

EDCTP Update

November 2021



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Tenth EDCTP Forum: videos and summaries



It's been over a month since our Tenth EDCTP Forum took place. The knowledge and insights that were exchanged at the Forum are invaluable, and we are working to keep them accessible in the long-term.

Recordings of selected sessions will soon be available through [EDCTP's YouTube channel](#). Please make sure to visit the [Forum blog](#) and explore the written reports and videos. We also invite you to [read the Forum report in our latest eMagazine](#). To already get a glimpse of what's in store for the future of EDCTP, you can watch the video featured in the article below.

Featured video: EDCTP – A Blueprint for International Cooperation in Global Health?



Watch the presentation by Ms Andrea Spellberg (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Germany) at the Tenth EDCTP Forum: **'EDCTP – A Blueprint for International Cooperation in Global Health?'** which summarises the preparations for the Global Health EDCTP3 programme. Ms Spellberg is the EDCTP Association General Assembly representative for Germany and the Chair of the EDCTP Association Working Group focusing on the practical next steps to operationalise EDCTP3.

Legal basis for Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking adopted



On 19 November, the European Commission announced the adoption of 10 European Partnerships set up between the European Union, Member States and/or the industry, including the Global Health EDCTP3 Partnership. The EU will provide nearly €10 billion of funding that the partnerships will match with at least an equivalent amount of investment. [Read more »](#)

EDCTP eMagazine 2021



The fourth issue of the [EDCTP eMagazine \(November 2021\)](#) is now available online presenting the following articles:

- [The Tenth EDCTP Forum](#)
- [New horizons for malaria vaccines](#) (including an interview with MMVC grantees)
- [Robust ethics and regulatory review of clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa](#)
- [Filling the gap in funding for research on cryptococcal meningitis with HIV](#)

Completion of Phase III trial paediatric schistosomiasis drug arpraziquantel



The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium, a public-private partnership dedicated to the development of arpraziquantel, a new paediatric medication to treat schistosomiasis in

preschool-aged children, announced the completion of its pivotal Phase III trial in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya. The results of the trial, co-funded by the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund and EDCTP, confirm a favourable efficacy and safety profile for arpraziquantel in children 3 months to 6 years of age, affected by schistosomiasis. This allows the programme to progress towards regulatory file submission to the European Medicines Agency (EMA). [Read more »](#)

EDCTP at SFSA21



PARALLEL SESSION

2 December 2021 | 13:30-15:00 SAST

Advancing a collaborative African agenda for global health sciences: Africa - EU global health partnerships

This session organised by EDCTP aims to advance the broader discussion on advancing the African agenda for partnerships for global health sciences.

Registration is free: <https://bit.ly/3o4FpNr>



Supported by the
European Union

EDCTP is organising a parallel session at the [Seventh Annual Science Forum South Africa \(SFSA21\)](#): **Advancing a collaborative African agenda for global health sciences: Africa – EU global health partnerships**. The session will take place on 2 December from 13:30-15:00 (SAST) and it aims to advance the broader discussion on advancing the African agenda for partnerships for global health sciences. Registration is free. [Read more »](#)

Project news

First BCA-WA-ETHICS II advisory board meeting



On 5 November 2021, BCA-WA-ETHICS II (Building the capacities of West Africa in research ethics) held its first advisory board meeting, which was attended by 13 participants from the project Consortium and Advisory Board. The attendees represented 7 different countries: Senegal, Benin, Ivory Coast, Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Egypt, and Spain. The participants discussed the actual state of the project's activities as well as its next steps. The highlights of the discussion are available (in French) on the [BCA-WA-ETHICS II project website](#).

SCEPRESSA kick-off meeting



On 27 October 2021, the kick-off meeting for the SCEPRESSA project (Strengthening Capacity for Epidemics Preparedness and Response in sub-Saharan Africa) took place. The project will provide postgraduate training scholarships to 15 public health professionals drawn from sub-Saharan African countries. They will undertake a competency-based Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and are part of a total of 150 EDCTP & Africa CDC-supported 'EPI-Biostat Fellows' who will be trained in epidemiology and biostatistics. [Read the full report.](#)

TriageTB Annual Meeting



On 15 and 16 November 2021, the TriageTB consortium held its virtual year 2 annual meeting. This year, the meeting was held together with TriageTB's sister project, the NIH-funded ENDxTB initiative. The two projects form one large study with the aim of advancing research into cost-effective, novel, and improved diagnostic strategies for TB. The setup allows for collaboration across multiple clinical sites in Africa (South Africa, The Gambia, Uganda) and Southeast Asia (Vietnam) and laboratories in the US and Europe.

During the meeting, the TriageTB consortium discussed progress made over the past year. The group has managed to successfully advance the project despite the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Tremendous efforts were put into harmonisation of protocols across sites, and clinical partners were able to pick up enrolment quickly and efficiently after the lockdowns.

