

# **2019 Annual Report of the EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee**



# 1 Introduction

The General Assembly (GA) established the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to act as the principal advisory group to EDCTP. The SAC provides scientific and strategic advice to the GA and the Secretariat (SEC), overseeing the scientific integrity of the EDCTP programme.

The SAC comprised the following seventeen members during the 2019 reporting period:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Country of residence</b>	<b>Organisation name and country</b>	<b>Professional expertise</b>
1	<b>Prof. Richard Adegbola</b>	M	Nigeria	RAMBICON, Nigeria	Vaccines, microbial infections, diagnostics, capacity development, public health
2	<b>Prof. Christian Burri</b>	M	Switzerland	Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Switzerland	Clinical trials operations, resource-limited settings, neglected diseases, public health, research ethics
3	<b>Prof. Eric Delaporte</b>	M	France	University of Montpellier, France	HIV, tuberculosis, emerging diseases, neglected tropical diseases, clinical trials, implementation research
4	<b>Prof. Paulo Ferrinho</b>	M	Portugal	Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Universidade NOVA, Portugal	Tropical diseases and infectious diseases of poverty, epidemiology, implementation research, training and capacity building, institutional strengthening
5	<b>Prof. Harleen Grewal</b>	F	Norway	University of Bergen, Norway	Tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, clinical trials, capacity building, lower respiratory tract infections
6	<b>Prof. John Gyapong</b>	M	Ghana	University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana	Epidemiology, neglected tropical diseases, clinical trials, implementation research, research ethics
7	<b>Prof. Catherine Hankins</b>	F	Canada	Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development, The Netherlands	Biomedical HIV prevention, research ethics, emerging pathogens, knowledge translation, Good Participatory Practices (GPP)
8	<b>Prof. Collen Masimirembwa</b>	M	Zimbabwe	African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology, Zimbabwe	HIV, neglected tropical diseases, molecular and clinical pharmacology for drug safety and efficacy, drugs and diagnostics innovation, clinical trials,

					capacity building
9	<b>Prof. Martin Meremikwu</b>	M	Nigeria	Institute of Tropical Disease Research & Prevention, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (Nigeria)	Child health, clinical trials, systematic reviews, tropical infections, bioethics
10	<b>Prof. Keymanthri Moodley</b>	F	South Africa	Stellenbosch University	Bioethics, clinical trials, HIV research ethics, capacity development
11	<b>Dr Juliet Nabyonga-Orem</b>	F	Uganda	WHO (Zimbabwe)	Implementation research, knowledge translation, research capacity strengthening, partnerships and health policy dialogue, public health
12	<b>Prof. Michael Ramharter</b>	M	Germany	University of Hamburg / Bernard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany	Clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa, antimalarial drug development, neglected tropical diseases, post-registration safety programmes in Africa, capacity building
13	<b>Dr Jutta Reinhard-Rupp</b>	F	Switzerland	Merck Serono, Switzerland	Global health, child health, pharma industry, product development, research capacity building
14	<b>Prof. Peter Smith</b>	M	United Kingdom	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom	Epidemiology, field trials of diverse interventions, vaccines, malaria, emerging infections, clinical trials methodology; broad experience from other funding agencies and WHO
15	<b>Prof. Christine Stabell Benn</b>	F	Denmark	University of Southern Denmark, Denmark	Epidemiology, clinical trials, vaccines, infectious diseases, capacity building
16	<b>Prof. Marleen Temmerman</b>	F	Belgium	Aga Khan University, Kenya Ghent University, Belgium	HIV, microbicides, maternal and child health, implementation research, research capacity strengthening and training, sub-Saharan Africa

17	<b>Prof. Halidou Tinto</b>	M	Burkina Faso	Institute for Research in Health Sciences, Burkina Faso	Parasitology, malaria, clinical trials, epidemiology, ethics, regulatory affairs
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Specific responsibilities of the SAC include:

### **Strategic planning**

- Assist in the designing of the scientific and strategic framework of the EDCTP programme
- Advise on the development of the EDCTP operational plan and annual workplans for approval by the GA
- Advise on strategies to foster synergies and partnerships with stakeholders in the North and South
- Contribute to the preparation of scientific and strategic documents relevant to EDCTP, as required
- Provide scientific and strategic advice to the GA and the SEC to ensure the successful completion of on-going projects
- Identify strategic research needs and priorities for accelerating the development of new or improved clinical interventions, including the required training, networking, and capacity building to be undertaken to achieve these objectives
- Review the landscape of Poverty-Related and Neglected Diseases (PRNDs) to identify the role that EDCTP should play in partnership with other stakeholders to accelerate the development or improvement of interventions against these diseases
- Assess the state of global product development pathways and the critical path opportunities for future product development
- Provide advice on the launch and review of any calls for proposals and other programmes.

