

EDCTP Update | May 2022



Contents

- GH EDCTP3 JU launch event and calls for proposals
- DSW paper on EDCTP
- Spotlight on: the EDCTP Knowledge hub
- Sign up your clinical trial site to help future TB vaccine studies
- NIH Promoting Equity in Global Health Research - request for information
- Recent events
- Project news
- Publications
- Recently signed grants
- Resources
- Training and funding opportunities
- Mark your calendar

GH EDCTP3 JU launch event and calls for proposals



On 10 May 2022, the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU) held its launch event. The GH EDCTP3 JU builds on the first and second EDCTP programmes and is a partnership between the EU and the EDCTP Association, whose members are several European and African countries. The meeting took place as a hybrid event hosted by ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases in Paris (France). The event recordings will be available through the [event website](#).

On the same day, the GH EDCTP3 JU published its [Work Programme 2022](#), followed by the launch of the first GH EDCTP3 JU [calls for proposals](#) on 11 May 2022. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend the [Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking info day](#) on 2 June 2022 from 15:30-17:10 CEST for more information on the new Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programme calls, funding opportunities and timelines.

In addition, the [call for expression of interest for the selection of the members of the Stakeholders Group](#) was recently extended and is currently open for submissions until 2 June 2022. The Stakeholders Group will be regularly informed of the activities of the GH EDCTP3 JU and will be invited to provide comments on the JU's planned activities, and shall have a balanced representation of stakeholders from a geographic, thematic and gender perspective, including African expertise in particular.

DSW paper on EDCTP

THE EUROPEAN & DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CLINICAL TRIALS PARTNERSHIP



WHAT IS EDCTP?

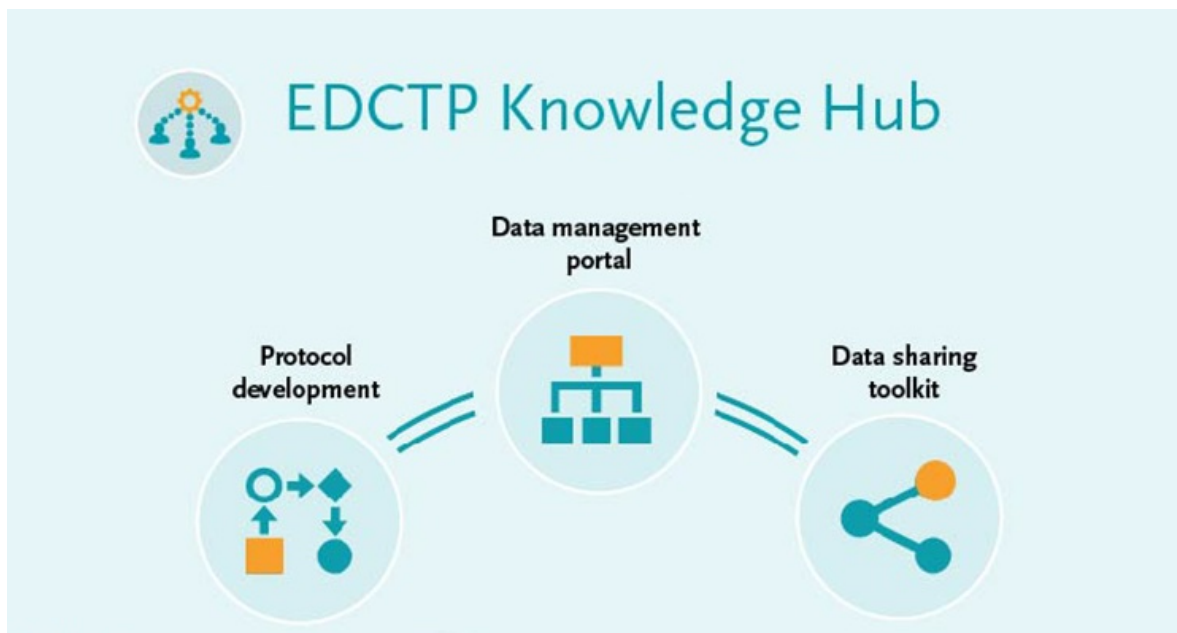
The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) is a **global health research and innovation (R&I) partnership** between the European Union (EU), and the EDCTP Association, which represents a number of EU Member States and African countries. Since 2003, its two consecutive programmes (EDCTP1 and EDCTP2) have pooled funding to accelerate the development of new or improved medical interventions for the identification, treatment, and prevention of poverty-related, and neglected infectious diseases.



Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) has published a [paper](#) on EDCTP's goals, activities and achievements to date, and looking ahead to the follow-up programme Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU). The paper also includes recommendations on what decision makers and the EU can do to maximise the impact of the programme.

On the occasion of the launch event of GH EDCTP3 JU, DSW published an [op-ed](#) from Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah, former EDCTP Association Board Chair, entitled 'The largest biomedical research partnership between Europe and Africa launched today'.

Spotlight on: the EDCTP Knowledge Hub



There is stark global inequity in health research in terms of where studies happen, who leads the research and the ultimate beneficiaries of the results generated. There is also strong evidence to show that the barriers to locally led research do not vary largely between disease, study type and location, and can be largely solved by addressing these common gaps. In recognition of emergent data on what the barriers and enablers are, EDCTP formed a collaboration with The Global Health Network (TGHN) in September 2017 to make a set of cross-cutting tools and resources openly available to support research staff wherever they are in the world, especially those in low- and middle-income countries.

This collaboration resulted in the creation of the [EDCTP Knowledge Hub](#) - an online platform with resources to develop research questions into a protocol, adopt gold-standard clinical data management practices, and support awareness and capacity development around data sharing. It includes interactive and comprehensive toolkits designed to cover the essential steps of a clinical health research study and support researchers to accelerate progress in health research. This recent [article in *Trials*](#) provides essential background information to the development of the platform.

[Explore the EDCTP Knowledge Hub](#)

Sign up your clinical trial site to help future TB vaccine studies



The TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI), in collaboration with the KNCV Tuberculosis foundation and with support of EDCTP, has established a directory of clinical trial sites suitable for future TB vaccine studies. The TB vaccine clinical trial site directory helps stakeholders to select sites for trials of future TB vaccine candidates and is accessible on [the EDCTP website](#). Data entry has now been reopened. You are invited to contribute information on your clinical trial site via [this survey](#).

NIH Promoting Equity in Global Health Research - request for information



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is requesting information on approaches to promote greater equity in global health research, particularly research that engages scientists in low and middle-income countries. This [request for information \(RFI\)](#) is intended to improve NIH's understanding of potential research funding, priority setting, and administrative practices and strategies that could encourage or facilitate equitable global health research.

NIH is actively seeking input from all interested stakeholders including members of the scientific community, trainees, academic institutions, the private sector, health professionals, professional societies, advocacy groups, as well as other interested members of the public. You are invited to [read the complete RFI](#) and [respond via the online comment form](#) by 1 August 2022.

Recent events

Philea Forum 2022 | 30 May-1 June 2022

Under the theme 'Philanthropy United - The Time Is Now', the 2022 Philea Forum is bringing together European philanthropic foundations and national associations to find sustainable solutions to complex and interconnected challenges in health, climate, culture and inclusion. Dr Leonardo Simão, EDCTP's High Representative for Africa, spoke at the Opening Plenary session on 30 May 2022.

[More information >](#)

AfricaBio and Amgen webinar: Diversity in Clinical Trials | 24 May 2022

On 24 May 2022, Amgen and AfricaBio organised the webinar 'Diversity in Clinical Trials' to broaden understanding of racial and ethnic differences in treatment responses. Professor Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa & Head of Africa Office, was one of the speakers of this webinar. He addressed the challenges to representation of Africans in clinical trials, the regulation of clinical trials, the capacity to register, conduct and review clinical trials, and what can be done to overcome these challenges.

