

EDCTP Update | March 2023



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EDCTP mourns the loss of Dr Pascoal Mocumbi

In loving memory of
Pascoal Mocumbi

(1941-2023)



It is with deep sadness and sorrow that we announce the passing of Dr Pascoal Mocumbi, EDCTP's first High Representative, which happened on 25 March 2023. Dr Mocumbi was one of the founding fathers of EDCTP and represented the African partners in the initial discussions with the European Union that led to the establishment of our partnership. Dr Mocumbi will be greatly missed by all of us who have lived, worked and interacted with him in various ways, but his legacy endures forever. We offer our sincere condolences to Dr Mocumbi's family and close relatives, and colleagues and friends in the global health community.

[In memoriam Dr Pascoal Mocumbi »](#)



EDCTP Forum

Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation
and Impact in Africa

7—10 November 2023 | Paris, France

Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond

Eleventh EDCTP Forum: Call for Abstracts and Scientific symposia

From 7-10 November 2023, the Eleventh EDCTP Forum will take place in Paris, France. We are happy to announce that a call for abstracts and a call for scientific symposia are now open:

Call for Abstracts

EDCTP invites submission of abstracts for oral presentations or e-poster presentations of original contributions on innovations and impact in global health research, relevant to the scope of EDCTP, and on research capacity strengthening and partnerships. The deadline for abstracts is **3 May 2023**.

[More information »](#)

Call for Scientific symposia

EDCTP invites applications for scientific symposia to be held in-person at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum. Integrated within the conference programme, the symposia provide an opportunity to present a topic of important relevance to the Forum theme to a wide range of stakeholders. The deadline of submission is **17 May 2023**.

[More information »](#)

Forum website and registration

We invite you to visit the [Eleventh EDCTP Forum website](#) regularly to find the latest updates. More information on registration will follow in the coming weeks. Regular updates will be provided through the monthly [EDCTP Updates](#) and through our social media channels ([Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)).



EDCTP 2023 Prizes: Call for nominations

Every two years, EDCTP awards four prestigious international prizes to recognise outstanding individuals and research teams from Africa and Europe who have made significant achievements in their research field. A call for nominations with a deadline of **31 May 2023 at 17:00 CEST** is open for the following prizes, which will be awarded at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum:

- Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize
- Outstanding Female Scientist Prize
- Scientific Leadership Prize
- Outstanding Research Team Prize

[Read the official announcement »](#)

Liberia, Malawi and Zimbabwe join EDCTP Association

EDCTP is pleased to welcome the Republics of Liberia, Malawi and Zimbabwe on board as the newest member countries of the EDCTP Association, bringing the total number of African countries to 24. Liberia will be represented in the EDCTP General Assembly by Dr Thelma V. Nelson and Mr Amos Gborie, National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL). Zimbabwe will be represented by Professor Collen Masimirembwa, African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology, and Dr Nyaradzo M. Mgodzi, University of Zimbabwe – Clinical Trials Research Centre. The representatives for Malawi will be appointed and announced soon.

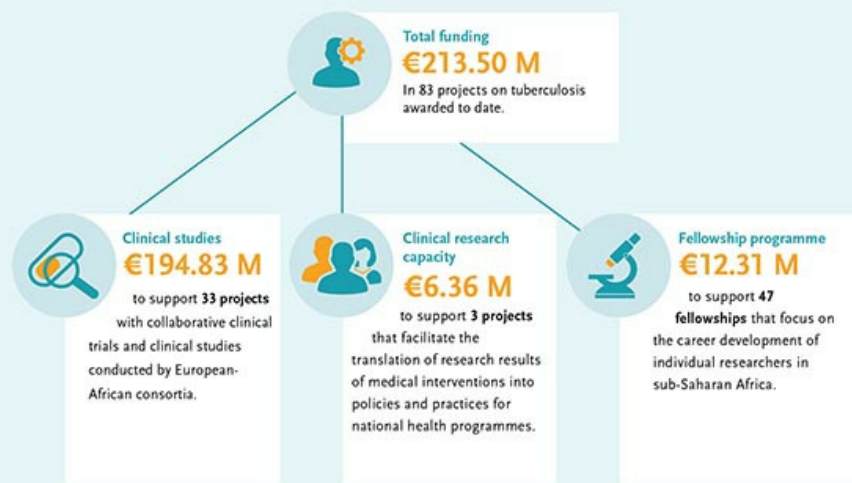
[More information »](#)

