



EDCTP

## EDCTP Update

June 2020

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European Union



### Highlights

- [\*\*COVID-19 emergency funding for 20 projects\*\*](#)
- [\*\*2020 Calls for proposals closing in July and August\*\*](#)
- [\*\*EDCTP eMagazine June 2020 - first issue\*\*](#)

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## EDCTP COVID-19 emergency funding for 20 research projects

In April 2020, EDCTP activated its Emergency funding mechanism to ensure a quick start of COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa. The COVID-19 Emergency response call was open for only 14 days and saw a record number of applications. A total of 153 applications were received, of which 100 were eligible. These proposals went through an expedited and robust peer review which led to a ranked list of 47 proposals.

Twenty proposals have been invited to grant preparation and some put on a reserve list while EDCTP continues to explore ways to fund these projects. The cash contribution from the European Union and the co-funding so far received from France, Sweden, South Africa, and the United Kingdom is gratefully acknowledged.

[More on the website](#): a thematic analysis and a description of the 20 selected projects.

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## EDCTP publications: the first eMagazine and more

### EDCTP e-Magazine

The online eMagazine is a new publication to complement our range of tools to communicate about the EDCTP programme. Today we published [the first issue](#). The magazine aims to address broader topics and give more background information than can be done in the monthly electronic Update. The eMagazine will be published twice a year.



New are also [the online country profiles](#) which are part of the EDCTP online project portfolio.

### Country profiles: involvement in and contribution to EDCTP projects

A new feature has been added to the EDCTP digital project portfolio that showcases for each country its participation in EDCTP projects, including:

- Collaboration in EDCTP-funded projects
- Participation in EDCTP calls for proposals
- Number of institutions involved
- Number and value of signed EDCTP grants

Moreover, this section provides an analysis of the contribution from the 14 European and 16 African countries that are members of the EDCTP Association, to activities within the scope of the EDCTP2 programme.

## Country involvement in EDCTP projects



### EDCTP-Africa CDC Workshop | online report | 30/06 2020

EDCTP published the report of the workshop on gender-related and regional disparities. In collaboration with Africa CDC, EDCTP hosted a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 19-20 November 2019. The selected participants - 97 researchers and key stakeholders from Africa and Europe - discussed practical solutions to address gender-related and regional imbalances in research and research capacity development. The report summarises the presentations and extensive discussions over the two days and presents the recommendations regarding the regional imbalances. Collaborating to improve gender-related and regional disparities in research funding.

[To read more, go to the report](#)

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## Investing in capacity for medicines review and regulatory science

The Regulatory Science Fellows project is led by Ms Tariro Makamure-Sithole of the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ), Harare, Zimbabwe. This capacity development project - [Competence-based fellowship for African medicines reviewers and regulatory science professionals](#) - started in November 2018 and has delivered its first cohort of fellows.

After a competitive selection, each fellow was assigned a regulatory mentor and an academic mentor to provide supervision throughout the fellowship:

**[Linda Mudyiwenyama](#)** (Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe)

Regulatory mentor: Dr Simbarashe Zvada (formerly, United States Food and Drug Administration, USA)

Academic mentor: Dr Helga Gardarsdottir (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

**[Brilliant Samunda](#)** (Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe)

Regulatory mentor: Dr Annika Ridell (Swedish Medical Products Agency, Sweden)

Academic mentor: Prof. Star Khoza (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)

**[Patience Phuti Shabanqu](#)** (South African Health Products Regulatory Authority):

Regulatory mentor: Rutendo Kuwana (World Health Organization, Switzerland)

Academic mentor: Prof. Admire Dube (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)

**[Ethel Sebuu](#)** (Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority)

Regulatory mentor: Dr Luther Gwaza (World Health Organization, Switzerland)

Academic mentor: Prof. Aukje Mantel-Teeuwisse (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

In their first year, the fellows participated in short courses on special (non-oral) dosage forms, GMP\* considerations for assessors and bioequivalence to build their skills as medicines reviewers. The fellows also participated in the WHO MOOC\*\* on implementation research and the Utrecht University WHO Summer School on Pharmaceutical Policy in July 2019 to build their research skills.

The fellows attended the Fourth Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa ([SCoMRA IV](#)), Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 30/09-01/10 2019, where the coordinator presented the fellowship scheme and fellow Patience Phuti Shabangu presented her capstone project. All four fellows' presented their capstone projects at the [Winter meeting](#) of the Utrecht WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Regulation.

