Highlights

- Open consultation on future EU-Africa Global Health Partnership
- Funding opportunities
- Michael Makanga nominated for award
- DNDI: report on 15 years product development and its costs

Contents

- Save the dates! Tenth EDCTP Forum
- More calls (about to) open
- Last days of Open consultation on future EU-Africa Global Health partnership
- EDCTP contribution to World Health Summit
- WHS2019: workshop on health research capacity building
- Max Planck Society and EDCTP panel discussion at WHS2019
- Recent events
- Recently signed projects
- Projects
- Funding opportunities: EDCTP and others
- Michael Makanga nominated for award
- Resources
- Upcoming events

Save the dates! Tenth EDCTP Forum

EDCTP | Tenth EDCTP Forum | Mozambique, 18-21/10 2020

Save the dates! The Tenth EDCTP Forum will be held at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, Mozambique from 18-21 October 2020.

The biennial EDCTP Forum provides an international platform for the presentation and discussion of clinical studies for everyone involved in combating poverty-related diseases and the appropriate capacity development and networking activities. The Forum has established itself as a valuable opportunity to develop and reinforce cooperation and synergy among the EDCTP Association stakeholders at various levels including scientific and policy. Scientists involved in EDCTP2-funded projects are particularly encouraged to use this opportunity to share new developments and results from their projects.
More calls (about to) open!

On 30 October, the Call for applications was opened for the **EDCTP-TDR Clinical Research and Product development Fellowships**

Please note that the scheme is jointly implemented by EDCTP and TDR. We invite applicants interested in this fellowship to carefully read the eligibility criteria for both EDCTP and TDR. The TDR call for applications can be found [here](#).

On 02 November 2019, the last 2019 EDCTP Research & Innovation Call for proposals will open: **Vaccines against Lassa virus disease - Joint call with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**

Finally, the 2019 Senior Fellowship will open on 06 November: **Senior Fellowships Plus- 2019**

---

**LAST DAYS!**

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](#).

**Media references to successor programme:**
The future programme has been already discussed in various meetings or referred to in media articles, e.g. in ScienceBusiness:

- **[Commission weighs reform of its big R&D partnership projects](#)** | Draft EU paper targets cash flow and other financial problems in its Horizon 2020 'Joint Undertakings' involving multiple companies, universities and governments (24/10 2019);
- **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 (01/08 2019)

or in Euractive:

- **[Why Europe needs more ambition on climate, research, innovation](#)** (02/10 2019)  
  "...Moving away from a donor approach towards a partnership based on recognition of Africa's research excellence and potential for innovation. A current example of such a collaboration is the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, which spearheaded EU and African efforts on health. Its successor, the proposed EU-Africa Global Health Partnership, should continue these important efforts."

- **[Global health research - a chance for Moedas to shape his legacy](#)** (20/09 2019)
- **[Horizon Europe - A global health prescription for the EU](#)** (17/07 2019)

or on the DSW website blog:

- **[In conversation with Jens Geier (MEP)](#)** (25/1 2019)
EDCTP contributed to World Health Summit 2019

EDCTP contributed to the World Health Summit programme (Berlin, Germany, 26-29/10 2019) with a workshop on health research capacity development and a panel discussion on medical needs of vulnerable populations - see the next two items. The conference was attended by Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Executive Director), Dr Ole Olesen (Director of International Cooperation for Europe) and Administrative Support Officer Nora Bünemann.

The conference offered many opportunities for networking and side meetings as well as the participation offered by the programme. On Tuesday 29 October Dr Michael Makanga attended the DNDi-hosted workshop on ‘Co-Creation and Co-Ownership of the UHC and SDG Agendas’. The workshop brainstormed how to ensure neglected populations are at the centre of the implementation of the Universal Health Care effort and the various agendas for achieving the Sustainable Development. Areas of critical importance such as innovation and access need to be designed with and around these populations. Dr Michael Makanga presented EDCTP as an example of a current partnership and described it's efforts towards UHC and SDGs.

