

## EDCTP Update | June 2022



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### EDCTP welcomes new Board members



Dr Henning Gädeke  
CHAIR  
Germany



Prof. Maria-Teresa Bejarano  
VICE-CHAIR  
Sweden



Ms Glaudina Loots  
VICE-CHAIR  
South Africa



Dr Eric D'Ortenzio  
France



Prof. Godfrey Biemba  
Zambia



Dr Samuel Okware  
Uganda

On 23 May 2022, the EDCTP Association General Assembly appointed the members of the new EDCTP Association Board. EDCTP's Association Board members fulfill an essential role in achieving our mission to enhance research capacity and accelerate the development of new or improved medical interventions for poverty-related infectious diseases and (re-)emerging diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. We look forward to our continued collaborations and extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our outgoing Board members.

[Read the full article](#)

## **Nature encourages to consider the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings**

EDITORIAL | 30 May 2022

### ***Nature* addresses helicopter research and ethics dumping**

**New framework aims to improve inclusion and ethics in global research collaborations amid wider efforts to end exploitative practices.**



On 30 May 2022, *Nature* published an article announcing that it is addressing helicopter research and ethics dumping. Their guidance to the journals' authors, editors and reviewers will include encouragement to consider the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings, developed by [TRUST](#) - a European Union-funded project on research ethics that EDCTP is a proud partner of.

From the article:

"To guide authors in writing such a statement - and to help minimize the possibility of helicopter science and ethics dumping - we have developed questions drawn from key aspects of the Global Code. These include: did the research design and execution include local scientists? Is the research locally relevant? Are there plans to share the benefits of the research? Where legislation on animal welfare or environmental protection was less stringent in the local setting than where the researchers were based, was the study undertaken to the higher standards?"

[Read the full article](#)

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## WHO updated malaria guidelines

WHO has published its [updated guidelines for malaria](#). The guidance includes updated recommendations for:

- seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC)
- intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy (IPTp)
- perennial malaria chemoprevention (PMC) in young children (formerly IPTi)

To learn more about the new WHO recommendations for perennial malaria chemoprevention in young children (PMC), watch this [video](#).

EDCTP has progressively taken into account the WHO recommendations in its [strategic research agenda](#). Within the WHO recommendation in chemoprevention research areas (i.e. SMC, IPTp and IPTi/PMC), EDCTP supports several multicentre grants and some fellowships. The updated [guidelines](#) are important for EDCTP-funded activities in these areas and provide indispensable guidance relating to vulnerable populations, who are at the heart of many projects.

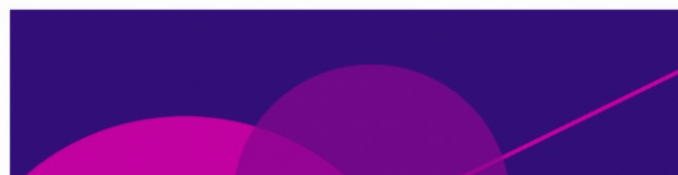
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## Blog – ‘EDCTP: A 20-year track record of supporting excellent, equitable research in Africa’



### EDCTP: A 20-year track record of supporting excellent, equitable research in Africa

June 23, 2022 / [PLOS Global Public Health](#) / [Global Health](#)



On 3 June 2022, Charani *et al* called on funders to take a more active role in tackling inequities in global health research in their article [Funders: The missing link in equitable](#)

[global health research?](#) on PLOS Global Public Health. In a [guest blog on PLOS GPH](#), Dr Pauline Beattie (EDCTP Operations Manager), Prof. Catherine Hankins (Chairperson of EDCTP's Scientific Advisory Committee) and Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Executive Director) describe how EDCTP has been successfully supporting equitable European-African research collaborations to develop new and improved interventions against infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa for almost two decades. We invite you to read the blog, and we will continue to join the conversation on equity in global health research.

