

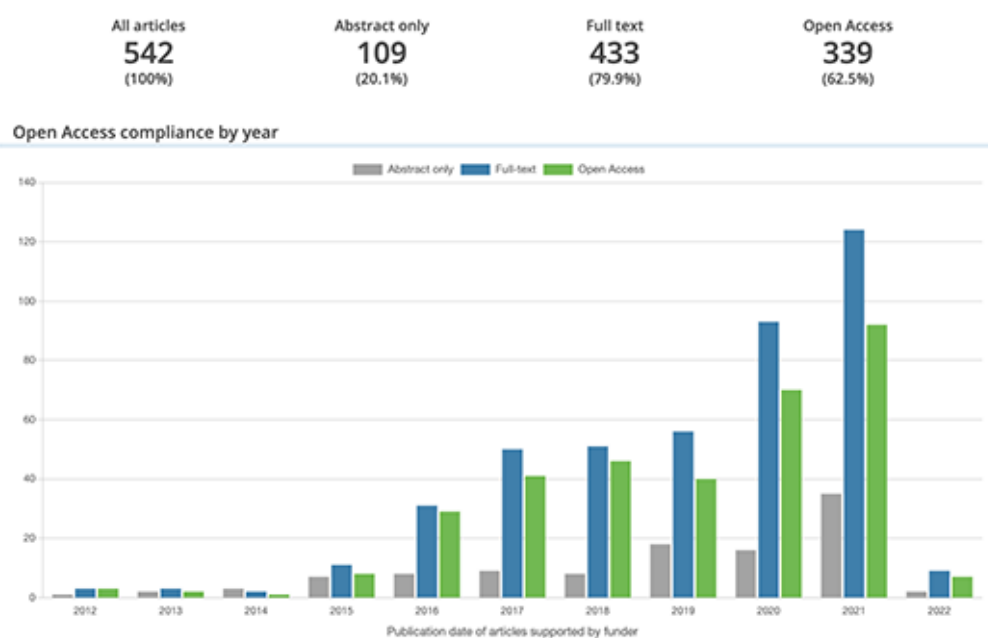
EDCTP Update | February 2022



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EDCTP joins Europe PubMed Central



Overview from the Europe PMC dashboard

EDCTP has become a member of Europe PMC (PubMed Central), an open science platform that maintains a worldwide collection of scientific articles and research outputs. Joining Europe PMC enables EDCTP-funded researchers to share their publications via one central location. Sharing publications by EuropePMC ensures that they will also satisfy the requirements for EDCTP-funded research projects: making publications openly accessible as soon as possible.

We invite all EDCTP grant holders to attend a **training webinar on 16 March 2022**. This webinar will introduce the EDCTP open access policy and provide step-by-step guidance on how to comply with the policy and deposit research manuscripts using the Europe PMC plus submission system for inclusion in Europe PMC and PMC USA.

[Read more »](#)

Recommendations of the Advisory Group on R&I for Africa-Europe Cooperation



On 17 February 2022, the Advisory Group on Research and Innovation (R&I) for Africa-Europe Cooperation published its [Recommendations on how to make R&I a driver for sustainable development in AU-EU relations](#). The recommendations of this group will guide the future of African-European policies, the improvement of instruments and the dialogue between African Union and European Union policy makers in the context of political priorities. Health is one of the four themes in this report, the others being R&I capacities, technology and innovation, and green transition.

The recommendations recognise the need for increased investments in institutional capacities and training, R&I policy and governance, infrastructure and institutions, human capacity development, knowledge management and funding, and cooperation and partnerships. We are grateful that EDCTP is highlighted as "the most cited joint programme strengthening health research and health systems in Africa".

[Download the report \(PDF\) »](#)

Public consultation: online survey on the joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda



Strengthening Research and Innovation (R&I) cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) is a joint key priority. The first R&I Ministerial Meeting of the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), held in July 2020, agreed to focus R&I cooperation efforts in four thematic areas: Public Health, Green transition, Innovation & Technology, and Capacities for Science. It was agreed to start developing a joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda aiming to create tangible impact on the ground, moving joint research investments from theory to practice.

The aim of the online public consultation is to seek input and feedback from citizens on the objectives and proposed actions of the Innovation Agenda, being open to suggestions and ideas on additional work streams. The public consultation will remain open until 13 May 2022. Its outcome will be summarised and communicated in a dedicated report, foreseen to be published in the second half of 2022.