See also the lively [first Annual newsletter of the project](#) (June 2020)

\* Good Manufacturing Practices \*\* Massive Open Online Course



Fellows attending the Utrecht University WHO Summer School on Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis  
15-19 July 2019, Utrecht, The Netherlands

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## EDCTP Webinar on Career Development Fellowships Call

EDCTP is organising an online information session for potential applicants to the Career Development Fellowships Call. The webinar will take place on Thursday 9 July at 14:00-16:00 CEST (Amsterdam time).

**Registration is required and must be done via the online registration form.**

For more information, please [visit the event page](#).





**Online information session**  
**EDCTP Career Development Fellowships call**

Thursday 9 July 2020 | 14:00-16:00 CEST

This information session will cover the following areas:

- Review of eligibility criteria for the call
- The application process including tips on preparing your application
- Evaluation procedures
- Q&A session based on questions sent prior to/or raised during the meeting.

REGISTER NOW: <https://bit.ly/2BDYLmE>

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## 2020 Calls for proposals open - Deadlines in July and August

Currently, the following EDCTP 2020 Calls for proposals are open with various deadlines for application in July and August 2020

### Ethics and regulatory capacities (CSA2020ERC)

Call budget: €2.5 million / Expected number of grants: 6-8  
Open date: 10 April 2020 / Deadline: 16 July 2020

This call for proposals aims to support sub-Saharan African countries to establish and/or develop robust national medicines regulatory systems and capacities for ethical review of clinical research and use of medicinal products and technologies in humans.

### EDCTP Regional Networks (CSA2020NoE)

Call budget: €18 million / Expected number of grants: 4  
Open date: 10 April 2020 / Deadline: 23 July 2020

EDCTP has funded four regional networks, defined geographically as Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central Africa. The purpose of this Call for Proposals is to provide continued funding to EDCTP Regional Networks that have demonstrated significant progress towards achieving the pre-defined deliverables set out in the 2015 call.

### Capacity development for disease outbreak and epidemic response in sub-Saharan Africa, in collaboration with Africa CDC (CSA2020E)

Call budget: €5 million / Expected number of grants: 7-10 grants  
Opening date: 10 April 2020 / Deadline: 30 July 2020

This call for proposals aims to establish an African cohort of epidemiologists. Support will be given to institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe that provide master's training in epidemiology and biostatistics, as part of the Africa CDC's framework for public health work force development.

### Career Development Fellowships in poverty-related diseases and child and adolescent health (TMA2020CDF)

Call budget: €3.75 million / Expected number of grants: 16-25  
Open date: 10 April 2020 / Deadline: 05 August 2020

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support early- to mid-career researchers ("fellows") by providing them with opportunities to train and develop their clinical research skills. Fondation Botnar and Novartis will contribute to the call budget for successful proposals regarding child and adolescent health.

### [Innovative approaches to enhance poverty-related diseases research](#) (RIA2020I)

Call budget: €23.4 million / Expected number of grants: 5-15  
Open date: 10 April 2020 / Deadline: 13 August 2020

This call for proposals aims to fund a number of small- to medium-scale clinical trials and/or clinical research studies that can deliver proof-of-concept or validation of smart, highly innovative technologies or concepts to prevent, treat or diagnose PRDs in sub-Saharan Africa. The call is strictly aimed at supporting novel innovations.

### [Strategic actions to maximise the impact of research on reducing disease burden, in collaboration with development cooperation initiatives](#) (RIA2020S)

Call budget: €23.4 million / Expected number of grants: 5-15  
Open date: 10 April 2020 / Deadline: 13 August 2020

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support distinct strategic actions which are part of a large-scale programme of development cooperation actions. Projects should focus on research to maximise the uptake of products and health interventions in sub-Saharan Africa.