Dr Detlef Böcking steps down as EDCTP General Assembly representative and technical advisor for Germany

The EDCTP Association would like to express its sincere appreciation to Dr Detlef Böcking, who will in April 2023 be stepping down from his position as Head of Group at the DLR project management agency (DLR PT) working for and on behalf of the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Division of Health Research. Since 2009, Dr Böcking has been charged to represent the ministry in EDCTP as deputy representative to EDCTP's General Assembly (GA) for Germany, having already been involved in EDCTP activities since 2007. In September 2022 he stepped down as deputy GA representative and continued serving as a technical advisor for Germany. He has coordinated DLR PT's team for global health issues and worked closely with BMBF in planning and implementing the ministry's activity in research for Global Health, particularly in administering the ministry's funding concept for neglected and poverty-related diseases.



[More information »](#)



World TB Day 2023: Yes! We can end TB

On this year's World TB Day, EDCTP joined its global partners in the belief that we can end the tuberculosis epidemic. The urgency is clear, as TB has reclaimed its position as the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent after COVID-19 briefly overtook it. High-level leadership, increased research investment, concerted action and reducing health inequities are key ingredients to achieve the complex but attainable goal to end TB.

"People underestimate the burden TB has on our societies, leading to a belief that TB is not as serious as other respiratory diseases such as COVID-19 and other causes of pneumonia. That is an illusion."

Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager

[Read our message for World TB Day »](#)

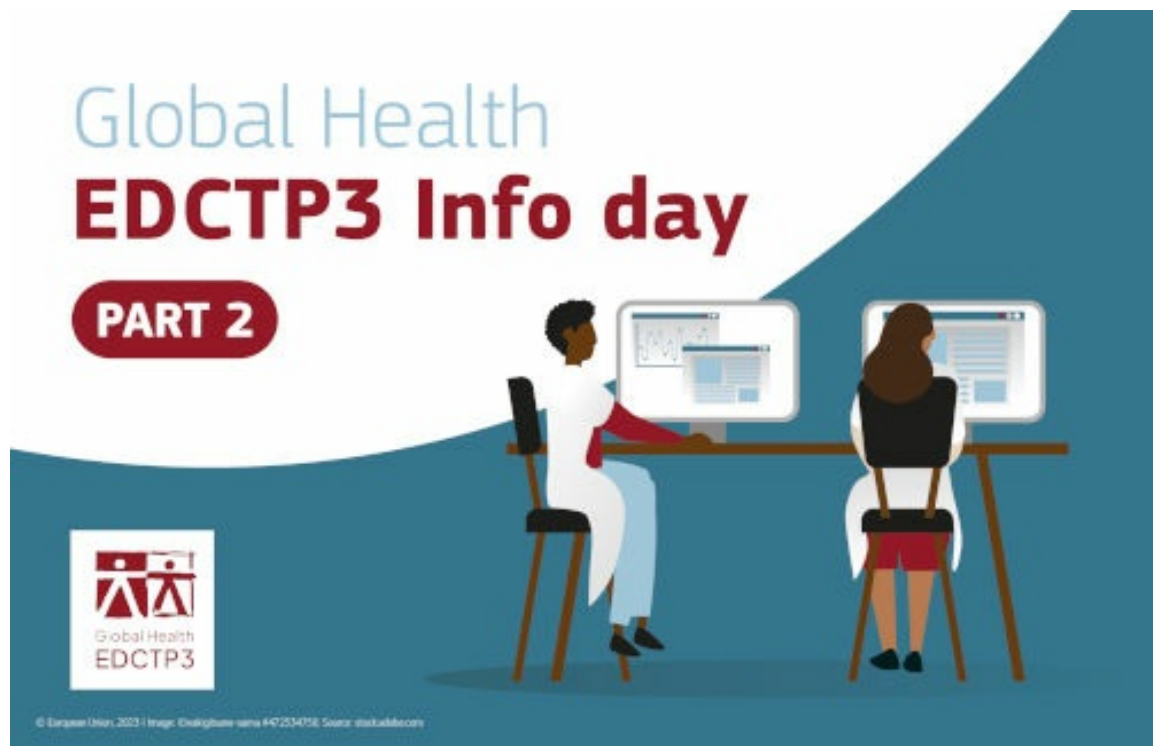
Second interim evaluation report: EDCTP2 highly relevant in the EU and globally

The European Commission has published the final report of the second interim evaluation of the EDCTP2 programme. The report marks the second EDCTP programme as "highly relevant in the EU and globally".

