



EDCTP

EDCTP Update

July 2020

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Highlights

- [**Roadmap to strengthen National Health Research Systems**](#)
- [**Last 2020 Calls for proposals closing in August**](#)
- [**Bourema Kouriba - COVID-19 diagnosis in Mali**](#)

Contents

- [**Roadmap to strengthen National Health Research Systems**](#)
- [**EDCTP & Africa CDC: report on disparities in research funding**](#)
- [**Effectiveness of Sida's contributions to EDCTP evaluated**](#)
- [**Last 2020 Calls for proposals open - Deadlines on 05 and 13 August**](#)
- [**Recently signed grants**](#)
- [**Recent events**](#)
- [**Project news**](#)
- [**EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID-19**](#)
- [**EDCTP Resources and news**](#)
- [**Funding opportunities**](#)

Roadmap to strengthen national health research systems in Africa

The EDCTP-WHO AFRO collaborative initiative for the development and strengthening of National Health Research Systems (NHRS) in the EDCTP participating states in Africa was launched in Accra, Ghana, in July 2018. The improved NHRS barometer tool developed in the Accra meeting was used to conduct NHRS surveys in 17 African EDCTP member countries in October 2018.

In October 2019, WHO-AFRO and the Republic of Congo hosted a follow-up NHRS meeting in Brazzaville, Congo to discuss the 2018 survey results. A NHRS roadmap to address the gaps and challenges highlighted by the 2018 NHRS survey results was agreed upon.

The proposed roadmap for 2020 is presented in this report as a list of targeted activities by strategic partners to accelerate the improvement in NHRS barometer scores before the 2020 NHRS surveys in the EDCTP participating states. The 2020 NHRS surveys will be conducted using an online form.

[Go to the report](#)



EDCTP
The power of sharing science

Consultative meeting for the development of a roadmap to further strengthen the National Health Research Systems (NHRS) in Africa

17-18 October 2019 | Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

[Contents](#) >

Report



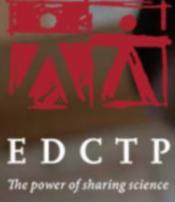
[Back to top](#)

EDCTP & Africa CDC: Report on disparities in research funding

EDCTP and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) published a report on gender-related and regional disparities in research and research capacity development. In collaboration with Africa CDC, EDCTP hosted a workshop on this topic 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 of the participants.

[Go to the report](#)



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AFRICA CDC
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
Safeguarding Africa's Health



EDCTP-Africa CDC Workshop
Collaborating to improve gender-related and regional disparities in research funding

19-20 November 2019, Africa Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa

Effectiveness of Sida's contributions to EDCTP evaluated

In 2019, EDCTP commissioned an evaluation of the financial contributions of the Swedish Development Agency (Sida) to the EDCTP budget ('common pot'). The evaluation was conducted by independent experts. Recommendations from the approved report will inform EDCTP's current and future work.

The evaluation of Sida's support has been designed and carried out in line with common OECD DAC evaluation standards and principles endorsed by funders such as Sida and the EU. The expert panel comprised global health and international development professionals with extensive experience in carrying out evaluations of donor-funded research and research capacity development. Key deliverables of the evaluation included an inception report, a draft and a final report.

A reference group coordinated by EDCTP was attached to this evaluation to review draft deliverables and provide stakeholder feedback. The reference group consisted of representatives from EDCTP and Sida, with two meetings taking place in 2019, at the start of the evaluation and a feedback session on the draft final report.

The report has been published on the EDCTP website: [Independent evaluation of Sida's support to projects in the scope of the EDCTP2 programme](#)

2020 Calls for proposals open - Deadlines in July and August

Currently, the following EDCTP 2020 Calls for proposals are open with deadlines for application August 2020

[**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.

PLEASE NOTE: [the slides of the webinar on this call are available online](#) (PDF).

[**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.