[Read the blog on PLOS GPH](#)

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## Article - 'The African Medicines Agency: the key to unlocking clinical research in Africa'



An article '[The African Medicines Agency: the key to unlocking clinical research in Africa](#)' was published by The Lancet Global Health on 15 June 2022. The paper discusses the African clinical research environment and proposes solutions to improve it, including the lessons that can be learned from countries with well-established regulatory agencies such as the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the European Medicines Agency. The article was authored by Hon. Michel Sidibé, the African Union Special Envoy to the African Medicines Agency and former Minister of Health of Mali, Dr Lenias Hwenda, founder and CEO of Medicines for Africa, and EDCTP's Executive Director, Dr Michael Makanga.

[Read the full article](#)

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## Call for Experts – WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Neglected Tropical Diseases

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking experts to serve as members of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Neglected Tropical Diseases. The [Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Neglected Tropical Diseases \(STAG-NTD\)](#) is the main advisory body to WHO in this field.

NTDs are a diverse set of bacterial, viral, parasitic, fungal and noncommunicable diseases



and disease groups that disproportionately affect populations living in poverty, predominantly in tropical and subtropical areas. Twenty diseases and disease groups are currently included in the NTD portfolio, and currently more than one billion people are affected.

STAG-NTD advises and makes policy and strategic recommendations to WHO, based on independent reviews of progress made and challenges faced by programmes and partners, with the aim of facilitating the achievement of the targets and milestones set by the [NTD road map 2021–2030](#).

[More information](#)

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## REDSSA survey on data access, sharing and protection in sub-Saharan Africa

The Research for Ethical Data Science in sub-Saharan Africa ([REDSSA](#)) project has launched a survey on data access, sharing and protection in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). REDSSA has the overall aim of producing new knowledge in regard to the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of conducting data science in SSA. The study will help REDSSA better understand how Health Research Ethics Committee/Institutional Review Board (HREC/IRB) members and data scientists/researchers manage and engage with research involving large datasets/databases.

[Survey link for HREC/IRB members](#)

[Survey link for data scientists/researchers](#)

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## Project news

### PEP4LEP blog on skin camps



The [PEP4LEP](#) project aims to identify the most effective and feasible method for screening people at risk of developing leprosy and administering chemoprophylaxis. The project compares the effectiveness and feasibility of a skin camp intervention to a health centre-based intervention in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Tanzania. In this [blog](#), Dr Anne Schoenmakers of the project coordinator NLR (until No Leprosy Remains, or *Leprastichting* in Dutch) focuses on skin diseases and on the role that skin camps (can) fulfil in screening for skin diseases and offering treatment or referring to health centres. Not only skin NTDs are addressed during skin camps, but also more common skin diseases such as eczema and acne. People with skin diseases are thought to feel less reluctant to visit the events when a variety of diseases is included.

[Read the blog](#)

## priMe completes recruitment for a large African trial on prevention of tuberculosis in neonates



For its pivotal phase III trial of the novel tuberculosis vaccine VPM1002, the [priMe](#) project has completed recruitment of all participants. The priMe trial is a large, double-blind phase III trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the novel tuberculosis vaccine candidate VPM1002 compared to BCG for the prevention of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection in HIV-exposed and HIV-unexposed neonates. Participants enrolled will be randomised 1:1 to receive VPM1002 or BCG. The trial is being conducted in five African countries: Gabon, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. The primary endpoint of the priMe trial is to prove that VPM1002 prevents *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection at least as good as BCG, inducing less side effects.

## PediCAP surpasses 25% patient recruitment milestone



The PediCAP trial has successfully passed the 25% recruitment milestone with more than 400 patients successfully randomised into their arms. The PediCAP trial will determine whether children hospitalised for severe or very severe pneumonia, do better on co-amoxiclav or amoxicillin oral step-down therapy and how long these children should continue to receive antibiotic treatment.

