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2022 End of Year Message from Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director
Dear Colleagues, Partners and Friends,

2022 has been a challenging and very productive year, particularly when it comes to addressing health and research inequalities in global health. Our grants portfolio holds at a total cash value of €825.64 million invested in 435 grants – 84% towards research & development; and 16% towards very transformative capacity development initiatives. These activities involve 44 African countries (with 100% participation of all French and Portuguese-speaking sub-Saharan African countries), 19 European countries and 8 other countries, and a collaborative network of 309 African and 209 European institutions, multidisciplinary researchers and other professionals involved in clinical research and related enabling environment.

Read the full message »

Save the date: Eleventh EDCTP Forum | 7-10 November 2023

We are delighted to announce that from 7-10 November 2023, the Eleventh EDCTP Forum will take place at the Palais des Congrès de Paris in Paris, France. The Forum theme is “Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation and Impact in Africa - Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond”. This Forum will mark EDCTP’s 20th Anniversary and will be hosted by France – one of the founding European EDCTP Association member states – through the French Research Agency ANRS I Emerging Infectious Diseases and will be jointly supported by the second EDCTP programme (EDCTP2) and the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU). A call for nominations for EDCTP prizes will be published in January 2023. More information on registration and abstract submission will follow soon.

Report: EDCTP Fellowship Programme 2003–2022

Capacity development is a core EDCTP activity, complementing its support for clinical trials and product-focused implementation research. Effective capacity development requires a long-term perspective, an integrated system-wide approach, and strong partnerships with host countries to ensure sustainability. Guided by these principles, EDCTP is making a lasting contribution to the capacity of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Apart from the capacity development investments in the research & innovation and the coordination & support grants, EDCTP invests in human capacity development through an extensive fellowship programme which is the focus of this report.

The investment in the fellowships programme has increased about five-fold in EDCTP2 compared to EDCTP1. The EDCTP fellowship schemes have provided opportunities for scientific leaders and promising early-career researchers to remain in Africa and develop their research programmes and international networks, helping to strengthen the regional science base and providing countries with vital expertise in poverty-related infectious diseases. This research capacity proved invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic, with
many EDCTP fellows making important contributions to the COVID-19 response in individual countries. In addition, the fellowship schemes are helping to maintain the pipeline of scientific talent that will provide the scientific leadership that the region will need in the future to define and address its health priorities and enhance the health and wellbeing of its populations.

Read the report

EDCTP and ICGEB sign Memorandum of Understanding

The EDCTP Association and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The signing ceremony took place at the World Science Forum that was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 6-9 December 2022. ICGEB, represented by Dr Lawrence Banks, and the EDCTP Association, represented by Dr Michael Makanga, signed the MoU to encourage and promote cooperation in the following areas of mutual interest between the two organisations.

More information

Angolan delegation visits EDCTP Africa Office
On the heels of the World Science Forum hosted in Cape Town, South Africa, on 5 December 2022, the Angolan Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo, together with several senior members of her office and of the Foundation for Scientific Development and Technology and the National Center for Scientific Research, visited the South African Medical Research Council (MRC SA), where a joint meeting was held with representatives of MRC SA and EDCTP. Presentations were delivered on various activities in infectious and non-communicable diseases as well as overarching topics such as genomics research. EDCTP was represented by Dr Michael Makanga, Executive Director, and Prof. Moses Bockarie, Director International Cooperation Africa and Head of Africa Office. The meeting closed with a discussion where all parties explored opportunities for collaboration and the Angolan delegation considering pursuing formalising their membership to the EDCTP Association.

World AIDS Day 2022: funding to end inequality

On 1 December 2022 EDCTP joined partners to commemorate World AIDS Day 2022 under the theme “Equalize”. Inequalities in HIV/AIDS prevention and care are holding back progress in ending AIDS. Therefore, EDCTP has dedicated a significant part of its funding to reducing inequalities in research on HIV/AIDS, often focusing on vulnerable populations who are at greater risk of HIV infection and AIDS-related deaths. In this article, we zoom in on children and adolescents, who consistently lag far behind the new proposed global 95–95–95 targets set by UNAIDS: that by 2030, 95% of people living with HIV, know their HIV status, 95% of people who know their status are receiving treatment and 95% of people on HIV treatment have a suppressed viral load so their immune system remains strong and
the likelihood of their infection being passed on is greatly reduced.