[Back to top](#)

Recently signed grants

Mobilisation of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa - 2020

- **HALT COVID-19** | Coordinator: Professor Ayesha Kharsany | Natural history and laboratory tests for COVID-19 in South Africa

EDCTP Senior Fellowships - 2018

- **HEPMAL** | Fellow: Dr Kwadwo Asamoah Kusi | Clinical and immunopathological consequences of chronic HBV and Plasmodium falciparum co-infections

EDCTP Career Development Fellowships - 2019

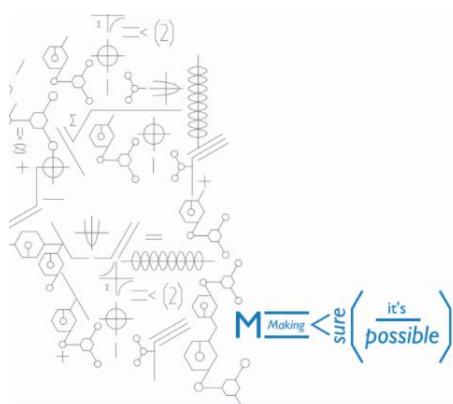
- **SiDIC** | Fellow: Dr Olumide Ajibola | Role of schistosomiasis in dysbiosis, inflammation and bacterial translocation in children from Nigeria
- **ULTRAPYRAPREG** | Fellow: Dr Vivi Maketa | Comparison of intermittent screening (using ultrasensitive malaria rapid diagnostic test) and treatment (using a newly registered antimalarial pyronaridine-artesunate - Pyramax®) to standard intermittent preventive treatment with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine for the prevention of malaria in pregnant women living in endemic areas.

[Back to top](#)

Recent events

South Africa | National Summit on S&I - response to COVID-19 | 31/07 2020

On 31 July 2020, South Africa organised a national online conference on science and innovation with national and international experts on the theme of 'Harnessing science, technology and innovation in response to COVID-19: A national and international effort'.



Programme

National COVID-19 Conference 31 July 2020

**Harnessing science, technology and innovation in response to COVID-19:
A national and international effort**

09:00 **Opening session**

Session Director: Dr Phil Mjwara, Director-General: Science and Innovation

The high-level event featured several South African ministers, science leaders and representatives of international entities such as WHO, African Union and the European Union (Ms Maria-Cristina Russo, Head of the European Commission's international cooperation portfolio for research and innovation). Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, participated in the panel presentations.

[Download the programme.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Project news

AFREENET | Second newsletter (English and French) | July 2020

The EDCTP-funded Africa Ethics Excellence Network (AFREENET) published its second newsletter: [English version](#) and [French version](#)

DREIN | Project featured in newsletter of CBR Nigeria | July 2020

The EDCTP-funded ethics project DREIN (Deepening research ethics in Nigeria) is featured in the [Newsletter \(Vol. 14, nr 1, 2020\)](#) (PDF) of the [Nigerian Centre for Bioethics and Research](#) (CBR). DREIN is coordinated by Prof. Clement Adebamowo (CBR Ibadan, Nigeria)

HATUA-KENYA | Ethics event on patient data | 06/08 2020

The EDCTP-funded project [HATUA-KENYA](#) (Enabling compliance and building capacity and community for clinical research in Kenya), coordinated by Prof. E.A. Bukusi (KEMRI, Kenya), is involved in an activity of the [Bioethics Society of Kenya](#) that organises an 'Ethics Café' (webinar) on the use of patient data in pandemics on 06 August 2020.