EDCTP provides scholarships for the 22nd Advanced Course of Vaccinology (ADVAC) | 9-20 May 2022

The 22nd [ADVAC](#) course on vaccinology took place on 9-20 May 2022 in Annecy, France, co-organised by the Mérieux Foundation and the University of Geneva. 74 participants from 42 different countries participated in this intensive training programme, which covers many areas related to vaccines and immunisation. Some of the topics of this year's edition

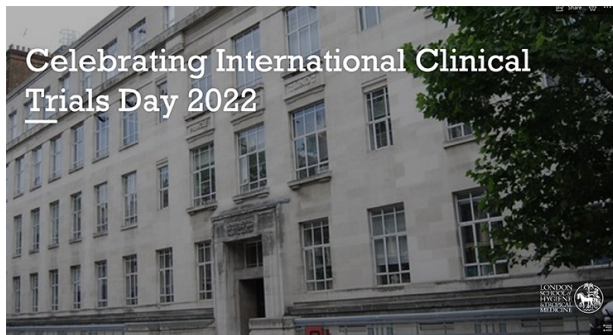
included: regulation and access to vaccination, COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine safety, ethical issues as well as other aspects related to vaccine research and the comprehensive development of immunisation programmes. EDCTP has supported the participation of sub-Saharan African researchers in this course and considers this initiative a unique opportunity for scientists to learn from, interact and network with the world's leading experts in vaccinology, and to ultimately become leaders in vaccinology research.

ESSENCE meeting | 17 May 2022

Members of the ESSENCE on Health Research initiative met virtually on 17 May 2022 to discuss the progress of joint activities, further the dialogue and plan for the future. As a Steering Committee member, EDCTP participated in the meeting and was represented by Ms Lara Pandya, Senior Strategic Partnerships Officer, Professor Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa & Head of Africa Office, and Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager.

Project news

International Clinical Trials Day (20 May): the story of the VITALITY trial



We invite you to explore this very rich and insightful story by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine on the VITALITY trial on protecting bone growth in children living with HIV. The story was published on the occasion of International Clinical Trials Day on which we commemorate one of the first reported, controlled clinical trials. It was carried out by James Lind in 1747 and tested six different interventions on sailors affected by scurvy. He found that oranges and lemons improved the sailors' symptoms. It is hard to imagine a world in which we do not know the importance of vitamin C to our health.

The VITALITY project is assessing whether high-dose vitamin D and calcium carbonate supplements can protect bone and muscle development in children living with HIV. If found effective, this would provide a simple, safe and affordable intervention that could have significant benefits for people living with HIV.

[Explore »](#)

MTBVACN3 kick-off meeting

From 10-12 May 2022, a kick-off meeting for the MTBVAC phase III clinical trial was held in Baiona, Spain. With the only licensed vaccine against TB, Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG), having limited impact on the transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, there is an urgent need for a new and improved TB



vaccine. MTBVAC is a live attenuated *M. tuberculosis* vaccine, which is currently entering a randomised, double-blind, active BCG-controlled phase III clinical trial.

[Read more »](#)

UPTAKE consortium meeting



The first in-person meeting for the [UPTAKE](#) consortium took place in Kampala, Uganda from 11-13 April 2022. The consortium is developing new methods for HIV prevention that takes account of the preferences of women and young girls. The workshop took place following the completion of data collection and preliminary analysis for Stage 1, with the outcomes shared to inform the design of Stages 2 and 3. A site visit to the AIDS Information Centre in Kampala, which hosts the MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit on AIDS (MURU) partner, was a particular highlight, providing important context to the services and communities that the study seeks to benefit.

Read the [executive summary of the meeting report](#) on the UPTAKE blog.

ALERRT annual meeting



On 4-5 May 2022, one of the EDCTP-funded epidemic preparedness consortia, [ALERRT](#), held its annual meeting in Entebbe, Uganda. EDCTP Senior Project Officer Dr Jean Marie Habarugira joined the meeting and gave a presentation that summarised EDCTP's investments in epidemic preparedness, with an emphasis on the expected impact from ALERRT and considering the fast-changing landscape that saw ALERRT respond to various outbreaks in the past four years. Dr Habarugira also introduced the recently launched Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU).