[More information and access to the public consultation »](#)

New functionalities of the Pan African Clinical Trials Registry (PACTR)



The Pan African Clinical Trials Registry (PACTR) is a regional open-access register of clinical trials conducted in Africa. The PACTR aims to increase clinical trial registration in Africa by developing awareness of the need to register trials and by supporting trialists during registration. In addition, PACTR provides a searchable, electronic database of planned trials and trials currently in progress.

The PACTR has improved access and functionality of the registry. For instance, filters have been included to track “submitted” or “in progress” trials, and researchers can see all their trials under the “my trials” tab.

You can visit the registry through this newly created URL: <https://pactr.samrc.ac.za>

EDCTP mourns the passing of Dr Mwele Ntuli Malecela



Dr Mwele Ntuli Malecela and Prof. Moses Bockarie (EDCTP) prepare the signing of the MoU between EDCTP and WHO-AFRO

EDCTP joins the global health community in mourning the passing of a leading scientist and a champion of capacity building for health research in Africa. She was a leader among leaders. Dr Malecela recognised the true value of partnership, to which she dedicated her relentless commitment. She was a role model for global health research and for a new generation of African scientists who built their careers and had a measurable impact on the African continent.

[Read more »](#)

Recent events

Equitable leadership in global health partnerships | 22 February 2022

On 22 February 2022, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) TB Centre organised the workshop 'Equitable leadership in global health partnerships'. The participants of the workshop discussed how researchers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) can have equal opportunity to successfully secure grant funding to lead and drive their own research based on locally-defined priorities. Professor Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa & Head of Africa Office, presented his experience of what works.

EDCTP at EU-Africa week | 14-18 February 2022

The leaders of the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) and of their respective member states met for the sixth EU-AU summit in Brussels on 17 and 18 February 2022. The summit presented a unique opportunity to lay the foundations for a renewed and deeper AU-EU partnership with the highest political involvement and based on trust and a clear understanding of mutual interests.

EDCTP co-organised a virtual side event to the summit and took part in several events organised by other parties:

Partnering for the development of sustainable clinical research infrastructures and a skilled workforce in Africa

EDCTP-ECRIN virtual side event at AERAP Science at the EU-AU Summit

This session brought together key global health actors to collectively discuss the next steps towards the comprehensive mobilisation of all the stakeholders necessary for building

sustainable clinical research infrastructure, skills development, and strengthening of institutions for the development and uptake of safe and effective R&I products in Africa.

[More information](#)

[Watch the recording of this session »](#)

DSW Virtual debate “AU-EU cooperation on global health research and innovation: successes, challenges and opportunities”

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

[Watch the recording of this session »](#)

A skills agenda for Innovation in Africa: Skills, reskilling and upskilling

Convened by SAROAO and Innopharma Global

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, was one of the speakers at this event.

[More information](#)

[Watch the recording of this event »](#)

Green Medicines in Africa: Plant Molecular Pharming to fight the COVID-19 pandemic

Cape Biopharms, South Africa and M4F, Austria agreed on mutual technology exchange for GMP manufacturing capacity building for the production of COVID-19 medicines

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, was one of the speakers at this event.

[More information](#)

EU-Africa Business Forum

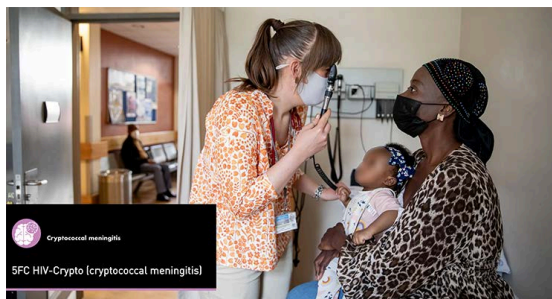
On 14 February, Dr Béatrice Gréco, Head of R&D and Access at Merck, presented the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium which is co-funded by EDCTP, in a session organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) entitled 'The AU-EU Innovation Agenda for building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs'. EDCTP participated in the European Commission's DG RTD virtual booth.

[First EU-Africa PerMed stakeholder workshop](#) | 9-10 February 2022

The EU-PerMed Project, through the Kenya National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), organised its first stakeholder workshop on 9 and 10 February 2022. This workshop brought together a rich mix of stakeholders to discuss the precision medicine agenda in Africa and ways to strengthen the collaboration with Europe. Professor Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation (Africa) and Head of Africa Office, shared his experience in 'Lessons learnt – How to create collaboration'.