[Read the full article](#)

## PreFIT annual consortium meeting



From 8-10 June 2022, the [PreFIT](#) (Predicting the Future: Incipient TB) held its annual consortium meeting in Stellenbosch, South Africa. PreFIT aims to validate ready-to-use candidate assays for incipient TB in populations of intended use across different high-burden settings in Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda. Representatives from all institutions attended the meeting, including the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD) in the Netherlands, Stellenbosch University (SU) in South Africa, the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) in Spain, the Manhiça Health Research Centre (CISM) in Mozambique, Makerere University in Uganda, and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) in Switzerland. EDCTP Project Officer Ms Michelle Nderu attended the meeting on behalf of EDCTP.

[Read the full article »](#)

## **SIMBLE: microbiology media production unit completed**



The SIMBLE project will conduct a clinical diagnostic trial in Western Africa of a simplified blood culture system to improve healthcare in low-resource settings. The project is coordinated by Prins Leopold Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (ITM), Belgium, with partners from Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, France, Malawi, the Netherlands, and Spain. Project coordinator Liselotte Hardy (ITM) and Jean-Claude Senou (CHNU-PPC, Benin) visited the Spanish SIMBLE consortium partner Reactivos Para Diagnóstico on the occasion of the completion of the microbiology media production unit developed for local production. To build this unit, a large shipping container was refurbished and equipped with the technical systems and equipment required to produce microbiology media for the SIMBLE project in a quality-assured way. The container was designed and fabricated in Barcelona, Spain and will be shipped and installed in Cotonou, Benin. Production will start in September 2022 to coincide with the start of the field study in Cotonou.

[Read the full article »](#)

## **SCRECU: launch of national online ethics review system**



Ugandan newspaper New Vision published an article on the dissemination meeting of the national online ethics review system named the National Research Management System (NRIMS). The system was developed through the [SCRECU](#) (Scaling up Capacity of Research Ethics Committees in Uganda) project, which is supporting the wider use and evaluation of an information management system specifically designed for clinical research proposals. It is anticipated that the system will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of scientific research reviews.

[Read the full article »](#)

## **BCA-WA-ETHICS II: CEICA & UNIZAR research ethics and gender mainstreaming internships successfully concluded**

Between 2-12 May 2022, seven scientists and bioethicists from Benin and Senegal





attended a BCA-WA-ETHICS II internship in research ethics and gender mainstreaming hosted by the regional ethics committee of Aragon (CEICA) and the University of Zaragoza (UNIZAR). The interns participated in a wide range of activities including simulated research protocol evaluation and research inspection sessions, a visit to the regional Biobank of Aragon and the research establishments of the Aragon Centre of Biomedical Research (CIBA). They also participated as speakers in the 8th Annual Congress of the Spanish National Association of Research Ethics Committees in Cáceres, Extremadura. The interns delivered presentations of their experiences in research ethics in West African committees. The interns reported high satisfaction rates with the experience and how it will facilitate knowledge sharing and translation between Spain and Africa in the research ethics domain.

[Read the full article »](#)

## **SNECFA: capacity strengthening and standard operating procedures workshops**



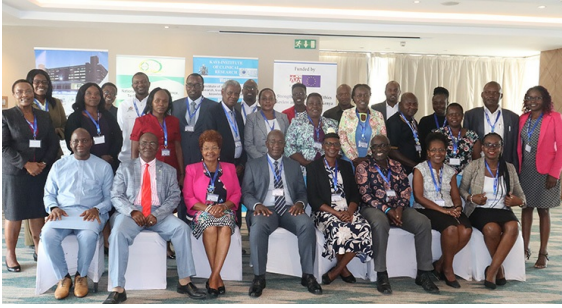
The project Strengthening National Ethics Committees in West and Central Francophone Africa (SNECFA) seeks to strengthen the capacity of four National Ethics Committees in Francophone West and Central Africa: Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Niger, with a special focus on drafting standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the review of research protocols during routine and emergency health situations. The SNECFA project is nested within the Cameroon Bioethics Initiative (CAMBIN). Four Capacity Strengthening Workshops and Discussions on Health Research Ethics were organised with members from the four NECs between August 2021 and March 2022. In order to support the National Ethics Committees of Chad, Niger and Mali in writing or revising their SOPs, dedicated SOP workshops were organised. The SOPs workshop for the National Ethics Committee of Cameroon is planned to take place in the coming months.