### **Reporting and Monitoring & Evaluation**

- Support and provide input to the monitoring and evaluation framework of the EDCTP programme
- Provide input to the monitoring of scientific outcomes and strategic impacts of EDCTP-funded grants and programs
- The SAC Chairperson shall prepare an annual report on the previous year's SAC activities and achievements for submission to the GA by 31 January of each year. The report shall include a summary detailing the strategic and scientific advice provided to the SEC, GA, and Board throughout the year.

### **Advocacy and representation at meetings and events**

- Participate in EDCTP working groups, stakeholder meetings, and the EDCTP Forum
- Advise and assist in the organisation of workshops, meetings, and other relevant events.

## 2 Activities for 2019

The SAC work plan for 2019 set out a number of planned activities with specific deliverables. This report summarises the deliverables that have been achieved during the year along with additional activities undertaken by the SAC.

Topic	Deliverable(s) as set out in 2019 work plan	Output
SAC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAC to meet in two face-to-face meetings in 2019 which will be minuted with clear scientific and strategic recommendations</li> <li>• The SAC Chair to report the outcomes of the SAC meetings to GA</li> <li>• The SAC Chair to report the outcomes of the GA meeting to the subsequent SAC meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, two face-to-face meetings were held and minuted. The first meeting was held in The Hague on 21 May 2019 prior to the joint GA/SAC meeting on 22 May 2019. The second meeting was held on 18-19 September 2019 in Liverpool, UK.</li> <li>• The SAC Chair attended the GA meeting on 22-23 May 2019, which followed the joint GA/SAC meeting, and provided an update to GA members on SAC perspectives and activities. She subsequently updated the SAC members in their meeting of 18-19 September on the outcome of the GA meeting in May 2019.</li> <li>• The SAC Chair attended the GA meeting on 13-14 November 2019 in The Hague and provided an update to the GA members on SAC perspectives and activities.</li> </ul>
Strategic planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise on implementation of the 2019 EDCTP work plan</li> <li>• Provide input into the 2020 work plan, including suggestions for calls for proposals and other programs</li> <li>• Update the Strategic Research Agenda</li> <li>• Recommend strategic activities that will require involvement of the EDCTP High-Representatives.</li> </ul>	<p>The SAC provided input and recommendations on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019 EDCTP work plan.</li> <li>• Action plans for corrective actions in response to the recommendations of the first EDCTP2 interim evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender issues in funding research: presentations were made to the GA by the SAC chair Prof. Catherine Hankins and the SAC ethics expert Prof. Keymanthri Moodley</li> <li>- Geographical complications in funding research</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2020 EDCTP work plan activities and potential future EDCTP2 activities beyond 2020 when EDCTP participating state (PS)-funded activities are required to be scaled up to bridge the funding gap in 2020-2024.</li> <li>• EDCTP2 successor program, the EU-Africa Global Health Partnership (GHP), potential future directions: SAC chair Prof.</li> </ul>

		<p>Catherine Hankins co-chaired a Working Group on Science with the EDCTP Board Chair Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah that drafted a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), submitting it on October 21 to the EC's DG <i>Research &amp; Innovation – Combatting diseases</i>, to inform the preparation of a proposal for the EU-Africa GHP that will be submitted to the Council and the European Parliament for legislative procedures early in 2020. Peter Smith was a member of the WG on Science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDCTP Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for 2020.</li> </ul>
Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of advice and recommendations to the EDCTP Secretariat on an ad hoc basis</li> <li>• Contribute to the Monitoring and Evaluation of key EDCTP projects involving large consortia with significant investments</li> <li>• Input on EDCTP programme indicators</li> <li>• Reports from site visits to major EDCTP trial sites (if applicable).</li> </ul>	<p>The SAC Working Groups for the SRA assumed a consultancy role to advise the SEC on a permanent basis.</p> <p>The SAC provided input and recommendations on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to maximize impact of EDCTP investments across funding schemes and how to increase participation of under-represented countries and of women scientists in research</li> <li>• How to structure EDCTP's ethics and regulatory funding schemes to add value</li> <li>• When it was decided to pause the 'EDCTP Clinical Research &amp; Product Development Fellowships' and the 'EDCTP-AREF Preparatory Fellowships' in 2020 in order to evaluate their outputs and impact and subsequently re-launch a simplified and more effective funding scheme in 2021, a SAC 'Industry and Preparatory Fellowship' working group was formed. It evaluated whether the schemes could be re-formulated, simplified, and made more effective.</li> </ul>
Advocacy and representation at meetings and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in planning any high-level EDCTP events such as the Tenth EDCTP Forum scheduled to take place in Q4 of 2020</li> <li>• Actively advocate on behalf of EDCTP</li> <li>• Attend meetings as required</li> </ul>	<p>The SAC provided input and recommendations on the following: 2020 EDCTP Forum activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement in scientific programme planning including suggestions for topics and plenary speakers.</li> <li>• The SAC Chair was named co-chair of the EDCTP Forum Committee for 2020 and commenced scientific programme planning activities.</li> </ul>