[Download flyer](#)

The Bioethics Society of Kenya Presents

MASENO UNIVERSITY **BIOETHICS CAFÉ**

TOPIC:

ETHICS AROUND PANDEMICS AND
EPIDEMICS AND THE MORAL ISSUES
AROUND USE OF PATIENTS' CLINICAL DATA

SPEAKERS



Prof. Stephen Muhudhia-
The Nairobi Hospital



Dr. John Weru-
Aga Khan University Hospital
MODERATOR



Prof. Karori Mbugua-
The University of Nairobi

TIME:

9.30 am to 12noon

ZOOM DETAILS:

Meeting ID: 872 7301 1156
Passcode: 162290

NB: Registration required

DATE:

Thursday
6th August 2020



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US ON

bsk@rctp.or.ke / bioethicskenya@gmail.com
Mobile +254718703943
www.bioethicskenya.org

Africlinique | webinar Regulatory aspects of research in epidemics | 05-06/08 2020

Africlinique is an EDCTP-funded European-African network for strengthening the regulatory capacity for clinical research and pharmacovigilance in Central Africa: implementation of harmonised procedures, efficient guidelines and training programmes. It is coordinated By Prof. Francine Ntoumi of the Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Médicale (FCRM), Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, with partners from Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, and the United Kingdom. The network organises a webinar on the regulatory conditions for research (preparation) during epidemics.

THEME :

Conditions de la recherche conduite en période de préparation ou de réponse à des épidémies de maladies infectieuses.

Dr Odile Ouwe Missi Oukem
Comité d'éthique institutionnel
de la FCRM,
Congo

Pr Felicien Munday
Comité National
d'éthique de la Santé,
RDC

Dr Narcisse P. Komas
Comité Scientifique de Validation
des Protocoles et Résultats de
Recherche en Santé (CSVPRS),
République Centrafricaine

Dr Pierre Blaise Matsiengui
Comité National
d'Ethique,
Gabon

⌚ 05 - 06 Août 2020

🕒 9 h 00 GMT (+1)



CANTAM is part EDCTP2 Programme
supported by European Union



AVAREF



(1) MRSIT : Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation Technologique

(2) MSPFID : Ministère de la Santé, de la Population, de la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Intégration, de la Femme au développement

CANTAM is the [EDCTP-funded Central Africa Network on Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and Malaria](#), coordinated by Prof. Francine Ntoumi of the Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Médicale (FCRM), Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo.

IMPPACT | publication on MiP | 30/07 2020

Authors from the IMPPACT team contributed to a study that followed up on WHO's recommendation to study alternative strategies involving routine screening for Malaria in pregnancy (MiP). These include an evaluation whether more sensitive rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) could make intermittent screening and treatment in pregnancy (ISTp) a viable alternative and whether hybrid strategies, involving adding RDT-based screening to existing intermittent preventative therapy in pregnancy regimens, provide additional benefit.

Walker, P.G.T., Cairns, M., Slater, H. et al. [Modelling the incremental benefit of introducing malaria screening strategies to antenatal care in Africa](#). Nat Commun11, 3799 (2020).

The EDCTP-funded IMPPACT (Maximising the public health impact of interventions to control malaria in pregnancy through the translation of EDCTP-funded evidence-based global policies to country-level policies and plans) is coordinated by Dr Jenny Hill of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom), with partners from The Gambia, Malawi, Mali and the United Kingdom. (Grant identifier: CSA-2014-276). [Project web page](#)

StatinTB | Start of recruitment | July 2020

The EDCTP-funded study StatinTB was funded under the 2017 Call for proposals 'Treatment innovations for poverty-related diseases'.

The study is named '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.'

The project is coordinated by Dr Reto Guler of the University of Cape Town, South Africa, with partners from Germany, Namibia, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. The team has now started recruitment of volunteers.

Read the news item [COVID-19: How StatinTB revised its recruitment process and screened its first patients amid the pandemic](#)

[Back to top](#)

EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID-19

Collen Masimirembwa - AiBST response and contribution in Zimbabwe

The African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AiBST) is a private organisation located at the Wilkins Infectious Disease Hospital in Zimbabwe. It is a centre of excellence in drugs and diagnostics research & innovation in the field of genomic medicine. AiBST is one of the SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratories in the fight against COVID-19, designated by the government of Zimbabwe.

