



**E D C T P**

## **EDCTP Update**

December 2019

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### Highlights

- [\*\*EDCTP 2020 Recognition Prizes open for nominations\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Funding opportunities\*\*](#)

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## **EDCTP 2020 Prizes open for nominations!**

EDCTP intends to award four prestigious international prizes dedicated to the promotion of scientific research, improved health and Africa-European collaboration.

These prizes are presented to outstanding individuals and research teams, especially from sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

They will be announced at the tenth EDCTP Forum in Mozambique in October 2020.

**Nominate candidates before Thursday 16 April 2020 at 17:00 CET.**

[More information on our website.](#)

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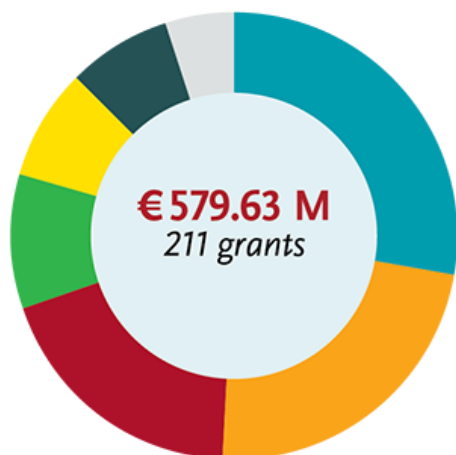
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## **Other EDCTP news you may have missed**

[\*\*The Tenth EDCTP Forum will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 18-21 October 2020! Save the dates, prepare your abstracts!\*\*](#)

Scientists involved in EDCTP2-funded projects are particularly encouraged to use this opportunity to share new developments and results from their projects.

**EDCTP portfolio of projects by disease, 2014-2019**



- Tuberculosis, 63 grants  
**€162.60 M**
- Malaria, 41 grants  
**€133.18 M**
- HIV & HIV-associated infections, 49 grants  
**€109.47 M**
- Neglected infectious diseases, 27 grants  
**€56.50 M**
- Diarrhoeal diseases, 7 grants  
**€46.14 M**
- Emerging diseases, 17 grants  
**€42.85 M**
- Lower respiratory tract infections, 7 grants  
**€28.89 M**

**Note:**

A further €28.97 M for 56 grants was awarded for projects on non-diseasespecific topics such as ethics and regulatory support, networking and fellowship grants. All figures include both estimated and actual value of grants.

**The complete EDCTP project portfolio 2014-2019 illustrated!**

[Part I](#) and [part II](#) published



EDCTP Collaborative R&D projects 2014-2019 (RIA grants)



EDCTP fellowships 2014-2019 (TMA grants)

**[More information also in our public grants platform - improved search!](#)**

The portal has been upgraded with new search fields and export options, such as the possibility to search by country, by organisation and filter by role, i.e. coordinator or participant.

**[EDCTP end of year message on achievements to date](#)**

Since 2014, the EDCTP2 programme has provided €607.9 million of funding to European- African research partnerships advancing new interventions for key infectious diseases affecting sub-Saharan Africa, while also strengthening clinical research capacity in 37 African countries.

### [World AIDS day 2019: Clinical research that reaches key populations](#)

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director: "The EDCTP programme is committed to support research that helps local and global efforts to fight HIV and its interaction with other diseases. Our R&I strategies therefore promote people-centred and community-oriented approaches that facilitate timely diagnosis, ensure long-term retention in care, and achieve effective integration with other services."

### [Dr. Ole Olesen appointed executive director of European Vaccine Initiative](#)

EDCTP's former Director of International Cooperation Europe has been appointed as the Executive Director of the European Vaccine Initiative (EVI), starting 01 January 2020.

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## Recent events

### **Africa CDC | Editor-in-chief for Journal of Public Health in Africa | 22/11 2019**

Dr Nicaise Ndembi (among many other accomplishments, a former EDCTP Senior Fellow) was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Public Health in Africa. [Read the press release.](#)

### **GHIT Fund | R&D Forum 2019 | 06/12 2019**

From the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund's website: "[GHIT's second R&D Forum took place on December 6, 2019](#), convening over 110 domestic and international researchers to discuss on GHIT-invested projects ranging from target research to clinical trials.

GHIT and its product development partners celebrated tangible progress, shared lessons learned, and explored related R&D challenges and opportunities through interactive sessions with the broader participant group. ... (T)argeted workshops allowed the audience to think outside the box with explore bold, new ideas and solutions for unmet needs of neglected diseases through interactive discussion with other participants.

Mr Fumiya Domoto from Astellas, Japan, and Dr Remco de Vruh from Lygature, the Netherlands, presented the EDCTP/GHIT Fund co-funded project PZQ4PSAC which is conducting a phase III clinical trial in Kenya and Ivory Coast to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of a single dose novel paediatric praziquantel orally disintegrating tablet formulation in pre-school children infected with schistosomiasis.



Lara Pandya (Strategic Partnerships Officer) represented EDCTP

The 20th ICASA conference is the biggest HIV/AIDS conference in Africa. ICASA2019 was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 2-7 December 2019. The conference theme was "AIDS Free Africa - Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership".

EDCTP contributed a [satellite symposium to the conference programme](#) 'Milestones, new platforms and strategies for HIV and TB vaccine research: an EDCTP overview' which took place on 04 December 2019. [See the programme booklet](#). The symposium was well attended with approximately 145 participants.



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## Recently signed projects

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

- **GRIPS-NGS** | Fellow: Dr Vito Baraka | Genetic profiling of drug resistance and population structure of *Plasmodium falciparum* using high-throughput next-generation sequencing
- **SEN HYBRID INVASION** | Fellow: Dr Bruno Senghor | Hybridisation as a driver for the spread of schistosomiasis: an integrative approach to evaluate the invasive capacity of schistosome hybrids under praziquantel pressure

### [EDCTP Senior Fellowships - 2018](#)

- **ASTAWOL** | Fellow: Prof. Alexander Yaw Debrah | Alternative treatment strategies using anti-wolbachial drugs to accelerate elimination of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis.

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## Projects

### **PanACEA II | new TB drug candidate | 11/12 2019**

The University of Munich (Klinikum LMU) [announced the entry into a phase II clinical trial of BTZ-043](#), a new TB drug candidate under development by the PanAcea II consortium.

## TREATS | Universal Health Coverage Day | 12/12 2019

The [EDCTP-funded project TREATS](#) was mentioned in The Union's message for Universal Health Coverage Day: 'On Universal Health Coverage Day, The Union calls for TB diagnosis, treatment and prevention for all'. [Read more.](#)

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## Funding opportunities

### Open EDCTP calls for proposals

The following EDCTP Calls for proposals are still open for applications.

[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

[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](#).

### Other opportunities

#### Leprosy Research Initiative | Call for proposals | deadline 28/02 2020

The [Leprosy Research Initiative](#) (LRI) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for funding commencing in 2021. LRI funds research with a focus on leprosy - including research applications combining leprosy with other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) or other diseases that share cross-cutting issues with leprosy. [Read more.](#)

#### AiBST | Call for applications | Deadline 29/02 2020

The African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology published a [Call for applications](#) for 10 MSc scholarships in Genomics & Precision Medicine. The scholarships are funded by EDCTP via the TMA2018SF-1508 grant to Prof. Collen Masimirembwa.

From the website: "The [AiBST Virtual Global Faculty](#) (VGF) was established to provide the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology with teaching and mentorship support for its MSc programs. AiBST will be offering two MSc programs, MSc in Genomics & Precision Medicine and MSc in Pharmaceutical Medicine, starting in 2020. It will do this through a joint initiative with the Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT). The two programs have been approved by the Zimbabwe Council of Higher Education (ZimCHE)."

There is a second [Call for applications for MSc scholarships in Pharmaceutical Medicine](#), The scholarships are provided for by the International Science Program (ISP) in Sweden. Deadline also 29/02 2020.

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## Resources

- **Pilot open access tool launched for researchers to find appropriate repository for research data** The [Global Health Network](#) highlighted in its December Newsletter a pilot project on data sharing. This work in progress, a pilot open access tool launched for researchers to find appropriate repository for research data, was launched at the 11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health by The Global Health Network and EDCTP. Dr Ole Olesen from

EDCTP and Sam Driver from The Global Health Network introduced the Repository Finder, part of the Data Sharing Toolkit at their joint session 'Making data sharing easy, feasible and accessible'. [Visit the toolkit](#)

- **WHO | World Malaria Report 2019 | 04/12 2019**

WHO published its [2019 World malaria report](#). Heal

- **Nature | Malaria vaccine | 27/11 2019** Anthony King: [Building a better malaria vaccine](#)

- **Plasmodium vivax information hub**

From the website: "[vivaxmalaria.org](#) is a one-stop shop for information on Plasmodium vivax malaria. Through vivaxmalaria.org, we aim to: a) Increase awareness of relapsing P. vivax malaria, which affects an estimated 7.5 million people globally each year; b) Inform stakeholders (including policy makers and practitioners) about progress in the development of new tools for the diagnosis and treatment of P. vivax malaria; c) Promote global partnerships to advance the elimination of the disease." The information hub is hosted by the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

- **The Lancet | HIV Vaccine R&D portfolio | 02/12 2019** [The complex challenges of HIV vaccine development require renewed and expanded global commitment](#)

Authors: Linda-Gail Bekker, Roger Tatoud, Francois Dabis, Mark Feinberg, Pontiano Kaleebu, Mary Marovich, Thumbi Ndung'u, Nina Russell, Jeremiah Johnson, Maureen Luba, Anthony S Fauci, Lynn Morris, Giuseppe Pantaleo, Susan Buchbinder, Glenda Gray, Johan Vekemans, Jerome H Kim, Yves Levy, Lawrence Corey, Robin Shattock, Michael Makanga, Carolyn Williamson, Carl Dieffenbach, Maureen M Goodenow, Yiming Shao, Silvija Staprans, Mitchell Warren, Margaret I Johnston.