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## Recently signed grants

### [Advances in product development for effective prevention, treatment and management of co-infections and co-morbidities - 2018](#)

- **DATURA** | Coordinator: Dr Didier Laureillard | Determination of adequate tuberculosis regimen in adults and adolescents hospitalised with severe HIV-associated severe immune suppression ( $CD4 \leq$  cells/mL)

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

- **DEEDTB** | Fellow: Dr Elizabeth Streicher | Deciphering the epidemiology and evolution of drug-resistant tuberculosis to inform policy
- **MILEAGE4TB** | Fellow: Dr Esther Buregyeya | Using short message service reminders and mobile money incentives to enhance linkage to care of presumptive tuberculosis patients in Uganda: a randomised controlled trial

### [EDCTP Career Development Fellowships - 2019](#)

- **SERVE** | Fellow: Dr Primus Che Chi | Social, ethical and regulatory implications of conducting a malaria vaccine efficacy trial in a human infection study in Kenya

### [EDCTP-AREF Preparatory Fellowships - 2018](#)

- **CVDA** | Fellow: Dr Edith Majonga | Cardiovascular disease in adolescents with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa

## Recent events

### **ESSENCE | Investment in capacity development | 4-5/06 2020**

The ESSENCE funder group held an inaugural meeting on its Mechanism for review of investments in health research capacity strengthening in low- and middle-income countries. For EDCTP Tom Nyirenda, Dominika Jajkowicz, Michelle Nderu, and Ana Lucia Weinberg participated.

The meeting brought together global funders and stakeholders to strengthen capacity for health research in low- and middle-income countries through the review of investments, identification of gaps and identification of opportunities to enhance coordination and collaboration.

### **EU-AU | High Level Policy Dialogue on science and COVID-19 | 18/06 2020**

The European Union and African Union held their regular [High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation](#) as a virtual meeting on 18 June 2020. The special focus of the meeting was on COVID19. The conclusions of the meeting acknowledged EDCTP's efforts, particularly the COVID-19 emergency call and the support for the emergency response consortia [PANDORA](#) and [ALERRT](#). The importance of investment in the EDCTP successor programme, the EU-Africa Global Health Partnership under Horizon Europe, was emphasised. The conclusions of the meeting pointed also forward to the upcoming European Union and African Union Ministerial Meeting on Research and Innovation which is planned for 16 July 2020. The EDCTP programme and its successor programme will be presented at that meeting.

### **AU / Africa CDC | Conference on COVID-19 vaccine development | 24-25/06 2020**

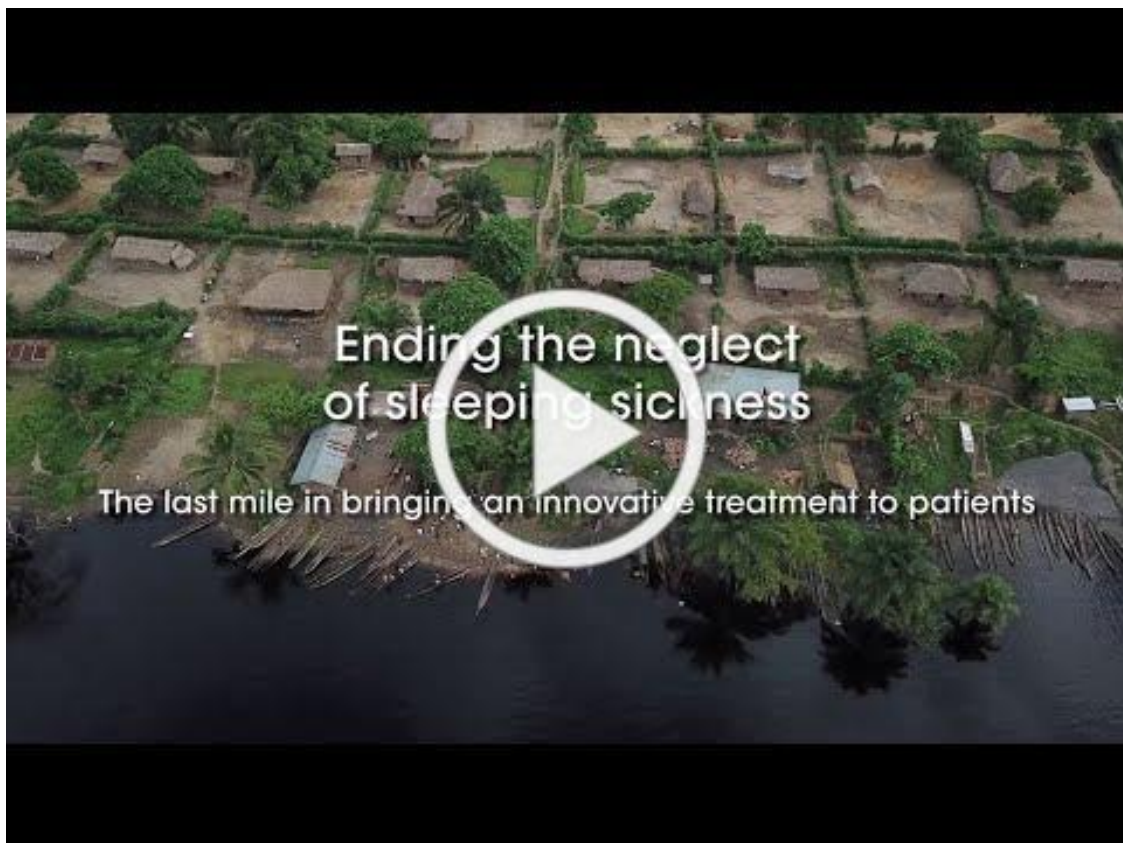
Recognising the urgent need for collaboration, cooperation, and coordination to ensure that Africa plays a leadership role in the development and access to potential vaccines, the AU and Africa CDC organised a virtual conference on [Africa's Leadership in COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Access](#).