Read more

EU Global Health Strategy and State of Health Preparedness Report

In November 2022, the European Commission (EC) adopted the EU Global Health Strategy: Better Health for All in a Changing World. The strategy reaffirms the commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Consensus on Development, and to act particularly in the areas that are cornerstones of good health. The strategy offers an agenda leading up to 2030 and focuses on three core priorities: investing in the well-being of all people, reaching universal health coverage with stronger health systems, and combatting current and future health threats.

The EC also adopted the State of Health Preparedness Report. This report highlights the progress made in the fields of preparedness and response since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing in particular on medical counter measures. Building on the three priority health threats identified in July 2022: pathogens with high pandemic potential; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats; and threats resulting from antimicrobial resistance, the report sets out key actions to further improve the EU’s preparedness in the next year.

Termination of EDCTP postal box

As of 1 January 2023, EDCTP’s P.O. Box address will cease to exist. From that date, please make sure that regular mail is sent to EDCTP’s visiting address:

Anna van Saksenlaan 51
2593 HW The Hague
The Netherlands

EDCTP office closing dates
The EDCTP offices will close on 23 December 2022 and reopen on 2 January 2023.

We wish you happy holidays and look forward to seeing you again in 2023!

Recent events

**EDCTP at Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022) | 13-15 December 2022**

The second Annual Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022) took place in-person and was partly broadcast online from 13-15 December 2022. The conference provides a unique platform for African researchers, policymakers and stakeholders to come together and share perspectives and research findings in public health.

On 12 December, a media briefing took place on [Africa CDC & EDCTP’s joint Fellowship programme on epidemiology and biostatistics](#).

On 14 December, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, Dr Thomas Nyirenda joined the panel ‘Tackling Africa’s big killers: what are we still missing?’.

Also on 14 December, Dr Nyirenda and Professor Rose Leke, Emeritus Professor of Immunology and Parasitology and founder of HIGHER Women Consortium Cameroon, led
On 14 December, EDCTP Executive Director, Dr Michael Makanga was part of a panel on the topic 'Evidence for Impact', exploring how we can measure the health and economic impact of R&D investments for neglected and emerging infectious diseases. The panel was organised by Policy Cures.

On 15 December, Dr Michael Makanga was a speaker at the plenary session on ‘Increasing Local Production in Africa: Advocacy, Research and Development Capacity in Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Vaccine Manufacturing’.

More information

5th Ghana FELTP Scientific Conference and 15th Anniversary Celebration | 13-15 December 2022

From 13-15 December 2022, the University of Ghana’s Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (GFELTP) organised the 5th Ghana FELTP Scientific Conference and 15th Anniversary Celebration under the theme “The Role of FELTP in Achieving Universal Health Coverage Through Partnership”. EDCTP Executive Director, Dr Michael Makanga delivered his opening remarks, thanking the University of Ghana for the fruitful collaborations, and highlighting the Training of Epidemiologists in Disease Outbreaks and Epidemic Response in sub-Saharan Africa (TEDOER) project, which is being conducted by the University of Ghana’s School of Public Health.

EDCTP at the World Science Forum | 6-9 December 2022

From 6-9 December 2022, the World Science Forum was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa. Under the theme “Science for social justice”, participants interrogated the role of science in society. The Forum was held in Africa for the first time. EDCTP Executive Director, Dr Michael Makanga, Director of International Cooperation Africa & Head of Africa Office, Prof. Moses Bockarie, and Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, Dr Thomas Nyirenda attended the meeting. Dr Makanga was invited to provide his remarks during the closing ceremony and stated that “The strong message from this conference calling for promotion of African scientific excellence and international cooperation, as well as the urge for funding agencies to foster a step change towards interdisciplinary, multiscale and inclusive research agendas, resonates very well with the vision and mission of EDCTP”.

More information

Global Health EDCTP3 exchange meeting for Belgian and sub-Saharan African stakeholders | 5 December 2022

The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) Antwerp, Belgium, and the Flemish Ministry of Research, Innovation and Economy hosted a hybrid exchange meeting on the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. The Global Health EDCTP3 partnership was introduced and perspectives were shared by participating states. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, and Ms Lara Pandya, Senior Strategic Partnership Officer, presented on the possibilities for European and African member states and others to participate in the new programme. Written responses to the questions submitted by meeting participants are being compiled and will be shared in due course on the event page.