Dr Justen Manasa, a medical virologist at AiBST, leads a team of qualified volunteers assembled from different sectors. It comprises medical laboratory scientists (Takudzwa Marembo, Frank Chinowaita, Prosper Chimbunde, Donald Vhanda, Solomon Mukwenha and Lovemore Hlamalo) and medical laboratory technicians (Alice Pedzisai, Frank Mangongo and Tinashe Mandisvodza). The volunteers came from the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the Harare City Council and private sector laboratories.

The team was created in response to the rapidly increasing demand for testing which the National Microbiology Reference Laboratory could not cope with alone. Currently, the AiBST laboratory is receiving samples from the Wilkins hospital - one of the two infectious diseases hospitals in Harare, the Rapid Response Teams serving Harare, quarantine facilities in Harare, hospitals and other centres.

Using 8 hour shifts, the lab has a capacity to test up to 200 samples per day, with a turnaround time within 72 hours. Apart from testing, the AiBST team has been providing technical support to the National Coordinating team for the laboratory response to COVID-19.



Laboratory Scientists at work at AiBST laboratories.

Prof. Masimirembwa, the President and Chief Scientific Officer of AiBST : "In times of national disasters such as this COVID-19 pandemic, it is both a responsibility and an opportunity for science, scientists and research institutions like AiBST to rise to the challenge in the service of humanity. I highly commend Dr Justen Manasa's leadership and the selfless commitment of the young scientists who have volunteered their expertise and time to fight the COVID-19 pandemic through diagnostics testing services".

The AiBST infrastructure and technical capacity has been established through the support of many organisations including the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science Technology, Innovation Development (MHTESTID), EDCTP, and many others. Its successful contribution to the pandemic response in Zimbabwe, highlights the importance of capacity development.

Bourema Kouriba - COVID-19 diagnosis in Mali

Professor Bourema Kouriba (a former EDCTP1 senior Fellow) is a pharmacist, immunologist, and the Director General of the Charles Mérieux Centre for Infectiology (CMCI) in Bamako, Mali. He leads a team responsible for diagnostics of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and teaches immunology at the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bamako.

Since the Ebola epidemic in 2014, the institute developed its diagnostics capabilities with the support of the Institute of Microbiology of the German Army. The German government donated a mobile laboratory to the Malian Ministry of Health under the responsibility of CMCI, which participates with the National Institute of Public Health in epidemiological surveillance and the response to epidemics.

Professor Kouriba: "On the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, CMCI and three other centres were appointed by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to carry out the diagnostic side. Right now, we are in Timbuktu, a town in the north at 900 km from the capital Bamako. Here, our mobile laboratory is deployed to carry out the COVID19 molecular diagnostic tests. The day begins with the preparation of bleach solutions. Then we organise the team in the different workstations: one person at the reception, two people in the glove box, one person at the RNA extraction and the preparation of the master mix and another at the amplification."



Inactivation of samples

"I take care of entering data and editing the results personally. As soon as the samples are received, their number is counted and communicated to the entire team. Once received, samples are conditioned in a container and transferred to the glove box team whose role is to inactivate these samples. This inactivation is carried out under the control of a witness who notes on the patient form all the steps performed by the operator. After inactivation, the samples are removed from the glove box for RNA extraction. At the same time, one person responsible for preparing the master mix prepares the necessary quantity of reagent. The last step is the real-time PCR. After two hours the results are analysed, interpreted, entered into the database and printed for the doctor. At the end of the day, the glove compartment and the equipment are cleaned with concentrated bleach."

There are several serious challenges:

1. The situation of consumables used for PCR, in particular for extraction kits. With the borders closed, the supply of reagents and consumables in the country is a very big challenge.
2. We receive most of our reagents through donors as the government cannot afford to buy them. Each donor buys reagents, which poses a problem for having a uniform algorithm to interpret the results.
3. Non-compliance with distancing and prevention measures which increases the number of contact cases, hence the number of samples to be tested per day. The laboratory works at least 10 hours a day to meet demand.