This two-day conference brought together healthcare professionals, researchers, public health experts, policy makers, and many others to explore this topic and help develop a framework for COVID-19 vaccine development and access in Africa. Dr Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative Africa, represented EDCTP at the meeting and spoke at the start of the closing session. He also mentions the meeting in his interview for the EDCTP eMagazine.

## Project news

### **FEX-g-HAT | Kick-off meeting | 09/06 2020**

On 09 June 2020, the FEX-g-HAT project was launched successfully, with the participation of its consortium members. The project 'Capacity development to facilitate the delivery and uptake of Fexinidazole for the elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis' is led by Dr Florent Mbo of DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative). It focuses on providing support for fexinidazole access and pharmacovigilance. These capacity strengthening activities aim to bring national and local levels of the health system in line with the recently updated WHO HAT treatment guidelines. The desired result is to facilitate the delivery and uptake of fexinidazole for the elimination of HAT *gambiense* in the health systems of Angola, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea and South Sudan.



Ending the neglect of sleeping sickness:  
the path of fexinidazole to the first patients in DRC

The consortium partners are DNDi (Switzerland), the National Programs for Human African Trypanosomiasis of the DRC and Guinea, the Research Institute for Development (IRD, France), and the Prins Leopold Institute for Tropical Health (ITM, Belgium). The World Health Organisation is an observer in the project.

### **META TRIAL | Kick-off meeting - diabetes prevention | 23/06 2020**

The META TRIAL - Preventing and delaying the development of diabetes in Africa: a randomised placebo-controlled double-blind phase III trial of metformin in HIV-infected persons with pre-diabetes - had its kick-off meeting on 23 June 2020. The project is led by Prof. Shabbar Jaffar (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom) with partners from Norway, Spain and Tanzania.

[EDCTP funded the project](#) with a grant of almost €4 million but the project is about to receive another large grant from the National Institute of Health Research (United Kingdom) NIHR on community care. As this is all for complementary work the project can be more ambitious in capacity development and community engagement. Some aspects of the META work would be ideal for PhD study, therefore the number of long-term students working on the project may be increased and it also ensures more intensified community engagement activities.

Interestingly, the trial will be monitored by experts in pool of the [reciprocal monitoring scheme of the EDCTP-funded regional network EACCR2](#), the Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research.

META TRIAL is funded (as the 5FC HIV-Crypto project below) under the 2018 call for proposals '[Advances in product development for effective prevention, treatment and management of co-infections and co-morbidities](#)'.

See also the news item on INTE-Africa: [A major trial to prevent diabetes in people living with HIV](#)

### **5FC HIV-Crypto | Kick-off meeting | 24/06 2020**

The project held a successful virtual kick-off meeting on 24 June. The 5FC HIV-Crypto project is led by Dr Isabela Ribeiro (DNDi), Switzerland, with partners from Luxembourg, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom. It will have a duration of 54 months.



The project aims to develop and evaluate an improved, affordable, sustained-release flucytosine formulation for the treatment of cryptococcal meningitis. Within this project, the team will advance this much-needed new and easy to administer formulation from clinical phase I, phase II and pharmacokinetic studies to the submission for pre-qualification by WHO.