Dr Michael Makanga attending the DNDi Workshop chaired by Dr Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft, DNDi’s Director of Neglected Tropical Diseases (left).

DNDi contributed two workshops to the WHS2019. Contiguous with the summit, DNDi celebrated its 15 years of successful activity as a non-profit product development partnership for neglected tropical diseases with the DNDi and founders’ symposium, which focused on the theme 'Best science for the most neglected: How can needs-driven R&D advance universal health coverage?'.
WHS2019: workshop on health research capacity building

On 28 October EDCTP, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Institut Pasteur hosted a workshop on 'Capacity Building in Health Research in Low-Resource Settings' with a central question of how funders and those implementing the plans may better coordinate capacity building efforts in sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop was chaired by Dr Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative for Africa, and Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation for Europe.

The session brought together a diverse group of representatives from diverse organisations involved in different aspects of capacity building. Current capacity building initiatives were presented and it was discussed how funders could coordinate and align their efforts among themselves and between funders and implementing countries. The importance of global, national and regional research was highlighted as well as the need to address its long term sustainability.

Prof Imelda Bates provided insights from an academic point of view on how to design, measure and evaluate programmes to strengthen research capacity. Dr Monique Wasunna, Regional Director of DNDi (replacing Dr Kundai Chinyenze) underlined the importance of coordination and collaboration between funders and implementing countries.

The workshop was attended by over 80 participants who engaged in a lively discussion.

Max Planck Society and EDCTP panel discussion at WHS2019

On 29 October 2019, EDCTP and the Max Planck Society held 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 was chaired by Prof. Stefan H.E. Kaufmann and Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director.
Speakers at the session were Dr Angela Loyse (St George’s University of London), Catherine K. Ohura (GHIT Fund), Peter Sands, (The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), Dr Soumya Swaminathan (WHO), Prof. Dr Veronika von Messing (BMPF) and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Walzl (Stellenbosch University).

Despite much progress, poverty-related infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria and the neglected and emerging diseases, still impose a high burden on individuals and society. Achieving most if not all Sustainable Development Goals will depend on effective control of infectious diseases.

Peter Sands emphasised the importance of innovative drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tools in tackling poverty-related infectious diseases. Dr Angela Loyse provided insights on the DREAMM (Driving Reduced AIDS-associated Meningo-encephalitis Mortality) project, which is a multi-centre implementation project, evaluating a new semi-quantitative cryptococcal lateral flow assay in three African low- and middle-income countries. Prof. Dr Gerhard Walzl presented the innovative EDCTP-funded project ‘TriageTB’, which develops and evaluates a point-of-care diagnostic test for active tuberculosis.

In addition to the panel meeting, Dr Catherine Ohura (CEO & Executive Director of the Japanese Global Health Innovative Technology HIT Fund) and Dr Michael Makanga have discussed collaboration on current and future R&D efforts in poverty-related diseases.
Together with the Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF), EDCTP organised a three-day workshop on grant proposal writing for researchers from 13 francophone African countries.

The participants were competitively selected to attend the workshop, which took place in Libreville on 14-16 October, facilitated by a team from AREF. The AREF team comprised Dr Peter Dukes, Dr Bridget Bannerman, Mr Dembo Kanteh and Dr Modibo Sangaré.
The practical and interactive workshop was conducted in English and French and consisted of a combination of plenaries and group work sessions. Topics included English for scientists, development of a research question and proposal, budget planning; mentoring and coaching, and the development of research career plans.

EDCTP was represented by Prof. Ayola Akim Adegnika, the representative for Gabon at the EDCTP General Assembly, Dr Ole Olesen (Director of International Cooperation for Europe), and Mrs Ana Lucia Weinberg (Strategic Partnerships Officer).

**EDCTP | Information session on EDCTP for researchers in Gabon | 16/10 2019**

The grant writing workshop in Gabon was followed by an open EDCTP information session for Gabonese researchers on 16 October. The session was co-organised with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research in Gabon and was held at the Faculté de Médecine et des Sciences de la Santé (FMSS) in Libreville.