More information

EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence: Online workshop on periodic and final reporting | 8 December 2022

On 8 December 2022, an online workshop was held to refresh EDCTP2 Regional Networks
EDCTP site visit to Kenya | 28-29 November 2022

On 28-29 November 2022, Mr Abdoulie Barry, Director of Finance & Administration, Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager, and Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, carried out a review of two EDCTP projects taking place in Kenya: Revive IPTp – a project that is building the capacity of the health systems in Kenya to deliver malaria prevention services to pregnant women; and CDAE - the Capacity Development of Applied Epidemiology training programme.

Read the full article

EDCTP site visit to Senegal | 14-15 November 2022

On 14-15 November 2022, Mr Abdoulie Barry, Director of Finance & Administration, and Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager, carried out a review of three EDCTP projects taking place in Senegal: MTBVACN3 – a project evaluating an innovative new vaccine that could provide newborn babies with better protection against TB; MTBVAC Newborns – a phase IIa dose-defining study of MTBVAC to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity, immunogenicity, and potential for IGRA conversion and reversion, of MTBVAC in South African newborn; and OPT-SMC – a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of National Malaria Control Programmes (NMCP) to implement Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention.

Read the full article

EDCTP Financial & Project Management training | 17-18 November 2022

EDCTP organised two training workshops in Dakar, Senegal (17-18 November 2022), and Nairobi, Kenya (1-2 December 2022), for grant holders and project staff. Over the course of two days, Mr Abdoulie Barry, Director of Finance & Administration, Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager, and Grants Finance Officers Ms Neodia Flores-Mensing and Ms Sayma Siddiqui, presented on technical and financial reporting requirements for grant holders, understanding the EDCTP2 grant agreement, common mistakes and how to avoid them. The sessions included time for questions and discussion with grant holders, as well as sharing of experiences and opportunities for networking. More than 120 people working on EDCTP projects from across Africa participated in the training.

Project news

Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium: new child-friendly treatment option for schistosomiasis validated by EMA

The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium has announced that the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has validated for review the application for a potential new treatment option for schistosomiasis in preschool-aged children (3 months to 6 years of age). With this validation, the regulatory application for arpraziquantel is complete and EMA will now begin the scientific review process.
**MMVC annual meeting**

The Multistage Malaria Vaccine Consortium (MMVC) met for their annual meeting in The Gambia in November 2022. There were updates on the progress of vaccines against all stages of the parasite’s life cycle. The R21/Matrix-M anti-sporozoite vaccine has shown high efficacy over three years of follow-up in Nanoro, Burkina Faso, and is now in a phase III trial in four African countries targeting regulatory approvals and large-scale market supply in 2023 by the Serum Institute of India.

**ADAM: start of first round malaria MDA campaign**

The ADAM project is supporting the introduction of a malaria elimination strategy that has proven highly effective in reducing the incidence of malaria into routine programmatic use. It will act as a demonstration project, generating learning that will facilitate the wider rollout of the strategy across Mozambique. The first round of the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign against malaria has started in Chidenguele, Mozambique, and is being implemented by Mozambique’s National Malaria Control Programme with the support of Manhiça Health Research Centre (CISM), Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) and World Vision USA and is cofunded by the South Africa Medical Research Centre (SA MRC).

**PREVAC: safety and immunogenicity of Ebola vaccines yields promising results**

Results from a large-scale randomised Zaire Ebola Virus Disease vaccines trial in West Africa were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The results are based on 12 months follow-up and show that antibodies were detected 12 months after first vaccination. The trials form the basis for the EDCTP-funded follow-up PREVAC-UP project. More solid data will come from this project, which extended the follow-up period with an additional four years.

**ERASE-TB project video**

ERASE-TB, a project that will assess the potential of innovative approaches to detect early signs of active TB disease, have released a video on their activities. The
study will enroll 2100 household contacts: people living in close proximity with someone recently diagnosed with TB. Follow-ups will be performed every six months over a minimum period of 18 months and a maximum period of 24 months. The study will actively diagnose TB using chest X-rays and WHO symptom screening followed by Xpert MTB/RIF testing, if screened positive. All participants will have blood and urine samples stored for investigation at a later point in time.