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP2's Executive Director:

"We are extremely grateful for the acknowledgement of the years of mission-focused hard work — the achievements, tailored course corrections and growing trust. From the inception of EDCTP2, the EDCTP secretariat, constituencies and our programme partners have been diligently creating and enhancing true partnerships in health between Africa and Europe that have made a real impact on the ground. I wish to thank all who have contributed to the success of the programme, and to the firm basis that has been laid for the future."

[Read more »](#)



Global Health EDCTP3 Info Day - Part 2

After a first Info Day on 23 March 2023, Global Health EDCTP3 will host its second Info Day on 12 April 2023. The event will provide potential applicants with information on the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals under Work Programme 2023, as well as information on eligibility criteria and other relevant administrative matters. Global Health EDCTP3 invites African and European researchers and innovators as well as citizens and all interested stakeholders to take part in the Info Day. This event will take place on **12 April 2023, 13:00 – 15:00 CEST**.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP3 INFODAY

April 21, 2023
10:30 (GMT)

Portuguese Global Health EDCTP3 Info Day

To complement the Global Health EDCTP Info Days organised by the Joint Undertaking, the Portuguese Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation Agency (AICIB) and Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) are organising a national Info Day, scheduled for **10:30-12:35 GMT on 21 April 2023**. The event will provide potential applicants with information on the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals under Work Programme 2023, as well as presenting some projects funded under the EDCTP2 calls for proposals.

[Programme and registration »](#)

Recent events

EDCTP site visit Côte d'Ivoire



Mr Abdoulie Barry, Dr Pauline Beattie and Dr Thomas Nyirenda visited Abidjan to review the progress of EDCTP projects in Côte d'Ivoire, including projects based at [PAC-CI](#), Université Félix Houphouët Boigny, Le Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte

d'Ivoire, and Ministère de la Santé, de l'Hygiène Publique et de la Couverture Maladie Universelle.

Côte d'Ivoire is a partner in 14 EDCTP projects, ranging from HIV research, emerging diseases, neglected infectious diseases through to ethics and regulatory capacity strengthening. EDCTP staff met with project staff to assess progress and to review the institutional, technical and financial management of EDCTP projects.

EDCTP staff had the privilege to meet with Mr Pierre N'Gou Dimba, the Minister of Health. Mr Dimba declared his interest and support for EDCTP, and his intention to encourage and build upon the success of EDCTP research projects in Côte d'Ivoire.

Project news

Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium: Phase III results in The Lancet Infectious Diseases



The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium have published the [results of the phase III trial of arpraziquantel](#), a new pediatric medication to treat schistosomiasis in preschool-aged children, in The Lancet Infectious Diseases. Arpraziquantel, a first-line orodispersible tablet, showed high efficacy and favourable safety in preschool-aged children with schistosomiasis. A linked [commentary](#) was delivered by Guo-Jing Yang and Xiao-Nong Zhou under the title 'A new formulation of praziquantel to achieve schistosomiasis elimination'.

In December 2022, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) [validated](#) for review the application for this new treatment option. With this validation, the regulatory application for arpraziquantel is complete and EMA will begin the scientific review process.

[Read the article »](#)

IMPROVE: new antimalarial better tolerated, safer and more effective



Results from the [IMPROVE](#) project confirm that dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DP), a new antimalarial, is better tolerated, safer, and more effective in treating and preventing malaria infections in pregnancy than current WHO-recommended treatment (i.e. sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine, SP), but does not improve birth outcomes. IMPROVE is a multi-country clinical trial comparing the efficacy, safety and tolerance of monthly IPTp-SP (control) versus monthly IPTp-DP (new treatment), alone or combined with a single course of azithromycin at enrolment to reduce the adverse effects of malaria and curable STIs/RTIs in 4,680 pregnant women and their newborns in sub-Saharan Africa. The study took place in 12 hospitals in highly malarious areas with high SP resistance in western Kenya, northern Tanzania, and southern Malawi. The results were

published in [The Lancet](#).