The meeting included a session of the Scientific Advisory Board. Its members provided valuable feedback on the status of the project, including a concise SWOT analysis and targeted recommendations. Capacity development was also spotlighted at the meeting, with an interactive assessment of the ongoing capacity development activities and a joint brainstorming for ways to improve the support system, especially in the light of a continued lack of face-to-face meetings. For the upcoming months, the consortium feels confident that it can continue to move the clinical work forward and produce valuable results.

Early September, the consortium began recruiting for phase II of the study in South Africa and The Gambia. [Read the full article.](#)

EACCR3 launch event

The EACCR3 project was launched on 10 November 2021 by The Rt. Hon. Minister of East African Affairs Rebecca Kadaga. EACCR is an Eastern African-led [Regional Network of Excellence](#) first established in 2009. It



comprises of 23 regional partners from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, and 5 Northern partners from Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. EDCTP project officer Ms. Michelle Nderu participated in the meeting and encouraged the project to ensure efficiency and effectiveness when implementing activities.

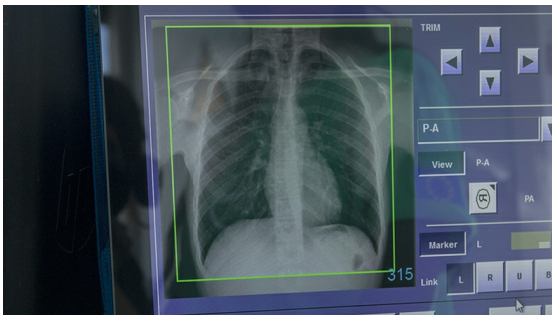
StatinTB year 3 progress meeting



The StatinTB consortium held its year 3 progress meeting virtually on 11 November 2021. Despite significant challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the StatinTB clinical study has advanced tremendously over the last year. [Read the full report on the StatinTB website.](#)

The StatinTB team also hosted an opening ceremony for the General Medicine & Global Health (GMGH) Research Center on World Heart Day 2021. [Read the full article.](#)

PediCAP article on World Pneumonia Day



Fondazione Penta, a global independent scientific network dedicated to child health, published an article on the occasion of World Pneumonia day (12 November 2021) on the EDCTP-funded PediCAP project. PediCAP is a 5-year research project focused on antibiotic therapy of severe and very severe childhood community acquired pneumonia. [Read the full article.](#)

Publications

- *BMC Infect Dis.*: [Performance of rapid rk39 tests for the diagnosis of visceral leishmaniasis in Ethiopia: a systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) Hagos, D.G., Schallig, H.D.F.H., Kiros, Y.K. et al.
 - *Times Higher Education*: [Creating equitable research partnerships across continents.](#) Shabbar Jaffar
 - *Front. Immunol.*: [Targeting Molecular Inflammatory Pathways in Granuloma as Host-Directed Therapies for Tuberculosis.](#) Reto Guler, Mumin Ozturk, Solima Sabeel, Bongani Motaung, Suraj P. Parihar, Friedrich Thienemann and Frank Brombacher
 - *Vaccines 2021*: [Using Population-Based Structures to Actively Monitor AEFIs during a Mass Immunization Campaign—A Case of Measles–Rubella and Polio Vaccines.](#) Dan Kajungu, Victoria Nambasa, Michael Muhoozi, Joan Tusabe, Beate Kampmann and Jim Todd
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Recently signed grants

Career Development Fellowships in poverty-related diseases and child and adolescent health – 2020

- **PCP-PED** | Dr Alfeu Passanduca | Diagnosis of PCP using nasopharyngeal aspirates and venous blood samples in HIV-infected infants with severe pneumonia: an EMPIRICAL ancillary study
- **PCP-PED** | Dr Alfeu Passanduca | Diagnosis of PCP using nasopharyngeal aspirates and venous blood samples in HIV-infected infants with severe pneumonia: an EMPIRICAL ancillary study

Senior Fellowships Plus 2019

- **ESRIFAL** | Professor Samuel Wanji | Exploiting the synergy of registered drugs Rifampicin and Albendazole to shorten the treatment duration of Macrofilaricide for the cure of Onchocerciasis in areas co-endemic with Loiasis: A phase II Clinical Trial study

Prizes and awards

Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship for Abdoulaye Djimdé, Collen Masimirembwa and Jo-Ann Passmore



Jo-Ann Passmore

Abdoulaye Djimdé

Collen Masimirembwa

[Professor Abdoulaye Djimdé](#) (EDCTP Association Board member, General Assembly representative for Mali, and coordinator of the WANECAM network), [Professor Collen Masimirembwa](#) (EDCTP Senior Fellow and Scientific Advisory Committee member), and [Dr Jo-Ann Passmore](#) (coordinator of the EDCTP-funded Genital Inflammation Test (GIFT) project) have been awarded the [Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship](#). The Fellowships are awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and recognise outstanding scientists tackling some of the greatest challenges in global health.