Watch the video

### PediCAP video

In this video of the PediCAP project, Ms Martha Tholanah, a member of the PediCAP Community Advisory Board (CAB), provides essential insight into how PediCAP is helping community members. PediCAP is a five-year research project focused on antibiotic therapy of severe and very severe childhood community acquired pneumonia.

Watch the video »

### TB-CAPT annual meeting

The third annual TB-CAPT consortium meeting was held virtually on 12 December 2022. Coordinated by FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, the rationale of the project is to provide evidence for impactful implementation of TB and TB/HIV co-infection diagnostic strategies, including drug-susceptibility testing, through three clinical trials.

Read more »

### EMPIRICAL annual meeting

The EMPIRICAL consortium held its fourth annual meeting in Uganda on 15-16 November 2022 with the participation of the Executive Committee representatives, the independent members of the Trial Steering Committee, local stakeholders and (virtual) EDCTP participation. The project aims to develop a clinical trial to evaluate whether empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis improves survival of HIV-infected infants with severe pneumonia, which remains the main cause of death in this vulnerable population.
IMPUG: community dissemination workshop in Uganda

An implementation study on integrated malaria prevention using photovoice as participatory action research was recently conducted in Wakiso district, Uganda. This study is part of an EDCTP Career Development Fellowship awarded to Dr David Musoke at Makerere University School of Public Health. Following five months of photography by the participants, monthly discussion of photos with the researchers, and participatory analysis, a community dissemination workshop was held.

BERC-Africa: six-week regulatory training

The BERC-Africa project is coordinated by the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (Ghana FDA) and supported by local and international partners and aims at bolstering the capacity of African regulators in the area of clinical trials. FDA Ghana's Regional Center of Regulatory Excellence (RCORE) trainers completed a six-week training conducted by the Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (PEI). This high-level training and consulting programme for two trainers from the Ghana RCORE for Clinical Trials was specifically designed to build their regulatory skills and knowledge, particularly in the area of evaluating clinical trial applications and monitoring the benefit-risk balance of vaccines and biologics.

BERC-Africa: Ghana FDA conducts advanced RCORE training fellowship 2022

The Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (Ghana FDA) in collaboration with the School of Public Health of the University of Ghana and support from New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) recently held its maiden Advanced RCORE Fellowship training in Clinical Trials from 28 November to 10 December 2022 in Accra, Ghana. Participants of the training were regulatory officers from National Medicine Regulatory Authorities in The Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra-Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.
BCA-WA-ETHICS II at the Global Health Network Conference

The BCA-WA-ETHICS II project presented the different work packages and activities at the Global Health Network Conference in Cape Town, South Africa on 24 November 2022. The talk was concluded with a set of recommendations for the effective integration of gender mainstreaming into research and research ethics in an African setting, with a strong emphasis on promoting African leadership, researcher capacity-building, and equitable and fair North-South partnership practices.

Read more »

BCA-WA-ETHICS II: Launch of African Journal of Bioethics and call for editors and peer reviewers

The BCA-WA-ETHICS II project has launched the African Journal of Bioethics (AJB) in collaboration with the Africa Bioethics Network. The journal aims to encourage pan-African harmonisation in pertinent bioethical issues affecting Africa, enhance the standards of experimental and observational research ethics on the African continent, and promote robust discussions on emerging bioethical issues. The AJB is registered under ISSN 2951-9853 and the Crossref DOI prefix 10.58177/. The journal is seeking editors and peer reviewers with knowledge and expertise in bioethics.

Read more »

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

- Research Square: Needs and contents of a customised digital tool for retention in care among breast-feeding and pregnant women living with HIV in Kilimanjaro. Maro R et al. (preprint, 8 December 2022)
- Parasites Vectors: Protocols for Plasmodium gametocyte production in vitro: an integrative review and analysis. Omorou R et al. (5 December 2022)
- Immunol Lett: Differential expression of host protein biomarkers among symptomatic clinic attendees finally diagnosed with tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases with or without latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection. Namuganga AR et al. (December 2022)
- PLoS One: Neutrophil degranulation, NETosis and platelet degranulation pathway genes are co-induced in whole blood up to six months before tuberculosis diagnosis. Meier S et al. (preprint, 11 June 2022)
Parasites Vectors: Onchocerciasis in the Ntui Health District of Cameroon: epidemiological, entomological and parasitological findings in relation to elimination prospects, Joseph Nelson Siewe Fodjo et al. (28 November 2022)