"We are in an unprecedented pandemic against which we are actually learning and responding at the same time. Timbuktu is in the north in an insecure area of Mali and the temperature fluctuates between 42 and 46 degrees Celsius. But it is our population and we must guarantee equity in access to care. Everyone should

take this pandemic seriously and show solidarity with countries with limited resources because SARS-COV-2 does not know borders and does not differentiate between people. Countries must be united in the fight against COVID-19."

Jonny Peter - on the front line of COVID-19 in South Africa

Dr Jonny Peter is an EDCTP Senior Fellow conducting a study on 'Immune-mediated adverse drug reactions in African TB HIV endemic settings' but is currently very much on the front line of COVID-19 as Cape Town is the epicentre of the epidemic in South Africa. "Our hospital is overflowing with patients and I am leading a clinical team running a 28-bed COVID19 medical ward. Before, I was involved in setting up and running the hospital testing centre for COVID19.

Dr Peter: "On the research front, several of my nurses and students are involved in the collection and storage of COVID19 patient samples as part of our Departmental registry and biorepository. We have received funding to study the renin-angiotensin system and ACE2 biology and genomics in our South African population. This is closely related to an existing study of my unit on the genomics of ACE-inhibitor-associated angioedema in black African populations. We will also apply the immunogenomics approaches we are using in my EDCTP fellowship study of T-cell-mediated drug hypersensitivity, to look for associations between HLA, KIR and ERAP genes and COVID19 disease susceptibility and outcomes."

Barbara Castelnovo - COVID-19 myths

Dr Castelnovo holds an EDCTP-GSK Senior Fellowship and conducts the study 'Diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases and geriatric syndromes in the HIV ageing population in sub-Saharan Africa' (Grant identifier: TMA2017GSF-1936). Moreover, as part of the COVID-19 response, she conducts a study on 'Knowledge, Myths on Covid-19 and the perception of continuity of care among HIV-infected patients on antiretroviral treatment'. In this study, patients who have been in long-term care are interviewed by a health worker. The tool was developed using the WHO web pages on [Knowledge and Myths about Covid-19](#) and taking into consideration the current guidelines and lock-down measures in Uganda.

Pauline Byakika - COVID-19 response in Uganda

Dr Pauline Byakika-Kibwika is an EDCTP Senior Fellow who conducts the study 'Optimising malaria treatment for HIV-malaria co-infected individuals by addressing drug interactions between artemisinin-based combination therapies and anti-retroviral drugs' (Grant identifier: TMA2017SF-1943). Currently she is also heavily involved in the COVID-19 response in Uganda. She was appointed as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Health. She is involved in several deliverables with the following terms of reference:

1. To appraise the current COVID-19 country response plan and advise on its improvement;
2. To review and evaluate new information on COVID-19 and advise the Ministry of Health on how it could be applied to Uganda's response plan;
3. To support the Ministry of Health in developing various protocols critical for the COVID-19 intervention
4. To participate in the country COVID-19 response actions including but not limited to scientific research, engagement and community engagement on various media such as television, radio, newspaper etc
5. Clinical Case management and advisory

EDCTP Alumni Network Platform

Check out the [Alumni Network website](#).

[Back to top](#)

EDCTP Resources and news

EDCTP RESOURCES

- Report: [Consultative meeting for the development of a roadmap to further strengthen the National Health Research Systems \(NHRs\) in Africa](#)
- Policy document: [EDCTP Strategic Research Agenda - version 4 - July 2020](#)
- Guidance material: [Online Information session on the Career Development Fellowship call](#) (slides; PDF)
- Report: [EDCTP and Africa CDC workshop: Collaborating to improve gender-related and regional disparities in research funding](#)

- Report: [Independent evaluation of Sida's support to projects in the scope of the EDCTP2 programme](#)

EDCTP SUCCESSOR PROGRAMME

European Commission: European Partnership for EU-Africa Global Health

The partnership aims to deliver new solutions reducing the burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and strengthen research capacities for preparedness and response against re-emerging infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and globally.