Project news

5FC HIV-Crypto consortium starts trial on improved treatment of cryptococcal meningitis in advanced HIV disease



A consortium of leading scientists and institutions in Africa and Europe, the [5FC HIV-Crypto consortium](#), has launched a project that aims to deliver an improved formulation of a lifesaving treatment for cryptococcal meningitis. This fungal disease is an important cause of morbidity and mortality among people with advanced HIV disease and accounts for an estimated 15% of all HIV-related deaths globally, of which three quarters occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more »](#)

STOP consortium starts phase II clinical trial



The first participants of the clinical trial conducted by the STOP consortium (Stopping Transmission Of intestinal Parasites) have been recruited in Kwale County, Kenya. The [STOP study](#) aims to develop a convenient pill to improve control of parasitic worm infections in Africa. The first phase of this phase II trial will test the safety of a fixed-dose combination of ivermectin and albendazole for the treatment of soil-transmitted helminths in children.

[Read more »](#)

MULTIPLY starts recruitment for the IPTi-SP intervention in Sierra Leone



Following the [launch of the MULTIPLY project \(IPTi implementation study\) in Sierra Leone in November 2021](#), the first child received the first of six sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) doses of Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in infants (IPTi-SP) in February 2022. MULTIPLY was officially launched in Togo on 21 January 2022, where the project has already reached 100% recruitment in the baseline household survey, 75% recruitment in the baseline SP resistance study and 25% recruitment in the standard of care cohort study. Togo and Mozambique will soon be the next countries in sub-Saharan Africa to implement the IPTi-SP intervention to reduce illness and death in children from *Plasmodium* infection through the MULTIPLY study.

[Read more »](#)

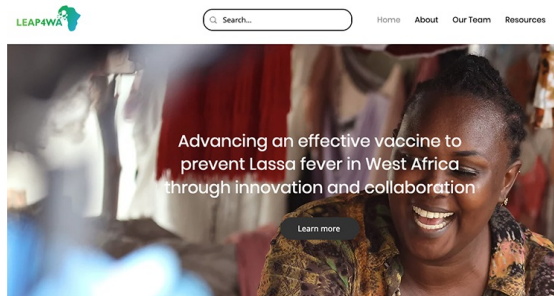
MiniMox annual meeting



The MiniMox project, developing a paediatric formulation of moxidectin for neglected infectious diseases, held its first annual meeting online on 1 February 2022 to present and discuss project advancement and to prepare for the first annual report. The project is developing an alternative formulation of moxidectin for children and others unable to swallow the 2mg tablets that are currently available.

[Read more »](#)

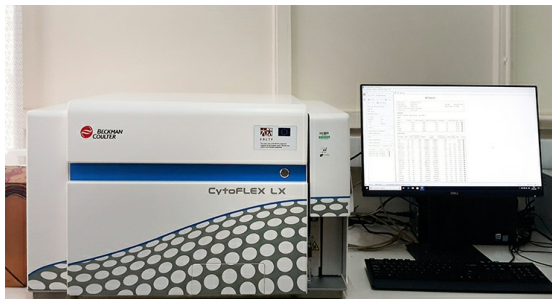
LEAP4WA consortium launches its website



The EDCTP and CEPI-funded Lassa Fever Vaccine Efficacy and Prevention for West Africa (LEAP4WA) consortium have launched their website. The LEAP4WA website serves as a one-stop shop to learn about and keep up to date with this international study. LEAP4WA represents a unique multidisciplinary collaboration of seven leading research institutions in Africa, Europe, and North America to advance one of the most promising Lassa fever vaccine candidates to date. Using an innovative recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) platform and leveraging state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities, LEAP4WA will conduct a phase IIb clinical trial of the vaccine candidate in three countries in West Africa.

[Visit the LEAP4WA website »](#)

PREV_PKDL project strengthens flow cytometry capacity in Africa



The [PREV PKDL project](#) aims to advance the clinical development of ChAd63-KH vaccine for the prevention of post kala azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL). One of the activities of the project is strengthening immunology research capacity in East Africa by promoting the development of a flow cytometry Centre of Excellence. Flow cytometry is a powerful tool with applications in multiple disciplines such as immunology, virology, molecular biology, cancer biology and infectious disease monitoring. Flow cytometers were installed at four African sites: Institute of Endemic Diseases (IEND) in Sudan, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in Kenya, University of Gondar in Ethiopia, and University of Makerere in Uganda.

[Read more »](#)

fPCV project website launched

The fPCV project has launched its website. The objective of the fPCV project is to evaluate whether a mass vaccination campaign targeting children approximately 1-9 years of age with a single full dose of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) is superior to the absence of vaccine, and



subsequently to evaluate if a campaign using a single 20% dose of PCV is non-inferior to the full dose campaign.