[Read the full article »](#)

## **STReK Regional Conference on Strengthening Research Ethics**

The Strengthening Research Ethics Oversight in Kenya (STReK) project organised the 'Regional Conference on





Strengthening Research Ethics' in Nairobi, Kenya from 24 – 26 May 2022. The main goal of this conference was to share experiences and lessons learnt with other Research Ethics Committees (RECs) in the East African Region and to encourage best practices in research ethics oversight and enhance networking. This was achieved through keynote addresses, abstract-driven presentation sessions and panel discussions. Participants were members of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) from Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

[Read the full article »](#)

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## EDCTP Fellows

### Dr Elouise Elizabeth Kroon: NeutroTB study highlights potential unique phenotypes of neutrophils



In April 2022, Dr Elouise Elizabeth Kroon was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree for her dissertation entitled 'Neutrophils as effector cells in resistance to infection by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in HIV-infected individuals' by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University. The PhD study is one of the major aims of the NeutroTB project.

[Read the full article »](#)

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## Publications

EDCTP is a member of [Europe PMC](#). This enables EDCTP-funded researchers to share their publications via one central location. Sharing publications by EuropePMC also ensures that they will satisfy the requirements for EDCTP-funded research projects: making publications openly accessible as soon as possible. [Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#)

- *PLOS Global Public Health*: [EDCTP: A 20-year track record of supporting excellent, equitable research in Africa](#) Pauline Beattie, Catherine Hankins, Michael Makanga (23 June 2022)
- *The Lancet Global Health*: [The African Medicines Agency: the key to unlocking clinical research in Africa](#) Lenias Hwenda, Michel Sidibé, Michael Makanga (15 June 2022)
- *The Conversation*: [What's in a name? Why giving monkeypox a new one is a good idea](#) Moses Bockarie (20 June 2022)
- *University World News – Africa edition*: [Is the emerging open-access model another closed system?](#) (16 June 2022)
- *The Conversation*: [HIV control approaches may not work for TB: lessons from South](#)

[Africa and Zambia](#) Helen Ayles (6 June 2022)

- *Soc Sci Med*: [Decision making in a clinical trial for a life-threatening illness: Therapeutic expectation, not misconception](#) David S Lawrence *et al.* (Volume 305, July 2022)
- *Malar J*: [Evaluation of the Pfs25-IMX313/Matrix-M malaria transmission-blocking candidate vaccine in endemic settings](#). Mulamba C *et al.* (2 June 2022)
- *PLOS ONE*: [Epidemiology of hepatitis B virus and/or hepatitis C virus infections among people living with human immunodeficiency virus in Africa: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Kenfack-Momo R *et al.* (31 May 2022)
- *J Antimicrob Chemother*: [Effect of dihydroartemisinin/piperaquine for malaria intermittent preventive treatment on dolutegravir exposure in pregnant women living with HIV](#). Banda CG *et al.* (1 May 2022)
- *PLOS Med*: [Safety evaluation of the single-dose Ad26.COV2.S vaccine among healthcare workers in the Sisonke study in South Africa: A phase 3b implementation trial](#). Takuva S *et al.* (21 June 2022)
- *EClinicalMedicine*: [Safety and efficacy of BCG re-vaccination in relation to COVID-19 morbidity in healthcare workers: A double-blind, randomised, controlled, phase 3 trial](#). Upton CM *et al.* (12 May 2022)
- *JCI insight*: [Longitudinal analysis of T cell receptor repertoires reveals shared patterns of antigen-specific response to SARS-CoV-2 infection](#). Gittelman RM *et al.* (23 May 2022)
- *Wellcome open research*: [Exposure to parasitic infections determines features and phenotypes of active convulsive epilepsy in Africa](#) Langat NK *et al.* (22 June 2022)
- *IJID Regions*: [Medical Mycology dissertation topics require prioritisation among Postgraduate Microbiology trainees of Makerere University, Uganda](#). Achan B *et al.* (4 May 2022)
- *Trials*: [Rifapentine and isoniazid for prevention of tuberculosis in people with diabetes \(PROTID\): protocol for a randomised controlled trial](#). Ntinginya NE *et al.* (6 June 2022)
- *Genes*: [Origin and Global Expansion of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex Lineage 3](#) Shuaib Y *et al.* (31 May 2022)
- *Biomedicines*: [Reversal of CSF HIV-1 Escape during Treatment of HIV-Associated Cryptococcal Meningitis in Botswana](#) Kelentse N *et al.* (1 June 2022)
- *Front Immunol*: [Meta-Analysis of Human Antibodies Against Plasmodium falciparum Variable Surface and Merozoite Stage Antigens](#) Takashima E *et al.* (1 January 2022)