Stool4TB first annual meeting

In an attempt to narrow the large TB case detection gap in children and people living with HIV, the Stool4TB project will evaluate an innovative stool-based qPCR diagnostic platform in the high TB and HIV burden settings of Mozambique, Eswatini and



Uganda. For the first time since COVID-19 the team was able to meet face-to-face in Johannesburg, South Africa on 7-8 April 2022.

[More information »](#)

PREV_PKDL Annual Meeting



The PREV_PKDL fourth annual meeting was held online on 28 April 2022 to present and discuss project advancements and upcoming activities. Despite several challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the procurement of supplies, the four African sites are ready for the start of the multidimensional, multiparameter phenotyping research study in patients treated for visceral leishmaniasis, to better understand the pathogenesis of the disease and the underlying immune mechanisms. Dr Michelle Helinski, EDCTP Senior Project Officer, took part in the meeting.

[More information »](#)

First participant enrolled in DATURA study



The DATURA trial aims to assess whether an intensified initial TB treatment could increase survival in hospitalised, HIV-infected adults and adolescents compared to the standard TB treatment regime. The first DATURA participant was enrolled in Ignace Deen Hospital, Conakry, Guinea on 21 April 2022.

[More information »](#)

BCA-WA-ETHICS II advocacy paper



The BCA-WA-ETHICS II project aims to strengthen and harmonise the ethical review process of health research in West Africa and particularly clinical trials related to COVID-19 and other health emergencies. This project published an [advocacy paper](#) to spread awareness about the research ethics violations that have been taking place in the African continent. The paper provides recommendations and practical guidelines on how to implement best practices and take into account the lessons

LIBERHetica research ethics training manual



The LIBERHetica project has been involved in strengthening capacity building in research ethics and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) in the review of clinical and social science research protocols in Liberia. One of the critical gaps in research ethics education proved to be the absence of required tools and manuals needed to conduct such training for university students and research. Therefore, the LIBERHetica project has developed a National Training Manual for Research Ethics Education. This manual is the very first curriculum developed for research ethics education in Liberia.

[More information »](#)

BERC-Luso team visits Cape Verde



The coordination team of BERC-Luso visited Cape Verde from 6-10 April 2022. The visit included meetings with national authorities, political authorities, the Portuguese Ambassador to Cape Verde, a conference on 'The importance of biomedical research in Cape Verde' and meetings with various national entities relevant to the project.

[More information »](#) (in Portuguese)

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](#)

- *Trials*: [The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership \(EDCTP\) Knowledge Hub: developing an open platform for facilitating high-quality clinical research](#). Driver S *et al.* 23, 374 (2022)
- *Am J Prev Med*: [Strengthening Research Ethics Systems in Liberia: Challenges, Prospects and Implications](#). Gloria T Mason *et al.* 2022 vol 8, no. 3
- *Parasite*: [Monitoring the elimination of gambiense human African trypanosomiasis in the historical focus of Batié, South-West Burkina Faso](#). Compaoré CFA *et al.* (2022)
- *BMC Infect Dis*: [Symptoms of post-traumatic stress and associations with sexual behaviour and PrEP preferences among young people in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe](#). Webb EL *et al.* (2022)
- *HIV medicine*: [High mortality among patients hospitalized for drug-resistant tuberculosis with acquired second-line drug resistance and high HIV prevalence](#). Anderson K *et al.* (2022)

- *J Int AIDS Soc*: [Predictors and consequences of HIV status disclosure to adolescents living with HIV in Eastern Cape, South Africa: a prospective cohort study](#). Edun O *et al.* (2022)
- *Wellcome open research*: [Epidemiology of COVID-19 infections on routine polymerase chain reaction \(PCR\) and serology testing in Coastal Kenya](#). Nyagwange J *et al.* (2022)
- *Infect Dis Poverty*: [High infection rates for onchocerciasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis in children under five not receiving preventive chemotherapy: a bottleneck to elimination](#). Nana-Djeunga HC *et al.* (2022)
- *J Antimicrob Chemother*: [Drug concentration at the site of disease in children with pulmonary tuberculosis](#). Lopez-Varela E *et al.* (2022)
- Report: [African history of research ethics violations: lessons for the future](#). Farah Nabil Abdelnaim Mohamed F *et al.* (2022)