[Visit the fPCV website »](#)

PREPARE consortium: recruitment completed for phase II trial of MinervaX GBS-NN/NN2 vaccine



Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is a leading cause of neonatal infection (including pneumonia, sepsis and meningitis) in Europe, and increasingly recognised as a significant cause of neonatal infection in sub-Saharan Africa. The [PREPARE consortium](#) aims to define the burden of neonatal, infant and maternal GBS in a sub-Saharan Africa population and to accelerate the development of a new GBS vaccine by conducting two phase II trials using two promising vaccine candidates: the GBS6 vaccine candidate (a trial in Uganda) and the GBS-NN/NN2 vaccine candidate (trials in Uganda and South Africa). The trial that uses the MinervaX GBS-NN/NN2 vaccine candidate aims to evaluate the safety and reactogenicity of the vaccine candidate in pregnant women. Both trial sites in South Africa and Uganda have recently completed recruitment.

StatinTB: New BSL-3 laboratory on the UNAM campus in Windhoek, Namibia

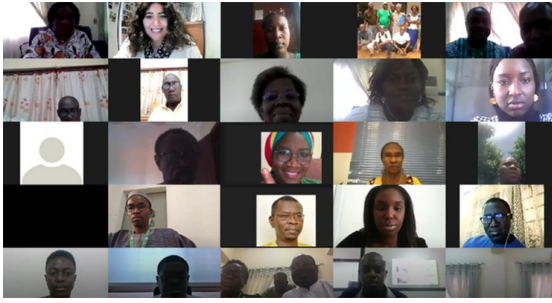


The EDCTP-funded [StatinTB project](#), coordinated by the University of Cape Town, investigates the use of statins as an adjunctive therapy for TB patients. Led by the University of Namibia (UNAM), Work Package 3 'Capacity Building' aims at strengthening the UNAM School of Medicine's clinical research capacity through active collaboration and exchange of knowledge between the school and other institutions in the StatinTB consortium. In late January, a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory arrived on the UNAM campus in Windhoek, funded by the German KfW Development Bank.

[Read more »](#)

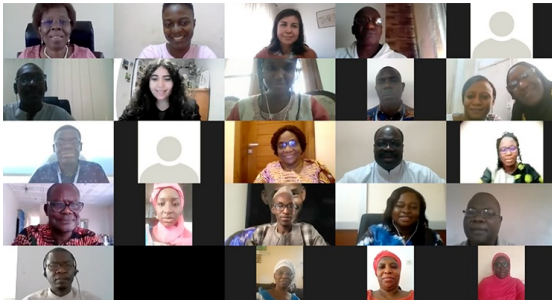
BCA-WA ETHICS II second webinar of the "Biostatistics for

ethicists" series



After a successful webinar on biostatistics for ethicists held on 30 November 2021, the BCA-WA-ETHICS II project organised a second webinar on 11 February 2022. This webinar highlighted different types of study design, types of data and variables, and the fundamentals of descriptive statistics. The webinar brought together 37 participants from seven African countries: Benin, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Kenya, Mali and Senegal. The recordings and presentations for both webinars are available on the [BCA-WA ethics II website](#).

BCA-WA-ETHICS II training programme on research ethics successfully concluded



The BCA-WA-ETHICS II training programme 'Training in Research Ethics, Gender Mainstreaming, NREC Governance, Audit Readiness' took place online from 17 to 27 January 2022. It brought together 51 participants from ten different countries on the African continent: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. The training was facilitated by experts in gender and research ethics from Benin, Egypt, Senegal and Spain.

[Read more »](#) (in French)

BERC-Luso project members in newly established São Tomé and Príncipe ethics committee



On 14 January 2022, the Ministry of Health of São Tomé and Príncipe created the Ethics Committee of the Ministry of Health, which includes several members of the [BERC-Luso project](#) (Biomedical ethics and regulatory capacity building partnership for Portuguese-speaking African countries). Dr Adeonilde Pires dos Santos Aguiar was appointed President of the committee and Dr Jeryson Ramos was appointed to the research section.

