well as plans for future phase II and III trials in West Africa. The meeting included discussions on infrastructure and capacity development needs for the conduct of vaccine trials.

EU - WHO | Global vaccination Summit | Brussels 12/09 2019

The European Union and WHO organised the [Global vaccination Summit](#), in Brussels, Belgium, on 12 September 2019. Dr Michael Makanga represented EDCTP at the conference.



ECTMIH2019 | Liverpool United Kingdom | 16-20/09 2019

The 11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health took place in Liverpool, United Kingdom, from 16-20 September 2019. ECTMIH is an initiative of the Federation of European Societies of Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH). The event was hosted by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH).

EDCTP was a 'silver sponsor' with an information booth at the conference. EDCTP also gave an oral presentation (Dr Ole Olesen on data sharing) and presented two posters (Project Officer Jean Marie Habarugira on AMR and Strategic Partnerships Officer Lara Pandya on the CEPI-EDCTP partnership on Lassa fever). [See event page on the EDCTP website.](#)



Lara Pandya and Jean Marie Habarugira

More on ECTMIH 2019 in the EDCTP October Newsletter.

In the wake of the conference, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine had invited Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director and LSTM alumnus, [to give a presentation on EDCTP.](#)



LSTM Seminar Michael Makanga

EC Research and Innovation | European R&I Days | 24-26/09 2019

[The European research & innovation days took place in Brussels, Belgium, from 24-26 September 2019.](#)

Dr Michael Makanga attended the conference and participated in a panel on '[Going global for greater impact](#)' (25 September 2019). T

he event provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss 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

The 4th SCoMRA conference (the 4th Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa) organised by AUDA-NEPAD in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, took place from 30/09 to 01/10 2019. This large conference involved all African regulators, local and international partners in NEPAD, World Bank, IFPMA, BMGF, SADC and WHO.

Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, represented EDCTP at the conference.

[More information](#)

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Recently signed projects

[Vaccines for diarrhoeal diseases or lower respiratory tract infections - 2018](#)

- **PREPARE** | Coordinator: Dr Kirsty Le Doare | Prevention of invasive Group B Streptococcus disease in young infants: a pathway for the evaluation & licensure of

an investigational maternal GBS vaccine

- **ShigOraVax** | Coordinator: Dr Hilde Depraetere | Early clinical development of an oral Shigella vaccine through phase II study in Africa

Strategic action for the comparison, selection and development of malaria vaccine candidates - 2018

- **PfTBV** | Coordinator: Dr Issaka Sagara | Rapid evaluation of *Plasmodium falciparum* transmission-blocking vaccine (PFTBV) candidates through enhanced African resource centres (ARC) for integration into malaria control and elimination

Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials - 2017

- **CAP-TB** | Coordinator: Dr Samuel Schumacher (FIND) | Close the gap, increase access, provide adequate therapy

EDCTP-GSK Senior Fellowships for co-morbidities between poverty-related diseases and non-communicable diseases

- **ParCam** | Fellow: Prof. Marielle Bouyou-Akotet | Contribution of intestinal parasite infections in the risk of developing cardio-metabolic diseases in rural and urban areas of Gabon: a pilot study

Career development fellowships - 2018

- **SMC-NUT** | Fellow: Dr Paul Sondo | Assessment of a combined strategy of seasonal malaria chemoprevention + nutrients and vitamin A-Zinc supplementation to tackle malaria and malnutrition in Burkina Faso

Ethics and regulatory capacities - 2018

- **AFRICLINIQUE** | Coordinator: Prof. Francine Ntoumi | A European-African network for strengthening the regulatory capacity for clinical research and pharmacovigilance in Central Africa: implementation of harmonised procedures, efficient guidelines and training programmes
- **ERECIS** | Coordinator: Ms. Babazile Shongwe | Enhancing the regulatory and ethics capacities in Swaziland
- **SCRECU** | Coordinator: Dr Maxwell Otim Onapa | Scaling-up of capacity of Research Ethics Committees in Uganda
- **ZERCaP** | Coordinator: Mr Tendayi Kureya | Zimbabwe ethics and regulatory capacity project

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Projects

IGORCADIA | poster at SCOMRA2019 | 30/09-01/10 2019

The [4th SCoMRA](#), the 'Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa' took (organised by AUDA-NEPAD) took place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 30 September to

01 October 2019. A team from the [IGORCADIA project](#) (Improved governance and research capacities in diagnostics for infectious diseases of the Liberian Medicines and Health Products Authority) participated in the conference and [presented a poster](#).