The aim of the meeting was to present the EDCTP programme and its funding mechanisms and opportunities to local researchers. More than 100 attended. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Akim Ayola Adegnika (CERMEL) and Dr Ole Olesen. Mrs Ana Lucia Weinberg presented funding opportunities and two EDCTP Fellows, Prof. Marielle Bouyou and Prof. Jean Nachega, shared their experiences as EDCTP grantees.

**EDCTP | Meeting with the Hon. Moukagni-Iwangou | 16/10 2019**

Prior to the information session, an EDCTP delegation led by Dr Ole Olesen was received by the Hon. Moukagni-Iwangou, the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technology Transfer of Gabon. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Gabon’s participation in EDCTP and the country’s future research priorities. Gabon has been an EDCTP member since 2015.
EDCTP | Financial and project management training | 17-18/10 2019
EDCTP Director of Finance and Administration, Abdouli Barry, and the Director of International Cooperation Europe, Dr Ole Olesen, conducted EDCTP's financial and project management training in Libreville, Gabon, for finance and project management staff of EDCTP-funded projects based in West Africa. The training took place in Libreville, Gabon on 17-18/10 2019. Participants were nominated by their institutions based in Gabon, Congo, DRC, Cameroon, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo.

TBScience2019 | EDCTP sponsor of scientific pre-conference | 29-30/10 2019
TBScience 2019 was the second annual TBScience pre-conference, an official event entirely devoted to basic and translational tuberculosis (TB) research, hosted by the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Hyderabad, India from 30/10 to 02/11 2019

EDCTP was one of the three sponsors of TBScience2019, together with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the America Thoracic Association.
Recently signed projects

Projects

**INTENSE-TBM | Project website published | October 2019**
The challenge: "In 2017, an estimated 10 million new cases and 1.6 million deaths occurred worldwide due to tuberculosis [WHO 2018]. The most lethal and disabling form of TB is tuberculous meningitis (TBM), with an estimated 100,000 new cases occurring per year, representing around 6% of extra-pulmonary TB cases.

In sub-Saharan Africa, TBM mortality reaches 40% in HIV-negative patients and up to 70% in HIV-positive individuals with drug resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains, with death occurring most frequently within the first 2 weeks after diagnosis. Amongst TBM survivors, 50% are disabled due to neurological sequelae."

INTENSE-TBM is funded by EDCTP, sponsored by Inserm-ANRS, and coordinated by the University of Bordeaux. The project aims to improve the overall care of people affected by tuberculous meningitis. A clinical trial will be conducted in four African countries: Ivory Coast, Madagascar, South Africa and Uganda. It will evaluate the efficacy of an intensified treatment of tuberculosis in patients co-infected or not with HIV. More on the [project website](#).

**STATIN TB | Project website published | October 2019**
The StatinTB project (Preventing TB relapse and chronic lung disease: a proof-of-concept, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of statin therapy to reduce inflammation after TB treatment completion in HIV-infected and
HIV-uninfected adults measured by FDG-PET/CT published its website. The study is coordinated by Dr Reto Guler (University of Cape Town, South Africa),

**PEOPLE | Leprosy study website published | October 2019**
The EDCTP-funded PEOPLE (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Leprosy in the Comoros and Madagascar) study published its project website:

"Within the framework of the PEOPLE project, a large, multi-partner clinical trial, four methods of preventive treatment will be tested to stop the disease in the Comoros and Madagascar, which are the two most affected countries. Nearly 150,000 contacts of leprosy patients to participate are planned to participate in this large-scale study." The study is coordinated by Prof. Bouke de Jong of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

**EMPIRICAL | Project website published | 01/11 2019**
The EMPIRICAL project (Empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis in severe pneumonia in HIV-infected infants: a randomised controlled clinical trial) coordinated by Dr Pablo Rojo published its website. The project organised its kick-off meeting in June 2019.