[Read more »](#)

PROTID annual meeting



On 27-28 February 2023 the [PROTID](#) consortium held their first face-to-face meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic in Moshi, Tanzania. The PROTID (Preventive Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in people with Diabetes Mellitus) project addresses a key EDCTP prevention priority area, namely TB and comorbidities. In 2022, the project initiated the first randomised controlled trial globally that evaluates the efficacy and impact of preventive treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in people living with diabetes.

[Read more »](#)

SIMBLE: Laboratory-on-a-ship



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. To this end, a large shipping container was refurbished to be used as microbiology media production unit developed for local production. In an article in [The Lancet Microbe](#) "Laboratory-on-a-ship: a microbiology culture media production facility in a sea container for local production in low-resource settings" the process is described of developing, constructing and installing the microbiology production container in Cotonou, Benin.

[Read the article »](#)

Updated directory of TB vaccine clinical trial sites



As part of a TB vaccine [coordination project](#) implemented by the TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI), an EDCTP online directory with an [overview of clinical trial sites in sub-Saharan Africa](#) is available. The directory includes the capacity of the clinical trial sites to conduct TB vaccine trials. In collaboration with sub-Saharan African clinical research sites, TBVI has updated the directory. An interactive map of Africa is available showing where all sites are located.

[More information »](#)

SCEPRESSA: EPI-Biostat Fellows field visits in Kenya and Malawi

Strengthening Capacity for Epidemics
Preparedness and Response in sub-Saharan

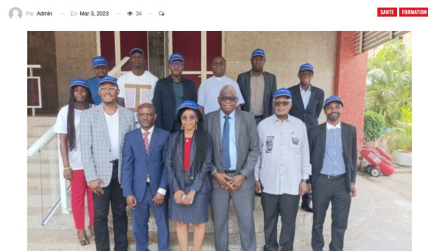


Africa (SCEPRESSA), one out of [10 EPI-Biostat consortia supported by EDCTP and Africa CDC](#), conducted field visits in Kenya and Malawi between November 2022 and February 2023. SCEPRESSA Master of Science Epidemiology and Biostatistics Fellows 'learn by doing', hence the two-year training will comprise 25% blended didactic sessions and 75% practical, in-the-field mentored training. During the field visits, the Fellows were exposed to various research activities that provided opportunities to network with researchers in partnering institutions.

- [Read the full article](#)
- Read the [interview with SCEPRESSA EPI-Biostat fellow Mrs Jeomba Mwakondja Alisa](#) for International Women's Day

CECaBI: Côte d'Ivoire National Ethics Committee workshop

Côte d'Ivoire – Recherche en Santé: Les capacités des membres du Comité National d'éthique renforcées



The Côte d'Ivoire National Ethics Committee held a workshop from 27 February to 1 March 2023 in Grand-Bassam. The main goal of the workshop was to build the capacities of members of ethics committees in the skills required for high-quality ethical evaluation of clinical trials. The workshop was supported through the [CECaBI](#) project, and it was covered by Abidjan News.

[Read the article on Abidjan News »](#)

BCA-WA-ETHICS II: Training for Niger's National Ethics Committee



On 20-21 March 2023, the Virtual Research Ethics Secretariat of the BCA-WA-ETHICS II project organised the training course "Understanding and Applying Gender and Sex Approaches in Research Ethics" for Niger's National Research Ethics Committee (CNERS). The training, which brought together nine CNERS members, covered topics such as the fundamentals of gender and sex, their role as health determinants, the integration of gender and sex into research, and the application of CNERS's new protocol evaluation tools which were conceived by the Virtual Research Ethics Secretariat.