IGORCADIA - LMHRA team

Reg. Science-Fellows | Commended at SCOMRA2019 | 01/10 2019

The EDCTP funded ethics project [Reg. Science-Fellows](#) (Competence-based fellowship for African medicines reviewers and regulatory science professionals) was commended at the SCOMRA2019 conference for its contribution to regulatory capacity building. The project is coordinated by Ms. Tariro Makamure-Sithole (Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe). The project recruits professionals on 2-year fellowships. So far there are 4 fellows (2 Zimbabweans, 1 South African and 1 Botswanan).

SMERT | Second Annual meeting | 29/09 2019

The SMERT project 'Streamlining ethics review process and regulatory framework in Tanzania' held its second annual meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. A national newspaper, the [Daily News](#), reported.

MAMAH | Recruitment of first trial participant | 27/09 2019

The [MAMAH project](#) recruited its first trial participant. [Read more on the ISGlobal website](#). The MAMAH project ('Improving maternal and infant health by reducing malaria risks in African women: evaluation of the safety and efficacy of dihydroartemisinin-piperazine for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in HIV-infected pregnant women') is coordinated by Prof. Clará Menéndez Santos (ISGlobal, Spain) and funded by EDCTP under the 2016 call: [Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children](#)'.

PREGART | project kick-off meeting | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16/09 2019

The kick-off meeting of the PREGART project took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14-16 September 2019. EDCTP funded the PREGART study under the 2017 call [Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children](#)'. The project is

coordinated by Dr Birkneh Tadesse (Hawassa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). Project Officer Shingai Machingaidze represented EDCTP at the meeting.



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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.

[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**

[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

[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 a Guidance page with [Templates, guides and policies](#).

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."

[More information](#)

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](#)

Fogarty | Emerging Global leader Award | Deadline 07/11 2019

The Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award aims to provide research support and protected time to a research scientist from a low- and middle-income country (LMIC) who holds an academic junior faculty position or research scientist appointment at an LMIC academic or research institution.

Applications are invited from LMIC research scientists from any health-related discipline who propose both critically needed career development activities and a research project that is highly relevant to the health priorities of their country.

More information [here](#)

Schlumberger Foundation | Faculty for the Future Fellowships |Deadline 07/11 2019

The Faculty for the Future program, launched in 2004, awards fellowships to women from developing and emerging economies to pursue PhD or Post-doctoral research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at leading universities worldwide.

The program's long-term goal is to generate conditions that result in more women pursuing scientific careers by lowering the barriers women face when entering STEM disciplines,

thus reducing the gender gap. Faculty for the Future Fellows are expected to return to their home countries after completion of their studies to contribute to economic, social and technological advancement by strengthening the STEM teaching and research faculties of their home institutions. They can also make contributions in the public sector where their newly acquired technical and scientific skills can help provide evidence-based support for STEM policy making.

More information [here](#).

Wellcome Trust | Senior Researcher Fellowships, 2019 | deadline 12/11 2019

Who can apply? You can apply for a Senior Research Fellowship if you're already leading your own independent research programme. The programme of work you propose must be innovative and ambitious. You should have a higher degree (PhD or equivalent) and significant research experience. Level of funding: Salary and research expenses covered. Duration of funding: Up to 7 years (after this you can apply for one renewal of up to 5 years with 50% of your salary covered by Wellcome Trust).

More information [here](#).

Wellcome Trust | Investigator Awards, November 2019 | Deadline 12/11 2019

Who can apply? Investigator Awards enable independent researchers with a compelling research vision to tackle the most important questions in science. This is flexible funding, up to around £3 million; salary is not provided. The grant can be for up to 7 years. Your host institute must be based in the UK, ROI or a low- or middle-income country.

More information [here](#)

Wellcome Trust | international Intermediate fellowships | Deadline 21/11 2019

Who can apply? You can apply for an International Training Fellowship if you're a national of a low- or middle-income country; your proposed research focuses on a health priority in a low- or middle-income country; you have sponsorship from an eligible host organisation in a low- or middle-income country. You can apply if you have a PhD or you're a clinically qualified doctor (and qualified to enter higher specialist training), vet, dentist or clinically qualified psychologist; you have significant research experience; you have made important contributions to your area of research e.g. publications, patents, software development or an impact on health policy or practice.

Level of funding: Salary and research expenses covered. Duration of funding: 5 years. You are a national of a low- or middle-income country; your proposed research focuses on a health priority in a low- or middle-income country; you have sponsorship from an eligible host organisation in a low- or middle-income country. You should be driving your own research and be ready to lead an independent research programme.

More information [here](#).

Wellcome Trust | international Training Fellowships | Deadline 21/11 2019

Who can apply? You can apply for an International Training Fellowship if you're a national of a low- or middle-income country; your proposed research focuses on a health priority in a low- or middle-income country; you have sponsorship from an eligible host organisation in a low- or middle-income country.

You must have a PhD and be an early-career researcher, or have a degree in a relevant subject and some initial research experience, or be a clinically qualified doctor (and be qualified to enter higher specialist training), vet, dentist or clinical psychologist, and have some initial research experience.

You must want to undertake a guided period of research so that you can consolidate your existing experience and explore new areas of research.

More information [here](#).

TDR | Call on social innovation in health in LMICs | Deadline 11/10 2019

TDR calls for letters of interest to participate in expanding the Social Innovation in Health Initiative. The topic of the call is: ['Building research partnerships to disseminate social](#)

[innovation in health in low- and middle-income countries'](#).

Letters must be submitted by 11 October 2019.

Other opportunities

TDR | TDR MOOC on Implementation Research | Deadline 04/10 2019

A new session of the TDR MOOC on Implementation Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty will start on 07 October 2019. [Deadline for application is 04 October 2019](#)

ADVAC | 21st Advanced Course of Vaccinology | France, 11-22/02 2020

"ADVAC: Organized by the Fondation Mérieux and the University of Geneva, is a two-week training programme targeting decision-makers, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies, in all fields related to vaccines and vaccination, vaccine trials, new vaccines, vaccination strategies and policies, vaccine-specific issues (including polio, measles, meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases, influenza, malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, HPV, rotavirus, dengue and JE, CMV, rabies), ethical issues related to vaccine trials, financing of immunization, communication"

"Fellowships covering travel expenses, as well as registration and accommodation fees will be available for a number of selected participants in accordance with the criteria outlined on the website. These fellowships are provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID), and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)."

[More information](#)

Deadline for applications: 15/11 2019

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Resources

Contribute to a new resource and publicise your institution!

The [Clinical Research Initiative for Global Health](#) (CRIGH) was launched on 01 January 2017 and aims to "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.

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 as the mapping of organisations supporting clinical research throughout the African continent is key for future international collaborations. 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"

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).

PUBLICATIONS

- **Transformation Agenda of WHO AFRO** - "This report provides a bird's-eye view of the transformation Agenda of the WHO Secretariat in the African Region. It presents highlights of the most significant actions and achievements in the transformation Agenda journey so far. I launched the Agenda in February 2015, on my assumption of office as the WHO Regional Director for Africa for a five-year mandate covering the period February 2015 to January 2020. The main aim of the Agenda is to ensure that the WHO Secretariat in the African Region evolves into the primary leader in health development in Africa and the reliable and effective protector of Africa's health stock.
[Go to the document page](#)

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](#)

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

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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