Abdoulaye Djimdé receives ASTMH Joseph Augustin LePrince Medal



The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) has awarded the [Joseph Augustin LePrince to Prof. Abdoulaye Djimdé](#). The Medal recognises outstanding work in the field of malariaology.

Francine Ntoumi and Ali Zumla elected as TWAS Fellows



Professor Francine Ntoumi (FRCM, Congo and General Assembly representative for Congo) and Professor Sir Alimuddin Zumla (UCL,UK) have been elected as Fellows of The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS). Professor Francine Ntoumi is the first scientist to be elected Fellow from the Republic of Congo. Sir Ali Zumla is the only scientist to be elected Fellow from the United Kingdom in the 2022 list. [Read the full article.](#)

RESPOND-Africa partnership wins 'International Collaboration of the year' at THE Awards



RESPOND-Africa has been awarded 'Best International Collaboration of the Year' at this year's Time Higher Education (THE) Awards. The EDCTP-funded META TRIAL on preventing and delaying the development of diabetes in HIV infected persons with pre-diabetes in Africa is the largest trial of its kind in Africa and is run by the RESPOND-Africa group. According to the judges "RESPOND-Africa's entry stood out for creating a series of partnerships that have resulted in a step change in research and policy." [Read more »](#)

Recent events

2 November 2021 | COVID Circle: EDCTP Senior Project Officer Jean Marie Habarugira took part in a panel discussion during the virtual event 'What have we learned from funding COVID-19 research across the globe'. [Read more »](#)

2-4 November 2021 | LEAP Scientific Conference 2-4 November 2021: The EDCTP-supported AfriKADIA hosted the 2nd Leishmaniasis East African Platform (LEAP) Scientific Conference. [Read more »](#)

3-5 November 2021 | 62nd Annual Meeting for the Japanese Society of Tropical Medicine: EDCTP Senior Strategic Partnerships Officer Lara Pandya joined a panel discussion at the 62nd Annual Meeting for the Japanese Society of Tropical Medicine. The panel focused on the question 'What will the future global health R&D funding landscape look like?'. [Read more »](#)

15-18 November 2021 | ASLM virtual conference: EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager Thomas Nyirenda co-convoked the symposium 'All hands on deck to improve Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response' at the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) virtual conference. [Read more »](#)

17 November 2021 | Seminar: Malaria vaccine – insights, developments and implications: EDCTP Executive Director Michael Makanga provided the opening remarks to the seminar. Through this meeting, the intention is to invest in scholarly inquiry and

contribute creatively to the research conversation. [Read more »](#)

4 November 2021 | ADVAC webinar on mRNA vaccine development platforms:
ADVAC organised a webinar entitled 'Will the success of mRNA vaccine development platforms for COVID-19 lead to new platforms for old vaccines?' [Click here to access the recording.](#)

Resources



[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)
online



[Clinical research capacity](#)
PDF



[Fellowships](#)
online

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Guidelines for grantees - Progress report](#)
- EDCTP | [Template for Grant Agreement Annex 5](#)
- ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)

Training and funding opportunities

- **TRANSVAC2:** [Open call for expert services and training opportunities](#)
- **TDR, SESH & AHRI open call:** [Embedding research mentorship in LMIC institutes](#)
- **WHO Young Professionals Programme:** [Apply now](#)
- **TDR, ESSENCE, SARIMA and CEDEIM:** [Research costing seminar on 9 December](#) (Spanish)
- **EthiXPert:** Webinar conducting ethics reviews during a pandemic on 9 December (14:00-15:30 CAT). [Join the webinar on Zoom.](#)

Mark your calendar

[Science Forum South Africa 2021](#) | 1-3 December 2021:

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) is organising its seventh annual Science Forum South Africa (SFSa), which includes a [parallel session hosted by](#)

[EDCTP](#) on 2 December.

Webinar: [Completion of the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium's pivotal Phase III trial](#) | 8 December 2021 | 13:00 – 15:00 CET:

The webinar is on the completion of the pivotal clinical Phase III trial of praziquantel – a potential new treatment option for the estimated 50 million preschool-aged children with schistosomiasis. EDCTP Executive Director Michael Makanga will provide the closing remarks.

[ADVAC alumni webinar](#) | 8 December 2021 | 15:00 - 17:00 CET:

ADVAC is organising a webinar on the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines. ADVAC Alumni, ADVAC lecturers and other interested participants are invited to join.

[International Conference on Public Health in Africa \(CPHIA 2021\)](#) | 14-16 December 2021:

Organised by Africa CDC, this conference will put a spotlight on emergency health response in Africa and allow participants to share and learn about progress made, best practices in public health interventions and the latest in innovative research. EDCTP is represented in the Conference's Organising Committee. In addition, EDCTP Executive Director Michael Makanga will speak on the Response to COVID-19 in Africa to Prepare for Future Health Threats, and EDCTP representatives will speak during various tracks of the conference.

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