São Tomé and Príncipe hosts webinar "The importance of clinical trials in São Tomé and Príncipe"

On 11 February 2022, BERC-Luso organised a webinar on "The importance of clinical trials in São Tomé and Príncipe" presented by Dr Jeryson Ramos and Dr Adeonilde

BERC LUSO { WEBINARS 2022

MODERADORA: Prof.^a Maria do Céu Patrão Neves

 **A IMPORTÂNCIA DOS ENSAIOS CLÍNICOS EM SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE**



Aguiar dos Santos, both members of the BERC-Luso team in this country. This webinar is part of a set of five webinars, one for each of the BERC-Luso partner countries, to prepare for the visit of the project's coordination team to each of these countries. The first official visit of the BERC-Luso team will take place in São Tomé and Príncipe between 28 February and 4 March 2022.

[Read more »](#)

Fellows

Childhood TB Sequel stakeholders' meeting and training for health workers



The Childhood Tuberculosis (TB) Sequel project team at the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (MRCG at LSHTM) has concluded a stakeholders' meeting as well as capacity building training for health care workers on 'life after childhood TB'. The training, organised in collaboration with The Gambia National Leprosy & Tuberculosis Control Programme (NLTP), was held at the MRCG at LSHTM's Fajara campus on 16 February 2022. The Childhood TB Sequel is coordinated by the EDCTP Career Development Fellow [Dr Esin Nkereuwem](#).

[Read more »](#)

TDR article: Exploring the link between malnutrition and malaria prevention



Dr Paul Sondo believes that malnutrition could have an important negative impact on the effectiveness of malaria prevention efforts and is exploring this hypothesis through an [EDCTP Career Development Fellowship grant](#). If Sondo's hypothesis is correct, his research would serve as a pilot showing the value of this new approach to malaria prevention and would have potential impact for all Sahelian countries with similar malaria epidemiology.

[Read more »](#)

Publications

- *Treatment Action Group*: [European Commitments to TB R&D Investments: Promises Made to Be Broken?](#) S Steingrüber
- *BMC Medical Ethics*: [Capacity of community advisory boards for effective engagement in clinical research: a mixed methods study](#). Mugenyi *et al.*
- *PLoS Pathog*: [Schistosoma mansoni infection induces plasmablast and plasma cell death in the bone marrow and accelerates the decline of host vaccine responses](#) Musaigwa F, Kamdem SD, Mpotje T, Mosala P, Abdel Aziz N, Herbert DR *et al.*
- *Vaccine*: [Building the concept for WHO Evidence Considerations for Vaccine Policy \(ECVP\): Tuberculosis vaccines intended for adults and adolescents as a test case](#) Kochhar S, Barreira D, Beattie P *et al.*

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

- [BCA-WA-ETHICS II webinar: Visualising Sex and Gender Data for Health Research: Part I \(in French\) | 8 March 2022](#) This webinar will focus on the basics of using the GBDcompare software, developed by the University of Washington, to retrieve and visualise sex-disaggregated data related to health research. The webinar is in French, and it is compulsory to connect using a laptop or personal computer.
- [Equity by Design in Clinical Research: Cancer Trials](#) This virtual training course focuses on communicating an understanding of and training on best practices for, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) of under-represented populations in clinical

trials. The course is a six-part series: one module will be presented each week for six weeks in March and April 2022.

- [**Andrew Markus Visiting Scholar in Medical Ethics at Oxford**](#) The position of Andrew Markus Visiting Scholar is awarded annually to a practising medical doctor (physician) with an interest in medical ethics. Visiting Scholars will spend four weeks working at the Ethox Centre and Green Templeton College. The scholar will benefit from the supervision and feedback of Ethox research staff and will have access to the libraries and research facilities of the College and the University of Oxford. He or she will also have the opportunity to attend talks and lectures at the College and across the University.
- [**JPIAMR call for proposals on Disrupting Drug Resistance using Innovative Design**](#) The Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) has launched an international call for projects that tackle the rising threat of antimicrobial resistance: *Disrupting drug resistance using innovative design*. The call involves 27 funding organisations from 18 countries. The total estimated call budget is close to EUR 19 million. Partners working in eligible low- and middle-income countries can be funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- [**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.

Mark your calendar

Donald Mackay Medal talk: Professor Eleni Aklillu | 6 April 2022, 13:00-13:45 CET (Virtual)

In this webinar, Professor Eleni Aklillu's Donald Mackay Medal will present on the topic 'Treatment optimization of major tropical infectious diseases with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa population: Role of genetic variations and environmental factors'. Prof. Aklillu is a current member of the Swedish Research Council's Committee for Development Research, Scientific working group for WHO-TDR, Fellow of The Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh and Fellow of The African Academy of Sciences, and former vice-chair of the Strategic Advisory Committee for EDCTP.

[Read more »](#)

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