## Project publications

### PROFORMA | Uppsala Reports | 17/06 2020

[Proforma is a project](#)

to develop 'Pharmacovigilance infrastructure and post-marketing surveillance system capacity for regional medicine regulatory harmonisation in East Africa, is led by Prof. Eleni Aklilu of the Karolinska Institutet (KI), Stockholm, Sweden, with partners from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Netherlands

Total project value is  
€6 million. EDCTP contributed

€3 million and co-funding was committed by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (Kenya), the Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden), the Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences and the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (both in Tanzania).

The Uppsala Reports, a news site of the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, publishing content the latest issues in medicines safety, [featured the PROFORMA project](#).

### PROTID | TB-diabetes research gap | IJTLD correspondence 2020

This is the first publication associated with PROTID (Randomised controlled trial of preventive treatment of latent tuberculosis infection in patients with diabetes mellitus), an EDCTP-funded clinical study led by Dr Reinout van Crevel of the Radboudumc research hospital in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, with partners from New Zealand, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

Van Crevel et al. published a letter '[Response to IJTLD Article, "Having Diabetes and Being Underweight in Asia: A Potent Risk Factor for Tuberculosis"](#)' outlining the PROTID project as it addresses the research gap identified in the original editorial of December 2019.

### WANETAM | multidrug-resistant TB | Nature, January 2020

Nature published the article Senghore, M., Diarra, B., Gehre, F. et al. [Evolution of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex lineages and their role in an emerging threat of multidrug resistant tuberculosis in Bamako, Mali](#). Sci Rep 10, 327 (2020).

The study was based on a subset of samples which resulted from a larger project conducted by institutions collaborating in the EDCTP-funded Network of Excellence WANETAM.

"In 2008, a new research network, the West African Network of Excellence for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria (WANETAM), was founded, comprising nine study sites from eight West African countries (Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo). The goal was to establish Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP) principles and build capacity in standardised smear microscopy and mycobacterial culture across partnering laboratories to generate the first comprehensive West African drug-resistance data. TB isolates were collected at sentinel referral sites between 2009-2013 and tested for first- and second-line drug resistance."

See for more information on the network the [WANETAM2 website](#)

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## EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID-19

### Jean Nachega

Dr Jean Nachega is an Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

and of Epidemiology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and a former EDCTP Senior Fellow (2008).

His latest publications regarding the COVID-19 epidemic are:

- From Easing Lockdowns to Scaling Up Community-based Coronavirus Disease 2019 Screening, Testing, and Contact Tracing in Africa-Shared Approaches, Innovations, and Challenges to Minimise Morbidity and Mortality, [Clinical Infectious Diseases](#)
- Mobile Health Technology for Enhancing the COVID-19 Response in Africa: A Potential Game Changer? [Am. J. Tropical medicine and Hygiene](#)

### **Stephanus Malherbe**

Dr Stephanus Malherbe is a Career Development Fellow in South Africa who works on a project to evaluate 'the response to 4- and 6-month treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by 18F-FDG PET/CT lung imaging'. As part of the COVID-19 response, he is involved with his clinical research team (Molecular Biology Clinical Research Unit, Stellenbosch University) as it prepares for recruitment - in partnership with FAMCRU, for the TOGETHER 3 trial.

The trial - An Adaptive randomized platform trial to Investigate the efficacy of lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/r) for treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection among high-risk outpatient adults - is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and includes international sites. The aim is to recruit high-risk individuals early in the disease and test the efficacy of LPV/r. If this can be repurposed as treatment, it could be easily scaled up.

### **EDCTP Alumni Network Platform**

The [Alumni Network website has been upgraded!](#) Please check it out!:

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## **EDCTP Resources and news**

### **EDCTP joins COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition | June 2020**

EDCTP has now formally joined the [COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition](#). The Coalition was launched on 3 April 2020 with [a comment in The Lancet](#) urgently calling for international research collaboration and coordination to support African, Latin American, Eastern European, and certain Asian countries to respond effectively to the worsening pandemic and speed up research adapted to resource-limited settings. After the launch with 77 initial members from 31 countries, membership has since increased to 155 members from 56 countries.