The EMPIRICAL study will be conducted in six sub-Saharan African countries (Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi) to evaluate the safety and efficacy of empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis in HIV-infected infants aged 1-12 months admitted to hospital with severe pneumonia. Study end-points include 15-day and 12-month survival.

**SMART | Senior Fellow Dr Faith Osier | October 2019**
EDCTP Senior fellow Prof. Faith Osier (project: SMART - Harnessing parasite diversity and naturally acquired protective immunity against *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria for the development of highly effective vaccines) was elected president of IUIS, the International Union of Immunological Societies as of October 2019. Recently, she was also appointed Ambassador for the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3: Good Health and Well-Being. This last week, she gave a Spotlight talk at the Grand Challenges meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**Geographical differences in the immune response | Fellow Moustapha Mbow**
Career Development Fellow Dr Moustapha Mbow (Senegal; Project: Immune responses in rural to urban gradient: identifying geographical footprints of the immune system to improve vaccine development) was selected as Rising Star at the Grand Challenges Annual meeting 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Grand Challenges Annual Meeting videos here.

**TRUST project | Rooibos agreement / San Research Ethics Code | 01/11 2019**
On 01 November, South Africa’s Barbara Creecy (Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries) launched a rooibos access and benefit-sharing agreement. The agreement will be administered based on the values defined in the San Code of Research Ethics, in which the EU-funded TRUST project played an important role.

Also read the Mail&Guardian: San and Khoi claim benefits from rooibos, the press release of the Ministry: Minister Barbara Creecy launches rooibos access and benefit-sharing agreement and the Daily Maverick Plant matter: How rooibos brought justice to SA’s indigenous.

**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

**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

**Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships (CRDF) - Joint call with WHO/TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases 2019**
Open to application: 30 October 2019
Deadline for application: 28 February 2020

Open soon:
**Vaccines against Lassa virus disease - Joint call with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**
Open to application: 02 November 2019
Deadline for application: 07 April 2020

**Senior Fellowships Plus**
Open to application: 06 November 2019
Deadline for application: 18 February 2020

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.

**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 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.

**Other opportunities**

**ADVAC | 21st Advanced Course of Vaccinology | Deadline 15/11 2019**
“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

---

**Resources**

**PUBLICATIONS**

DNDi, the [Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative](#), celebrated 15 years of activities and published a concise summary of its experience and the lessons it learned:

*15 Years of needs-driven innovation for access: Key lessons, challenges, and opportunities for the future* (download PDF).

See also the [press release](#)

---

**EDCTP RESOURCES**

Explore our [Annual Report 2018 in a new digital format](#)
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)
Michael Makanga nominated for award

Michael Makanga has been nominated among eight candidates for the 2019 ‘Christine Pierre Lifetime Achievement Award’. The award is conferred by Clinical Trials Europa which will hold its Annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain, from 19-21 November 2019.

Clinical Trials Europe invites everyone in the clinical trials community to vote for a candidate:

"Now in its 5th year, the Clinical Trials Europe ‘Christine Pierre Lifetime Achievement Award’ celebrates the ground-breaking work and contributions of individuals across the field of clinical trials who are making a positive difference. This independent award showcases and rewards that hard work with a trophy and exposure to our global audience. The winner will be voted for by those within the Clinical Trials community, who will vote for their champion."

Voting takes place online via the Clinical Trials Europe website. Voting deadline is 15 November 2020.

Upcoming events

EDCTP2 | Fin. and project management training | 19-20/11 and 21-22/11 2019

The next EDCTP financial and project management training sessions will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (19-20 November 2019) and Johannesburg, South Africa (21-22 November 2019). As usual, EDCTP Director of Finance and Administration, Abdoulie Barry, and the Director of International Cooperation Europe, Dr Ole Olesen, will conduct this training for finance and project management staff of EDCTP-funded projects.

More details for Dar es Salaam and Johannesburg on the event pages.

ICASA 2019 | Intern. Conf. on AIDS and STIs in Africa | 2-7/12 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.

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

STAY CONNECTED: