

EDCTP Update | January 2022



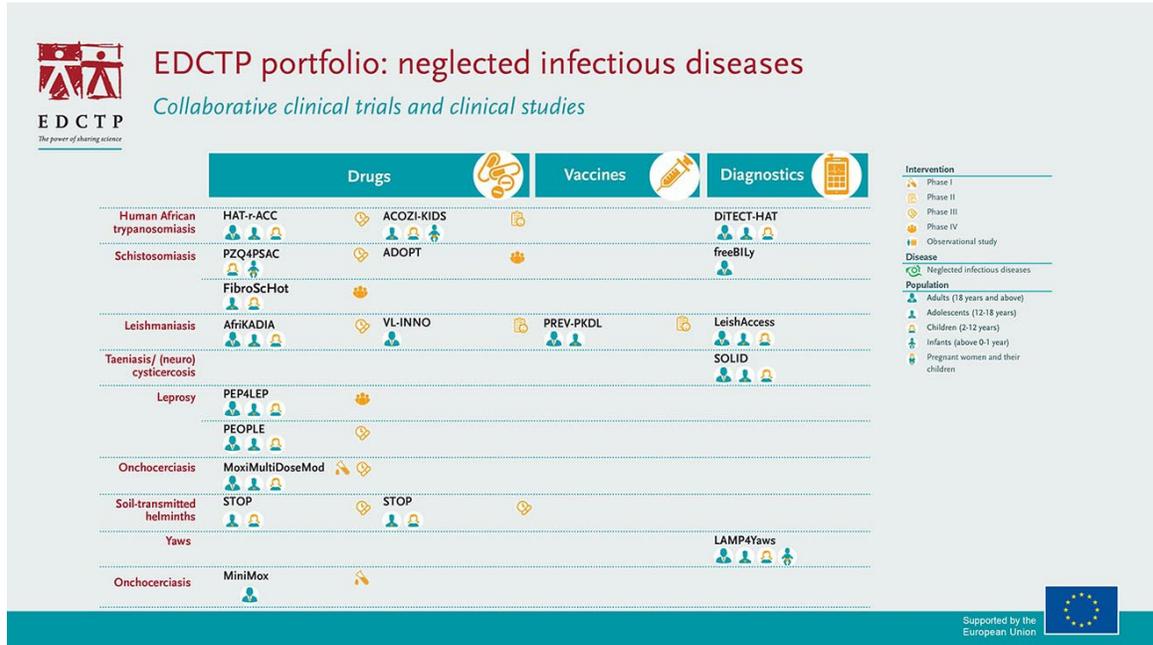
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World NTD Day 2022: EDCTP remains 100% committed to ending neglected tropical diseases



In another year of changes in the funding landscape, EDCTP has stayed 100% committed to ending neglected infectious diseases. Global investment into research and development of new products for these diseases is limited and there is an urgent need to develop new or improved products and to optimise the use of existing products to achieve disease elimination. In 2014, EDCTP added neglected infectious diseases to the scope of its second programme. The focus of our funding often aims to benefit vulnerable groups such as infants, children, adolescents, pregnant women and individuals with co-infections and co-morbidities. We continue to support projects that have experienced setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and celebrate the projects that have already achieved promising results.

[Read the full message »](#)

Call for expression of interest for Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Scientific Committee



The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU) has opened a call for expression of interest for the selection of the members of its Scientific Committee. The committee will be composed of fifteen to eighteen members, ensuring a balanced representation of experts within the scope of the activities of the Joint Undertaking, including with respect to gender and geographical balance. Collectively, the members of the Scientific Committee will have the necessary competences and expertise covering the technical domain in order to make science-based recommendations to the Joint Undertaking.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP-ECRIN virtual side event at AERAP Science at the EU-AU Summit | 16 February 2022



EDCTP and the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN) are organising the virtual side event *Partnering for the development of sustainable clinical research infrastructures and a skilled workforce in Africa* on 16 February from 9:00 to 11:00 CET. The side event is part of the AERAP Africa-Europe Science Collaboration Platform programme

that supports the European Union - African Union summit on 17 and 18 February 2022.

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EDCTP mourns the loss of Dr Ricardo Pereira



On 11 January 2022, our dear colleague Dr Ricardo Pereira, Science Officer at the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and EDCTP General Assembly representative for Portugal, passed away following a long battle against cancer. Many in the EDCTP General Assembly, Scientific Advisory Committee and the Secretariat worked with him and knew him well. We are deeply saddened by this tragic news of his untimely passing.

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Recent events

Promoting Advocacy for Domestic Financing of Health Research and Development in East African Community (EAC) | 21 January 2022

While advocacy for increased domestic funding for health gains traction in Africa, the prioritisation of funding for health research and development (R&D) as a critical component of public health is not clearly articulated. To build on international, continental, and regional advocacy efforts towards increasing domestic health R&D financing in the East African Community, the Ministry of Health Rwanda in partnership with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) hosted a forum to demonstrate progress and accountability in fulfilling commitments towards financing health R&D by allocating at least 2% of national health budgets to health R&D. EDCTP High Representative for Africa, Dr Leonardo Simão, was one of the speakers at the event. Dr Simão noted that African countries need to tap into the potential for national funding and reduce donor funding dependency, and should strive to align research priorities with those of relevant regional

bodies.