The Coalition was borne out of concern that the specific needs of people and health systems in low-resource settings need to be prioritised, particularly given the fragility of healthcare systems and the expected consequences of COVID-19 on public health in low-resource settings. It's objective is to use existing research capabilities to support, promote, and accelerate multicentre trials of the safety, efficacy, and effectiveness of interventions against COVID-19 in resource-limited settings. There are 4 main goals:

1. To facilitate rapid and joint protocol reviews by ethics committees and national regulatory agencies, as was done for the Ebola vaccine trials.
2. To facilitate approvals for the importation of study medications and materials through agreed coordinated fast-track mechanisms.
3. To ensure standardised and simple collection of key data, sufficient for robust analysis of efficacy and safety of the tested interventions.
4. To provide a governance framework to share outcomes before publication.

DNDi was one of its instigators and now hosts the coalition's secretariat. The secretariat brings members together to map what they could contribute to the research agenda and to form the most effective partnerships. This is organised through working groups on topics such as data sharing, ethics and regulatory issues and clinical pharmacology and drug candidates. EDCTP is currently looking into how best EDCTP can contribute to the coalition's activities.

## AAS | interview with Dr Thomas Nyirenda | 05/06 2020

The Clinical Trials Community initiative of the African Academy of Sciences promotes the visibility of African clinical research centres and their involvement in international research. In this context Dr Thomas Nyirenda (EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager) was interviewed on the importance of conducting clinical trials in Africa and by African researchers. (In English; subtitles in French)



Conducting clinical trials in Africa key to developing homegrown medical interventions

## DSW | Global Health R&I - interview with Dr Michael Makanga |

DSW has launched a series of podcast for the summer of 2020, highlighting the impact of African research in the fight against poverty-related diseases and the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Each week, *African Research Excellence: DSW in Conversation* will host interviews with outstanding African researchers and advocates in the field of global health research, to learn more about their work and their views on the needs and opportunities to advance global health R&I in Africa.

The [first episode of African Research Excellence was an interview with Dr Michael Makanga](#) (EDCTP Executive Director). DSW interviewers were Eoghan Walsh and Agustin Martin. The series will be published on the major podcast platforms including Apple and Spotify

## EDCTP SUCCESSOR PROGRAMME

**PDP and Global Health Organisations' Position Paper:** The global health organisation DSW published a position paper on the EDCTP successor programme: [EDCTP3 Position paper - Call for](#)

[a dedicated R&I instrument for diseases of poverty under FP9: building on the success of EDCTP](#) The paper is supported by 15 global health and product development partnerships.

## RESOURCES

### Added value of EDCTP to Europe and Africa

EDCTP published two short updated brochures on the role of EDCTP in Europe and Africa

[The added value of EDCTP to Africa](#) brochure shows how EDCTP contributes to the process of achievement of the African Union; the creation and retention of a new generation of African scientists; the strengthening and harmonisation of enablers of high-quality and ethical clinical research; and the provision of safe medical interventions.

[The added value of EDCTP to Europe](#) brochure shows how EDCTP contributes to delivering on EU commitments to tackle global challenges; enabling greater scale and scope in the European Research Area; boosting scientific excellence and Europe's global competitiveness in research and innovation; and developing the evidence base for national and international policy-making.

### EDCTP online project portfolio

The vast majority of the [EDCTP2 project portfolio can now be explored online](#). The portfolio offers short summaries of EDCTP-funded projects with a focus on the challenge addressed and the impact aimed for.

The portfolio contains the Collaborative R&D projects 2014-2019 (RIA grants; [also published separately as PDF](#)) and the Fellowship studies 2014-2019 (TMA grants; [also published separately as PDF](#)).

The ethics and regulatory projects 2014-2019 will be added in a few months. The portfolio will be updated with future new grants.

### Public Portal of EDCTP2 grants

The [EDCTP public project portal](#) offers a more technical overview of key data on all EDCTP grants. The portal was 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.

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## Funding opportunities

EDCTP funding opportunities above or on [the EDCTP website](#)

### Other opportunities

#### TDR / Luxembourg | Sub-Regional Training Centre | Deadline 31/07 2020

Call for applications from universities in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali or Senegal.

With the support of the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs) of the Government of Luxembourg, TDR is pleased to announce a call for applications from universities in the Directorate's French-speaking partner countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Senegal). One university will be selected to participate in the TDR Postgraduate Training Scheme and serve as a sub-Regional Training Centre supported by TDR.

[More information](#)

#### Fogarty | HIV Research Training Programme for LMICs Institutions | Deadline: 20/08 2020

The overall goal of the Fogarty HIV Research Training Program is to strengthen the human capacity to contribute to the ability of institutions in low- and middle-income countries to conduct HIV-related research on the evolving HIV-related epidemics in their country and to compete independently for research funding.