Dr Michael Makanga contributed in his role as a member of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise advisory group.

- **DNDi / 15 years of not-for-profit R&D | 30/10 2019**

Valuable paper to highlight again: [15 years of needs-driven innovation for access - Key lessons, challenges, and opportunities for the future](#) - "an in-depth overview of both the successes and challenges DNDi has experienced in delivering and advocating for public-interest, needs-driven R&D."

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## The next programme

### **Future 'European partnerships' | Consultation of Member States | 12/12 2019**

The European Commission published the final report on the consultation of the partnerships with a list of 49 future partnership candidates: [European Partnerships under Horizon Europe: results of the structured consultation of Member States](#).

The results of another broad consultation - the combined results of the online consultation on the Implementation Strategy of the Research and innovation framework programme Horizon Europe launched by the Common Implementation Centre of DG RTD and of the sessions held during the Research & Innovation Days. The report: [Horizon Europe co-design implementation report on the results of the online consultation and the European research & Innovation Days event](#)

### **EU-Africa Global Health Partnership**

Collection of media references to EDCTP and its successor programme:

- Maria Da Graça Carvalho | Viewpoint: We must embrace innovation to beat AIDS Working with countries in Africa, the EU has fostered innovation that is making an important contribution to the fight against AIDS. To build on this, the new Africa-EU partnership now taking shape needs more ambitious goals [ScienceBusiness 28/11/2019](#)
- Ffion Storer Jones: In conversation with Jens Geier (MEP) [www.DSW.org, 25/10/2019](#)
- Richard L. Hudson: 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 [ScienceBusiness, 24/10/2019](#);
- Gina Dowding (MEP): Why Europe needs more ambition on climate, research, innovation [Euractive, 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."
- Éanna Kelly: 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" - [Science Business, 01/08/2019](#)
- José Inácio Faria: Global health research - a chance for Moedas to shape his legacy [Euractive, 20/09/2019](#)
- Cecile Vernant: Horizon Europe - A global health prescription for the EU. [Euractive, 17/07/2019](#)

### Other publications

- Éanna Kelly: 'Global R&D collaboration more vital than ever, survey finds New Science|Business poll reveals growing appetite for global research partnerships but finds persistent funding and legal barriers can stand in the way'. [ScienceBusiness, 26/11/2019](#)
- IMI research gets cited at double the global average rate

Report shows rise in performance, with IMI research cited 60% more than EU average and twice as much as the rest of the world. [www.IMI.org 27/11/2019](#)

NB See also results for [similar Thomson Reuters analysis of EDCTP-funded research](#). International research collaboration clearly pays off.

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### Upcoming events

#### **Wellcome | Optimmunize conference | 19-21/02 2020**

The Optimmunize - Improving the beneficial effects of vaccines' conference, will be held for the first time at the Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, United Kingdom), an focus on research into the broader effects of vaccines on the immune system, and how the use of vaccines may be optimized if these effects are taken into account. It brings together the most excellent speakers from all over the world, at the forefront of this new avenue of research. [More information here](#).

#### **World Health Summit | Regional Meeting in Kampala, Uganda | 27-28 /04 2020**

The first World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Africa will take place in Kampala, Uganda from 27-28 April, 2020. The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2020 will be hosted and organized by Makerere University in partnership with the Government of Uganda.

The central themes of the Regional Meeting 2020 include: The Health of the African Youth, Advancing Technology for Health in Africa, Infectious Diseases and Global Health Security, Stemming the Tide of Non-Communicable Diseases in Low-and Middle-Income Countries, Inter-Sectoral Action for Health.

[More information here](#)

### **AAS | Call for Abstracts - Evidence Leaders Conference | Deadline: 31/12 2019**

"The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) will convene an Evidence Leaders Africa Conference on 27th - 28th July 2020, Nairobi Kenya.

The conference is part of an ongoing initiative, the Evidence Leaders in Africa (ELA) project funded by the Hewlett Foundation. ELA seeks to expand and fortify evidence-informed decision making (EIDM) leadership in Africa. The ELA conference targets AAS Fellows, Affiliates, and grantees undertaking research in East and West Africa to provide a platform for sharing lessons in evidence-informed decision making practices across Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) sectors in Africa.

The key purpose of the conference is to promote EIDM and contribute to the development of evidence-informed policy, efficient and effective implementation of policies and programmes as well as learning to accelerate the development of all STI sectors in Africa."

[More information here](#)

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

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