[Read the full article »](#)

EACCR3: Handover of REC office Jinja Regional Referral Hospital

On 23 March 2023, the Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR3) handed over the Research and Ethics Committee (REC) office at the Jinja Regional Referral Hospital (JRRH) in Eastern Uganda. The process started in June 2022 with a meeting between Uganda Virus Research Institute



(UVRH)/EACCR and Jinja RRRH. During that meeting, the scientific liaison officer, Dr Bernard Kikaire, shared the vision and objectives of EACCR. He emphasised the importance of strengthening the conduct of ICH-GCP compliant research in the region and the need to have functional ethical regulatory committees at the Regional Referral Hospitals.

[Read the full article »](#)

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](#)

- *Nat Commun*: [Transmission modeling to infer tuberculosis incidence prevalence and mortality in settings with generalized HIV epidemics](#). Dodd PJ *et al.* (24 March 2023)
- *Infection*: [Efficacy and safety of antiparasitic therapy for neurocysticercosis in rural Tanzania: a prospective cohort study](#). Stelzle D *et al.* (24 March 2023)
- *BMC Pulm Med*: [UMOYA: a prospective longitudinal cohort study to evaluate novel diagnostic tools and to assess long-term impact on lung health in South African children with presumptive pulmonary TB-a study protocol](#). Dewandel I *et al.* (22 March 2023)
- *Infect Dis Poverty*: [Performance of clinical signs and symptoms, rapid and reference laboratory diagnostic tests for diagnosis of human African trypanosomiasis by passive screening in Guinea: a prospective diagnostic accuracy study](#). Oumou Camara *et al.* (20 March 2023)
- *Lancet*: [Effect of monthly intermittent preventive treatment with dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine with and without azithromycin versus monthly sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine on adverse pregnancy outcomes in Africa: a double-blind randomised, partly placebo-controlled trial](#). Madanitsa M *et al.* (10 March 2023)
- *Nat Med*: [Comparison of two diagnostic intervention packages for community-based active case finding for tuberculosis: an open-label randomized controlled trial](#). Aliasgar Esmail *et al.* (9 March 2023)
- *The Lancet Microbe*: [Laboratory-on-a-ship: a microbiology culture media production facility in a sea container for local production in low-resource settings](#). Massou F *et al.* (9 March 2023)
- *Malar J*: [Integrated malaria prevention in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review](#). Musoke D *et al.* (6 March 2023)
- *Lancet Infect Dis*: [Efficacy, safety, and palatability of arpraziquantel \(L-praziquantel\) orodispersible tablets in children aged 3 months to 6 years infected with Schistosoma in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya: an open-label, partly randomised, phase 3 trial](#). N'Goran EK *et al.* (6 March 2023)
- *J Clin Virol*: [A multi-country phase 2 study to evaluate the suitcase lab for rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2 in seven Sub-Saharan African countries: Lessons from the field](#). Ceruti A *et al.* (3 March 2023)
- *PLoS One*: [Evaluation of tuberculosis diagnostic test accuracy using Bayesian latent class analysis in the presence of conditional dependence between the diagnostic tests used in a community-based tuberculosis screening study](#). Keter AK *et al.* (2 March 2023)
- *Parasites Vectors*: [The pipeline for drugs for control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases: 1. Anti-infective drugs for regulatory registration](#). Pfarr KM *et al.* (1 March 2023)
- *Malar J*: [A snapshot of the prevalence of dihydropteroate synthase-431V mutation and other sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine resistance markers in Plasmodium falciparum isolates in Nigeria](#). Adegbola AJ *et al.* (1 Mar 2023)
- *Front Pharmacol*: [Efficacy and safety of praziquantel preventive chemotherapy in](#)

[Schistosoma mansoni infected school children in Southern Ethiopia: A prospective cohort study](#). Gebreyesus TD *et al.* (1 March 2023)

- Current Opin Pediatr: [Pediatric coronavirus disease 2019 in Africa](#). van der Zalm MM *et al.* (20 February 2023)
- PLOS glob public health: [Socioeconomic factors impact the risk of HIV acquisition in the township population of South Africa: A Bayesian analysis](#). Leung Soo C *et al.* (26 January 2023)

Resources

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>EDCTP2 portfolio: Collaborative research and development</p> <p>2014-2020</p> |  <p>EDCTP2 portfolio: Clinical research capacity</p> <p>2014-2020</p> |  <p>EDCTP2 portfolio: fellowship programme</p> <p>2014-2020</p> |
| 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

Global Health EDCTP3 Info Day - Part 2 | 12 April 2023

After a first Info Day in March 2023, Global Health EDCTP3 will host its second Info Day on 12 April 2023. The event will provide potential applicants with information on the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals under Work Programme 2023, as well as information on eligibility criteria and other relevant administrative matters. This event will take place on 12 April 2023, 13:00 –15:00 CEST.