Aims by 2030

- license at least 2 new health technologies tackling infectious diseases
- have supported at least 100 research institutes in 30 countries for effective and rapid research response to develop diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against re-emerging epidemics

[Draft outline of partnership proposal](#) (May 2019, update pending)

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

EU Public-Public Partnerships

[ERA-LEARN](#) published its [Annual Report on Public-Public Partnerships 2019](#)

which mentions EDCTP in this context: "In 2019, 57 joint calls closed, across all networks. ... ERA-NET Cofund and Article 185 networks continue to be most prominent in terms of the number of calls being implemented. Note, however, that one specific network, EDCTP, accounts for half of the Article 185 calls closing in 2019."

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.

[Back to top](#)

Funding opportunities

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

Other opportunities

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 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](#)

6TH Call for postdoctoral fellowships Science by women | Deadline 30/09 2020

The [Women for Africa Foundation](#) is launching the [6th call for fellowships of the program Science by Women](#), aimed at selecting 19 senior African women scientists to be integrated in 19 top research Spanish centres in the following areas: health and biomedicine, agriculture and food security, water, energy and climatic change.

Considering the exceptional challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, some of the fellowships are focused on the research and innovation carried out by African women scientists from the diverse and interdisciplinary approaches. So far 57 fellows have enjoyed six-month research stays which have contributed to enhance their leadership in scientific research and technology transfer.

The program's ultimate goal is to enable African women researchers to play a leading role in the transition of Africa to a knowledge-based and innovation-led economy. The Women for Africa Foundation is a private entity aimed at contributing to the sustainable development of Africa through the drive of its women.

The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) - PhD fellowships | Deadline 1/10/2020

The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) awards PhD fellowships of two to three years to outstanding junior scientists worldwide who wish to pursue an ambitious PhD project in basic biomedical research in an internationally leading laboratory.

The peer-review selection process evaluates the applicant's achievements, as well as the scientific quality of the project and host laboratory. The process is highly competitive, with less than 10% of applicants receiving a fellowship.

[More information](#)

Fogarty International Centre | Global Infectious Disease Research Training | Deadline 28/10 2020

The [Global Infectious Disease \(GID\) research training program](#) addresses research training needs related to infectious diseases that are predominantly endemic in or impact upon people living in developing countries. The training programs include a variety of research training options to match the needs of the developing country institution. Program focus on a major endemic or life-threatening emerging infectious disease, neglected tropical disease, infections that frequently occur as a co-infection in HIV infected individuals, or infections associated with noncommunicable disease conditions of public health importance in LMICs. The ultimate goal is to build a critical mass of researchers and support staff to conduct independent infectious disease research in developing country institutions.

[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 recipients1.

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](#)

Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa)

The NIH Common Fund's Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa) program will leverage existing data and technologies to develop solutions to the continent's most pressing clinical and public health problems through a robust ecosystem of new partners from academic, government, and private sectors. The DS-I Africa program will invest \$58 million over five years to support: data science and innovation research hubs focused on key health problems; data science training programs; research projects that examine ethical, legal and social implications of data science research in Africa; and development of an open data science platform and coordinating centre. These funding opportunities will be open to African academic and other non-profit organisations in partnership with private sector, government, NGO, and other research partners (from Africa or other parts of the world). The data science training program funding opportunity will also be open to U.S. applicants in strong partnership with African institutions.

[Explore the programme](#) and see below

DS-I Africa Virtual Symposium Platform | Free access | July-November 2020

As a part of the launch of this new program, NIH is hosting an online-only, Virtual Symposium Platform in the summer of 2020 that is free, open to anyone interested, and interactive.

This platform will include information about the funding opportunity announcements and engage participants in robust scientific sessions that examine the state of data science in Africa. It will also include tools that facilitate networking across disciplines, sectors, and geographies.

The Virtual Symposium Platform will be open from July through November 2020 with several online events and networking tools available to participants during that time frame, such as: keynote videos from leaders in health and data science; interactive panel discussions about the funding opportunities and other relevant topics; and a networking platform that allows participants to meet and interact with each other.

[More information](#)

[Back to top](#)

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