Recently signed grants

[Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships \(CRDF\) – Joint call with WHO/TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases 2019](#)

- **Fellow:** Dr Chukwuanugo Ogbuagu (Nigeria) | **Host organisation:** Pfizer, USA
- **Fellow:** Mr Hamu Mlyuka (Tanzania) | **Host organisation:** St Andrews University, UK
- **Fellow:** Dr Nouhoun Barry (Burkina Faso) | **Host organisation:** Tübingen University, Germany

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

Call for Proposals for Grant Funding of Product Development Partnerships (PDP) to fight Poverty-related and Neglected Diseases (PRND) | Deadline: 30 June 2022

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has been funding R&D of products and technologies for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PRNDs through PDPs since 2011. Due to the promising results of the PDPs to date and the continued high funding needs in this area, the BMBF will continue the funding in a third phase. This new funding phase is part of the BMBF's 'Global Health' funding priority and contributes to the Federal Government's Global Health Strategy.

BMBF has mandated KfW to support it in preparing and implementing this third funding phase, including this Call for Proposals process, and KfW now invites sealed proposals from eligible institutions for the funding of R&D products.

[More information »](#)

Cochrane's Interactive Learning course | Deadline for applications: 3 June 2022

Cochrane South Africa is providing bursaries for a one-year subscription to Cochrane's Interactive Learning course on conducting an intervention review. Developed by world-leading experts, the course provides over 15 hours of self-directed learning on conducting a systematic review following Cochrane methodology for both new and experienced review authors. Subscriptions to the course are valued at 270 USD per year. The deadline for applications is 3 June 2022.

[More information »](#)

Call for applications: Ethics of artificial intelligence in global health research (November 2022) | Deadline: 17 June 2022

The [Global Forum on Bioethics in Research \(GFBR\)](#) will hold a two-day meeting in Cape Town, South Africa in November 2022 (tentative) on the theme 'Ethics of artificial intelligence in global health research'. The Forum will discuss how traditional research ethics regulatory frameworks have responded to the rapid advances in AI technology, and what changes are required, including to the role and responsibility of research ethics committees. To date, these discussions have predominantly taken place in high-income countries, and low- and middle-income country (LMIC) perspectives have been underrepresented. Awards are available for successful applicants from LMICs to cover the cost of their travel, accommodation and single-entry visa. Deadline for applications: 17 June 2022.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

LIBERHetica: Webinar on lessons learned by ethics and regulatory bodies during COVID-19 | 1 June 2022

The LIBERHetica project is organising a free webinar on 'Lessons learned by ethics and regulatory bodies during COVID-19 - Experience sharing between Liberia and Ghana'. The objective of the webinar is to share ethical and regulatory related experiences, including challenges and opportunities, facilitate knowledge exchange, and strengthen multi-countries collaborations, for the review, approval and oversight of clinical research-related activities during public health emergencies.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Workshop: Reporting for Fellows | 7-8 June 2022

Learn about reporting requirements for fellows and how to avoid common mistakes. The training workshop will be conducted by Dr Michelle Helinski, Senior Project Officer, and Ms

Neodia Flores-Mensing, Grants Finance Officer. The workshop will also include an overview of the EDCTP Alumni Platform by Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, and Ms Michelle Nderu, Project Officer.
Deadline for registration: 2 June 2022, 17:00 CEST.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP2 Financial and project management training | 22 June 2022

One-day training on financial and project management of EDCTP2 grants. The training is targeted at Europe-based financial and/or project managers of recent EDCTP2 projects awarded from work plans (WP) 2019 and 2020. Other EDCTP2 projects may apply to attend. The workshop will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 22 June 2022.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.