[More information](#)

#### MRC UK | Clinical Research Training Fellowship Pre-Doctoral | Deadline: 02/09 2020

The fellowships support clinicians, including (but not limited to) medics, surgeons, dentists, clinical psychologists, public health specialty trainees, allied health professionals, nurses, midwives and veterinarians, to undertake a PhD or other higher research degree.



Applications are welcome across all areas of the MRC's remit to improve human health. Applications may range from basic studies with relevance to mechanisms of disease to translational and developmental clinical research and may address research questions from disease-specific mechanistic hypotheses through to research in priority areas such as population health, public health and molecular pathology as outlined in MRC's strategic plan.

Applications addressing global health issues resulting in primary benefit to those living in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), or those proposing interdisciplinary approaches are also welcomed.

[More information](#)

### **MRC/DFID African Research Leader scheme 2020 | Deadline: 08/09 2020**

The UK Medical Research Council and the UK Department for International Development announce a further call for proposals for the prestigious African Research Leader awards.

This MRC/ DFID jointly funded scheme aims to strengthen research leadership across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by attracting and retaining exceptionally talented individuals who will lead high quality programmes of research on key global health issues pertinent to SSA. The African Research Leader (ARL; PI) should be supported by an enthusiastic local research environment and by a strong linkage with a UK partner (i.e. the UK Co-Investigator; Co-I).

[More information](#)

### **Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in LMICs | Deadline: 24/09 2020**

Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in Low- and Middle-Income Countries supports exploratory and developmental research to study the development, validation, feasibility and effectiveness of innovative mobile health (mHealth) interventions or tools specifically suited for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The overall goals of the programme are to catalyse innovation through multidisciplinary research that addresses global health problems, develop an evidence base for the use of mHealth technology to improve clinical and public health outcomes, and strengthen mHealth research capacity in LMICs.

In the context of this program, mHealth includes the use of mobile and wireless devices (cell phones, tablets, etc.) to improve health outcomes, health care services and health research. The developed or adapted mHealth technology can include external hardware or software components for mobile or wireless devices. New or emerging technology, platforms, systems or analytics should be incorporated.

[More information](#)

### **United Kingdom | Global Effort on COVID-19 Health Research | Deadline 28/09 2020**

The Global Effort on COVID-19 (GECO) Health Research is a new cross UK government funding call aiming to support applied health research that will address COVID-19 knowledge gaps. The focus is on understanding the pandemic and mitigating its health impacts in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). The call prioritises are epidemiology, clinical management, infection control and health system responses. The call is supported by: the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) through the NIHR and the Medical Research Council (MRC), which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The funds form part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. Support will be available to address the impacts of COVID-19 in LMICs for research which has a direct and primary focus on improving health in LMIC countries.

This call will be run as a series of calls - i.e. three consecutive rounds of the call will take place on a rolling basis.

[More information](#)

### **DAAD | one-year research grants | Deadline 31/10 2020**

The [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\) offers one-year research grants to foreign doctoral candidates](#) and young academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out research and continue their education in Germany. There are funding programmes for various qualification phases and stages in a career. The grants also promote the exchange of experience and networking amongst colleagues. The primary aim of this programme is to promote research projects within the context of doctoral programmes.

### **DAAD | Research Grants - Doctoral Progr. in Germany | Deadline 31/10 2020**

DAAD research grants provide young foreign academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out research and continue their education in Germany. There are funding programmes for various qualification phases and stages in a career. The grants also promote the exchange of experience and networking amongst colleagues.

[The aim of this grant programme is to support doctoral projects in Germany.](#)

### **DAAD | Research Stays in Germany | Deadline 31/10 2020**

DAAD grants provide foreign academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out research and continue their education in Germany. There are funding programmes for various qualification phases and stages in a career. The aim of this particular programme is to support [short-term research stays](#) and thus promote the exchange of experience and networking amongst colleagues.

### **Fogarty | Emerging Global Leader Award LMICs | Deadline: 4/11 2020**

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

### **UKRI GCRF/Newton Fund | Agile Response call to address COVID-19**

Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in countries identified on the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients<sup>1</sup>.

This call is funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Newton Fund. These Funds address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and strengthen capability for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries, providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need. These Funds form part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment.

[More information](#)

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

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