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## Recently signed grants

We are pleased to share the final grant that was signed from the EDCTP2 calls for proposals:

### [Career Development Fellowships in poverty-related diseases and child and adolescent health – 2020](#)

- **post-PTB sequela** | Dr Leah Githinji | Long term sequelae in children with suspected or confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB): a prospective cohort study

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## 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](#)
- Europe PMC webinar | [Watch the recording](#) and [download the slides](#)
- TRUST project | [Video introducing the Global Code of Conduct](#)

## Training and funding opportunities

### PHA4GE Sub-Grants Promoting Sustainable Development In Ethics And Data Sharing To Support Public Health | Deadline: 3 July 2022

Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology ([PHA4GE](#)) is a global consortium established in 2019, to ensure a rapid global genomic-driven public health response to disease outbreaks. Funding is available for small grants to complete projects for which progress will be communicated and followed on the [PHA4GE Ethics and Data Sharing Platform](#). The total amount available for this programme is USD 25 000. The maximum amount that may be requested for a project is USD 5000.

[More information](#)

### BCA-WA-ETHICS II webinar: Biostatistics for the ethicist: Part III (French) | 8 July 2022

The BCA-WA-ETHICS II project is conducting a series of webinars entitled "Biostatistics for the Ethicist" covering the fundamental principles of biostatistics and their application to research ethics and the evaluation of research protocols. The third and final part of this series of webinar series will cover inferential statistics and hypothesis testing, causality and correlation, and an overview of clinical trial statistics. The webinar will be conducted in French.

[More information and registration \(PDF\)](#)

### Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking calls for proposals | Deadline: 30 August 2022

The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU) launched its first [calls for proposals](#) in May 2022 with a deadline of 30 August 2022. The topics of the calls are:

- Promoting implementation of research results into policy and practice
- Creating a sustainable clinical trial network for infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa

- Genomic epidemiology for surveillance and control of poverty-related and emerging/re-emerging infections in sub-Saharan Africa
- Strengthening regulatory capacity for supporting conduct of clinical trials
- Implementing adaptive platform trials

The calls for proposals are published in the European Commission's [Funding and Tender opportunities portal](#). For more information, a recording is available of the [Info day](#) that was held on 2 June 2022. More information on the [GH EDCTP3 JU](#) can be found on the programme's website.

### **Call for applications: Population, Ethics, and Human Rights Fellowship | Deadline: 31 August 2022**

The Population, Ethics, and Human Rights Fellowship programme is designed for exceptional early-career professionals, scholars and others with a demonstrated interest in population register systems. The call for applications is issued by USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health (USC IGH) in partnership with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) and Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER). Applications are encouraged from participants from low- and middle-income countries across different geographic regions and disciplinary expertise.

[More information \(PDF\)](#)

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## **Mark your calendar**

### **The Global Health Network Conference 2022 | 24 – 25 November 2022**

Under the theme 'Enabling Health Research in Every Healthcare Setting', this conference aims to bring together health research teams, organisations, health-workers, policy makers and practitioners to explore together how health research can be embedded into every healthcare setting. The conference will be hosted by University of Cape Town, South Africa. Scholarship Awards are available which support attendance for junior researchers from low resource settings. Deadline for abstracts: 10 July 2022.

[More information and registration](#)

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*EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.*