Front Immunol: Impact of exposure to malaria and nutritional status on responses to the experimental malaria vaccine ChAd63 MVA ME-TRAP in 5-17 month-old children in Burkina Faso, Richard Morter et al. (2 December 2022)

Acta Trop: Building sustainable clinical trial sites in Sub-Saharan Africa through networking, infrastructure improvement, training and conducting clinical studies: The PanACEA approach, Anna-Maria Mekota et al. (8 December 2022)

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

NIH/NIAID Funding opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research (ICEMR) Program
National Institutes of Health (NIH)/ National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) have published a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research (ICEMR) programme. The ICEMR is intended to support research that is conducted primarily in countries in which malaria is endemic, and must provide for significant involvement of local/regional researchers in study design, development, and execution.
More information and deadlines

TB Vaccine advocacy Fellowships | Deadline: 31 December 2022
The TB Vaccine Advocacy Roadmap (TB Vax ARM) and Stop TB Partnership Working Group
on New TB Vaccines have announced a new advocacy fellowship programme, set to take place in February 2023 in the run-up to World TB Day. The programme will convene six fellows representing TB-affected communities, advocates, and early-career researchers from high-TB burden countries for an online skill building and co-learning programme. The goal of the programme is to help cultivate a new generation of TB vaccine R&D advocates and stimulate more diverse advocacy efforts for TB vaccine R&D ahead of the UN High Level Meeting on TB in September 2023 and beyond.

More information

TDR Postgraduate Scholarship in Implementation Research | Deadline: 2 January 2023
The Department of Education and Research in Public Health (DERSP) of the Faculty of Medicine and Odontostomatology (FMOS) at the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako (USTTB), Mali, is offering scholarships for Master’s in Public Health starting in April 2023. The objective of the scholarship programme is to strengthen capacity to conduct implementation research on neglected tropical diseases, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV co-infection, COVID-19 and One Health. The Master’s Programme is taught in French.

More information

CDT-Africa webinar: Implementation of compliant data management at clinical trial sites in Africa | 24 January 2023
In this webinar, commonly recurring data management issues in low- and middle-income countries are discussed which impact clinical trial success. The main themes of the webinar include optimal planning in data management, early procedures with an impact on data quality, quality aspects in data management, and other related aspects.

More information

Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) calls for proposals | Deadline: 27 January 2023
Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) has announced two calls for proposals:

LRI Regular call for proposals – Budget round 2024
Annual call for proposals for funding commencing in 2024. LRI funds research with a focus on leprosy, including research applications combining leprosy with other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) or other diseases that share cross-cutting issues with leprosy. In the 2024 budget round, preference will be given to research applications falling under the research priority of ‘Transmission’; proposals on all of LRI’s research priorities will be considered.

LRI Research capacity strengthening call for proposals – Budget round 2023
Alongside the regular annual grant, LRI is introducing a new Research capacity strengthening grant for funding commencing in 2023, aiming to fund innovative short projects led by early career researchers.

The deadline for submission for both calls is 27 January 2023 at 23:59 (CET).

More information

Mark your calendar

EDCTP2 multi-beneficiary grant holders: Online workshop on periodic and final reporting | 31 January 2023
All EDCTP2 multi-beneficiary grantees are invited to participate in an online workshop on periodic and financial reporting. Learn about reporting requirements for multi-beneficiary projects and how to avoid common mistakes. The training workshop will be conducted by Dr Michelle Helinski, Senior Project Officer, and Dr Johann Roth, Project Officer, Mrs Neodia Flores-Mensing, Grants Finance Officer, and Mrs Sayma Siddiqui, Grants Finance Officer.

More information

Eleventh EDCTP Forum | 7-10 November 2023
From 7-10 November 2023, EDCTP will hold its Eleventh EDCTP Forum, hosted in Paris, France, at the Palais des Congrès de Paris. The Forum theme is “Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation and Impact in Africa - Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond”. A call for nominations for EDCTP prizes will be published in January 2023. More information on registration and abstract submission will follow soon.
EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.

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