Watch Dr Leonardo Simão's Tenth EDCTP Forum keynote address on Science diplomacy:



Project news

WANETAM II moves towards WANETAM III



From 13 to 15 December 2021, the [WANETAM](#) (West African Network for TB, AIDS, and Malaria) Network of Excellence presented the achievements of WANETAM II and presented its successor programme, WANETAM III.

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BlockRabies receives an additional 10,000 doses of RABIPUR



Dog-mediated rabies still kills more than 60,000 people every year. This indicates a significant failure of current health systems in developing countries, with very poor access of exposed patients to quality rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). The EDCTP-funded BlockRabies project addresses this problem and aims to establish a blockchain (BC)-secured electronic patient registry and supply chain management in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire.

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CAFÉ-SEA female PhD programme grants awarded



The Capacity building for Female Scientist in East Africa (CAFÉ-SEA) project will conduct a multidisciplinary PhD training programme to equip up to eight female scientists in infectious diseases research from under-represented countries in the Eastern Africa region. The programme aims to address the under-representation of women in academic science careers and the demand for high-quality scientists and researchers equipped with skills and knowledge in patient management and conducting high-quality clinical trials as well as preparedness of epidemic response.

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Launch of the MULTIPLY study (IPTi) in Sierra Leone



On 19 November 2021, the MULTIPLE doses of IPTi Proposal: a Lifesaving high Yield intervention ([MULTIPLY](#)) project was launched in Bombali, Northern Province of Sierra Leone. The MULTIPLY project is an implementation research study that aims to deliver the IPTi intervention through the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and vitamin A supplementation in the first two years of a child's life to prevent malaria in areas of moderate-to-high malaria transmission in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically, in Sierra Leone, and its introduction in two other countries, Mozambique and Togo. [Read more »](#)

PROFORMA Qualified Person for Pharmacovigilance training



Between 11 and 21 January 2022, the [PROFORMA](#) project conducted a "training of trainers" workshop on the Qualified Person Responsible for Pharmacovigilance (QPPV). A QPPV is the main person responsible for handling the marketing authorisation holder's pharmacovigilance system effectively.

[Read more »](#)

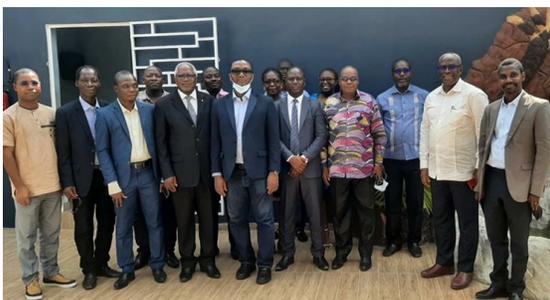
PAVIA launches Eswatini pharmacovigilance policy and guide

On 6 December 2021, the PAVIA project launched its pharmacovigilance policy and implementation framework document in Eswatini. The PAVIA project aims to



strengthen pharmacovigilance (PV) in four African countries: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Swaziland, and Tanzania. The Honourable Minister of Commerce and Trade, Mr Manqoba Khumalo, who represented the Minister of Health, officially launched the policy document and expressed the Ministry's commitment to its implementation. [Read more »](#)

CECaBI research ethics and participants' protection workshop



From 10 to 13 January 2022, the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques (CSRS) conducted a training workshop in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. The workshop focused on the general guiding principles and rules of ethics in research and the protection of participants in research activities. It is part of work package 5 of the Côte d'Ivoire Ethics Capacity Building Initiative (CECaBI) project launched in September 2021. [Read more »](#)

Côte d'Ivoire national ethics committee engages with stakeholders



On 18 January 2022, the Côte d'Ivoire National Ethics Committee met with its stakeholders in Abidjan. The meeting was attended by representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Union (EU), a senior member from the Office of the Minister of Health, Public Hygiene and Health Coverage and the Managing Director of the Ivorian Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority (Autorité Ivoirienne de Régulation Pharmaceutique (AIRP)). [Read more »](#)

Fellows

Dr Adebajo Adegbola first fellow to complete EDCTP-AREF Fellowship



Dr Adebajo Adegbola is the first fellow to successfully complete the full cycle of the joint [EDCTP- Africa Research Excellence Fund \(AREF\) Preparatory Fellowships call \(2018\)](#). The AREF/EDCTP Preparatory Fellowships target outstanding early-career researchers residing in or wishing to relocate to sub-Saharan Africa, who demonstrate independent scientific thinking and have the potential to deliver locally relevant research with measurable impact and within the scope of the EDCTP2 programme.