		<p>Advocacy and meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr John Reeder from WHO H/Q and Dr Joseph Okeibunor from WHO-AFRO were appointed as Observers to the SAC, to strengthen collaboration with WHO.</li><li>• Dr Juliet Nabyonga was involved in the planning and implementation of the EDCTP-WHO collaboration on strengthening national health research systems (NHRS).</li><li>• Prof. Paulo Ferrinho represented SAC in preparation for the EDCTP activity 'Enhancing networking among European and African scientists to close regional and gender disparities in EDCTP funded health research capacity activities in sub-Saharan Africa'. He attended the EDCTP-Africa CDC networking meeting on 19-20 November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.</li><li>• SAC members were interviewed by external consultants commissioned by EDCTP, as part of both Sida funding and EDCTP regional networks of excellence mid-term evaluations.</li><li>• Prof. Peter Smith represented EDCTP at the HIV vaccine R&amp;D Stakeholders' meeting organized by the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise on 26 October 2019, ahead of the International Vaccine Society Annual Congress in Ghent, Belgium. He also represented EDCTP on the PANACEA Oversight Group.</li></ul>
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## **2.1 New SAC membership for 2019-2021**

Seven SAC membership appointments terminated on 31 December 2018. In December 2018 the EDCTP Board approved seven new members and five reserve members to join the SAC. This decision was presented to the General Assembly (GA) for their endorsement. On 21 January 2019 the GA approved the appointment of the recommended new members and reserve members of SAC, to serve effective from January 2019.

The following SAC members were appointed in January 2019:

- Prof. Richard Adegbola (RAMBICON, Nigeria)
- Prof. Christine Benn (Statens Serum Institut, Denmark)
- Prof. Eric Delaporte (Université de Montpellier/IRD, France)
- Prof. Paulo Ferrinho (Nova University – Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Portugal)
- Prof. Harleen Grewal (University of Bergen and Haukeland University hospital, Norway)
- Prof. Collen Masimirembwa (African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology, Zimbabwe)
- Prof. Michael Ramharter (Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany)

## **2.2 SAC meetings**

SAC members attended two official meetings in 2019. The first meeting was held in The Hague, The Netherlands on 21 May 2019 in conjunction with the Joint GA/SAC meeting of 22 May 2019. The second was held on 18-19 September 2019 in Liverpool, UK. Observers from the European Commission (EC), the WHO Regional Office of Africa (WHO-AFRO), and WHO Geneva were also in attendance.

The SAC Chair attended the GA meetings held in May and November 2019 at which she provided an update to GA members on SAC activities. During the September SAC meeting, the Chair updated SAC members on the outcomes of the May GA meeting.

## **2.3 Strategic planning**

During both SAC meetings, members were updated with the progress of the 2019 EDCTP work plan, including the analysis of calls for proposals launched to date.

SAC provided input into the draft 2020 EDCTP work plan, taking into consideration that 2020 would be the last year in EDCTP2 for launching 4-year research and innovation actions (RIA) and senior fellowships. The remaining years of EDCTP2 would be devoted to short fellowships and promising activities such as proof-of-concept studies and knowledge translation activities to inform strategic planning for the EU-Africa GHP draft plan.

SAC also provided an update to the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). This document is updated annually and provides the basis for the SEC to propose the annual work programme of the following year to the General Assembly for approval. The SRA outlines the key research and capacity gaps for diseases within the EDCTP scope and ranks them in terms of priorities.

## **2.4 Monitoring & Evaluation**

The SAC tracked progress by the SEC in implementing the framework on results-based monitoring and evaluation that had been recommended by the interim evaluation of the EDCTP2 program.

## **2.5 Advocacy and representation at meetings and events**

- SAC members provided the SEC feedback on the programme of the Tenth EDCTP Forum, which is scheduled to take place in Q4 of 2020. The SAC Chair was named co-chair of the EDCTP Forum Committee for 2020.
- Dr John Reeder from WHO H/Q and Dr Joseph Okeibunor from WHO-AFRO were appointed as Observers to the SAC, to strengthen collaboration with WHO.



- Dr Juliet Nabyonga was involved in the planning and implementation of the EDCTP-WHO collaboration on strengthening national health research systems (NHRS).
- Prof. Paulo Ferrinho represented SAC in preparation for the EDCTP activity 'Enhancing networking among European and African scientists to close regional and gender disparities in EDCTP funded health research capacity activities in sub-Saharan Africa'. He attended the EDCTP-Africa CDC networking meeting on 19-20 November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- SAC members were interviewed by external consultants commissioned by EDCTP, as part of both Sida funding and EDCTP regional networks of excellence mid-term evaluations.
- Prof. Peter Smith represented EDCTP at the HIV vaccine R&D Stakeholders' meeting organized by the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise on 26 October 2019, ahead of the International Vaccine Society Annual Congress in Ghent, Belgium. He also represented EDCTP on the PANACEA Oversight Group.