[More information »](#)

Portuguese Global Health EDCTP3 Info Day | 21 April 2023

To complement the Global Health EDCTP Info Days organised by the Joint Undertaking, the Portuguese Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation Agency (AICIB) and Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) are organising a national Info Day, scheduled for **10:30-12:35 GMT** on **21 April 2023**. The event will provide potential applicants with information on the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals under Work

Programme 2023, as well as presenting some projects funded under the EDCTP2 calls for proposals.

[Programme and registration »](#)

Wellcome Trust (UK) Funding Opportunities for Applicants from LMICs

[Wellcome Early-Career Awards](#)

This scheme provides funding for early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, they will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing. By the end of the award, they will be ready to lead their own independent research programme.

Application deadline: **18 May 2023**

[Wellcome Career Development Awards](#)

This scheme provides funding for mid-career researchers from any discipline who have the potential to be international research leaders. They will develop their research capabilities, drive innovative programmes of work and deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing.

Application deadline: **4 April 2023** (next application deadline: 27 July 2023)

[Wellcome Discovery Awards](#)

This scheme provides funding for established researchers and teams from any discipline who want to pursue bold and creative research ideas to deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing.

Application deadline: **11 April 2023** (next application deadline: 25 July 2023)

SARETI Master's in Health Research Ethics programme | Deadline: 17 April 2023

The South African Research Ethics Training Initiative (SARETI) offers a comprehensive multidisciplinary education programme in health research ethics for Africa. SARETI aims to build African capacity for the ethical review of health research, and to strengthen Africa's institutional training capacity to achieve and sustain this. The SARETI Master's in Health Research Ethics programme is now open for applications.

[More information »](#)

RSTMH 2023 Early Career Grants Programme | Deadline: 28 April 2023

The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) 2023 Early Career Grants Programme opened for applications. Applications for grants of up to £5,000 (GBP) are welcomed from early career researchers and global health professionals based anywhere in the world, who have not had research funding of £5,000 or more in their own name before. The projects can be on any topic related to tropical medicine and global health, from across the research spectrum of lab, translation, implementation and policy, and should take up to one year to complete. The deadline for applications is Friday 28 April 2023.

[More information »](#)

ADVAC (Advanced Course for Vaccinology) | 8-19 May 2023

ADVAC is an annual two-week training programme for decision-makers, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies. With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), EDCTP will provide fellowships for selected candidates from Sub-Saharan African countries.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

EDCTP events

Eleventh EDCTP Forum | 7-10 November 2023, Paris (France)

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". Calls for [abstracts](#), [scientific symposia](#), and for nominations for [EDCTP Prizes](#) which will be extended at the Forum, are currently open for application. We invite you to visit the [Eleventh EDCTP Forum website](#) for more information, deadlines and application forms.

Other events

VolREthics global meeting | 24 & 25 April 2023, Brussels (Belgium)

The [VolREthics](#) Initiative on Healthy Research Volunteers and Ethics is organising an on-site plenary global meeting at the European Commission premises in Brussels (Belgium) on 24-25 April 2023. The main objective of the event will be to take stock of what has been learned so far through the five regional VolREthics seminars, and to pave the way for international guidelines development for the protection of healthy volunteers in biomedical research. Registration for this event is free, but mandatory through e-mail to [hvworkshop.disc\(at\)inserm.fr](mailto:hvworkshop.disc(at)inserm.fr)

INTEREST 2023 | Maputo, Mozambique, 9-12 May 2023

The 17th International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research in Resource-Limited Settings (INTEREST) conference will take place in Maputo, Mozambique from 9-12 May 2023. INTEREST brings together scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research in Africa to share pivotal findings, promote collaboration, and transfer experiences across several fields and countries. [More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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