[Read more »](#)

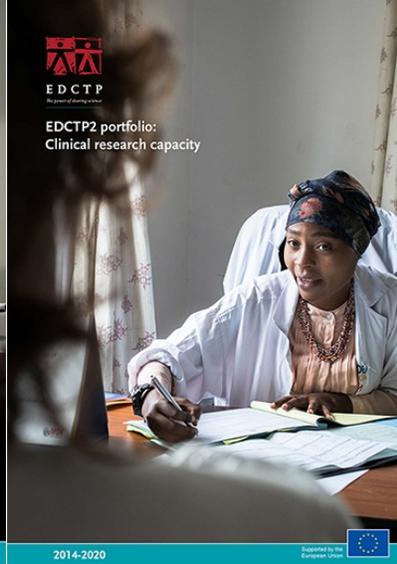
Publications

- *South African Journal of Bioethics and Law*: [Biomedical Ethics and Regulatory Capacity Building Partnership for Portuguese Speaking African Countries \(BERC Luso\): A pioneering project](#). M Patrão Neves, J P B Batista
- *BMC Infect Dis*: [Detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in pediatric stool samples using TruTip technology](#). A.W. Mesman, M. Soto, J. Coit, et al.
- *PLOS ONE*: [Diagnosis of tuberculosis among COVID-19 suspected cases in Ghana](#). T. Afum, P. Asare, A. Asante-Poku, I. Darko-Otchere, P.A. Morgan, et al.
- *The Lancet Perspectives*: [Ali Zumla: respiratory medicine and global health supremo](#). R. Lane.

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

- **[ISEG ENTRANT Fellowship on Outbreak Epidemiology](#)**: The ENTRANT scheme offers African scientists a one-year full-time MSc degree in Epidemiology at LSHTM. The fellowships are funded by EDCTP.
- **[ISEG Training Fellowship in Medical Statistics for African Scientists](#)**: The scheme enables promising research students from sub-Saharan Africa to undertake MSc training in Medical Statistics at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) followed by a year working as a statistician at one of LSHTM's partner centres in Africa. The fellowships are funded by the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health at LSHTM.
- **[Cochrane South Africa Bursaries Evidence Informed Decision-making and Knowledge Translation](#)**: Cochrane South Africa is offering bursaries for several Evidence Informed Decision-making and Knowledge Translation courses. Preference will be given to SAMRC staff and applicants from historically disadvantaged institutions.
- **[JPIAMR call for proposals on Disrupting Drug Resistance using Innovative Design](#)**: This call will focus on tackling the rising threat of antimicrobial resistance. The call involves 27 funding organisations from 18 countries. The total estimated call budget is close to 19 million euros. Partners working in eligible low- and middle-income countries can be funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- **[Foundation Brocher call for workshops and visiting researchers](#)**: Opportunities offered focus on the ethical, legal and social implications of recent medical research and new technologies. Applications from low- and middle-income countries are highly encouraged.
- **[Call for Mentees: Publication Mentorship Program for First-time Women Authors in the Field of HPSR](#)**: Health Systems Global (HSG) and The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (the Alliance), in collaboration with the Health Policy and Planning journal, invite early-career women working on health policy and systems research (HPSR) issues, based in Low- and Middle-Income countries, to participate in this call. Those who are interested in publishing their HPSR research for the first time in a global peer-reviewed journal and require guidance and support

to submit a publishable manuscript are invited to apply.

- [Towards Best Practices to Protect Healthy Volunteers in Biomedical Research | 15-16 February 2022 \(online\)](#): This two-day online meeting aims at paving the way to elaborate an international consensus and guidance in biomedical research involving healthy volunteers. The meeting is organised by the French Inserm's ethics committee.

Mark your calendar

Virtual debate “AU-EU cooperation on global health research and innovation: successes, challenges and opportunities” | 16 February 2022

Ahead of the African Union – European Union (AU-EU) summit on 17 and 18 February 2022, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) and Global Health Advocates (GHA) are organising a virtual debate to reflect on the developments and shortcomings of AU-EU cooperation on global health research and innovation (R&I). A panel of experts and officials will discuss the need for a more effective and coordinated approach to R&I, including how to reach global targets of tackling poverty-related and neglected tropical diseases, which continue to disproportionately impact many African countries.

Chairman of EDCTP's Board and General Assembly Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah and EDCTP Scientific Advisory Board member and member of the Advisory Group on R&I for Africa-Europe Cooperation Prof. Marleen Temmerman will speak at the event.

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EU-Africa Business Forum | 14-18 February 2022

The 7th EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF22), co-organised by the European Commission, the African Union Commission, and EU and African business organisations, will take place from 14 to 18 February 2022. At this forum, African and European business leaders and decision makers meet and discuss partnership and investment opportunities with participants from various sectors and countries. Twelve high-level panels and numerous online workshops will provide insights into the key themes of EU-Africa business, trade and investment relations. EDCTP will participate in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) virtual booth.

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

