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EDCTP Update | April 2023



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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 <u>Eleventh EDCTP Forum</u> will take place in Paris, France. A call for abstracts, for scientific symposia, and for nominations for the EDCTP Prizes competition are currently open, and sponsorship opportunities are now also available. We invite you to read the following information carefully:

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 »

Sponsorship opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum aim to profile and raise the visibility of organisations working in the same field as EDCTP. We invite you to browse through the various sponsorship packages on our Forum website. Please note that sponsorship applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, except for the 60-minute sponsored satellite sessions, which have an application deadline of **31 May 2023**. <u>More information »</u>

Registration

Registration for the Eleventh EDCTP Forum will open in May 2023. Details on both inperson and virtual participation are currently available online. The deadline for early-bird registration is **14 July 2023**. More information »



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 »

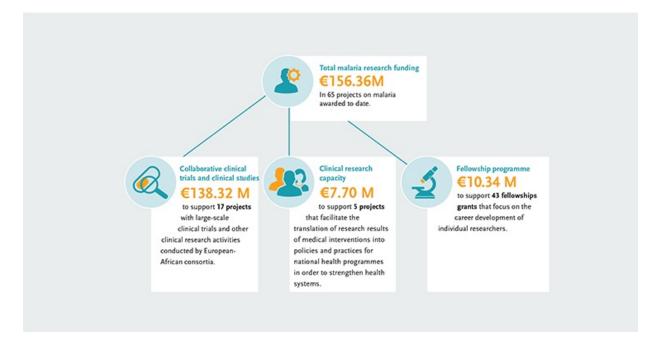
Professor Moses Bockarie retires as Head of EDCTP Africa Office

EDCTP expresses gratitude to Prof. Moses John Bockarie on his retirement from the organisation after seven years of highly committed service. EDCTP will remember Prof. Bockarie as a dedicated researcher and manager who furthered the objectives of the organisation in sub-Saharan Africa in the areas of African ownership, advocacy, capacity development and networking. Under his directorship, EDCTP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WHO's Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO) and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). The number of African EDCTP Association member states increased from 16 to 21.

Read more »



World Malaria Day 2023: time to deliver zero malaria



The theme of this year's World Malaria Day is "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement". EDCTP joins WHO in its focus on the third "i" – implement – and more specifically on advancing tools and strategies to reduce the burden of malaria among vulnerable populations that are often excluded from clinical studies but that have major unmet medical needs. We do so by funding the development of innovative products – diagnostics, drugs and vaccines – and the implementation of interventions and activities to strengthen health systems.

Read the full message »

Policy brief on inclusion of African Union in G20

A group of eleven thought leaders, under the

umbrella of the EU-funded <u>PREPARED project</u>, published the policy brief '<u>One seat</u>, <u>one billion</u> <u>people: advocating for a G21</u>'. This policy brief advocates for the inclusion of the African Union in the G20 or Group of Twenty - one of the most powerful multilateral platforms shaping and strengthening global governance on major international economic issues. Including the African Union in the G20 would include 96% of Africa's population <u>still missing from that body</u> today.

EDCTP Executive Director Dr Michael Makanga is one of the authors of the policy brief, and is quoted in a <u>Nature article</u> 'Researchers back African Union to join G20 group of largest economic powers':

"The G20 is the top multilateral forum for international economic cooperation. For ethical and moral reasons it is critical that Africa is represented at the table"



Read more »

Project news

First EDCTP & Africa CDC EPI-Biostat Fellows complete training



In 2021, ten consortia received funding to train 151 highly skilled epidemiologists and biostatisticians across sub-Saharan Africa. This highly anticipated training programme, dubbed as the <u>'EPI-Biostat Fellowship programme</u>', is supported by EDCTP and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) as part of its framework for public health workforce development. Six Fellows of the first cohort (through the <u>ENTRANT consortium</u>) have completed their training and <u>obtained their MSc in</u> <u>Epidemiology</u>.

Read the interview with ENTRANT EPI-Biostat Fellowship graduate Dr Sarah Nyangu »

TBVI annual meeting



TBVI hosted its annual meeting in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, on 4 April 2023. At this meeting the EDCTP-funded TB vaccine projects presented project updates, and Dr Michelle Helinski, EDCTP Senior Project Officer, gave a presentation on the EDCTP2 investments in TB vaccine R&D and the Global Health EDCTP3 programme. The following day, the EDCTPfunded TB vaccine projects held their annual meeting.

TB vaccine projects coordination meeting



The four EDCTP-funded late-stage TB vaccine development projects: POR TB Consortium, priMe and MTBVAC-Newborns Phase 2a and MTBVACN3, meet on a regular basis to exchange knowledge and experiences. This year's meeting, organised by the <u>TuBerculosis</u> <u>Vaccine Initiative</u>, took place on 5 April 2023 in a hybrid way, with some project partners present in Les Diablerets in Switzerland where they attended the TBVI partner meeting, and other participants attending online.

Read more »

POR-TB: Last participant last visit



The prevention of recurrence of tuberculosis (POR TB) trial has been completed with a total of 831 participants from six clinical trial sites in South Africa and Tanzania. This double-blind, placebo-controlled trial assessed whether the TB vaccine candidate H56:IC31 reduced the risk of recurrent TB during one-year follow-up after an uncomplicated, and successfully treated, TB episode. The last participant last visit took place on 20 March 2023.

Read more »

PYRAPREG investigators' meeting



The <u>PYRAPREG</u> study held its investigators' meeting on 9-10 March 2023 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The study is a phase III open-label, multicentre, randomized, non-inferiority clinical trial comparing pyronaridine-artesunate (PA) with artemether-lumefantrine (AL) and dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DP) for the treatment of *falciparum malaria* in women in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. The PYRAPREG study is coordinated by Prof. Kassoum Kayentao of the Université des Sciences, des Techniques et des Technologies de Bamako (USTTB), Bamako, Mali.

Read more »

INTEGRATION investigators' meeting

The INTEGRATION consortium held its 1st annual investigators meeting on 6 and 7 March 2023 both in person in Rome, Italy, and virtually. The study is coordinated by Prof. Kassoum Kayentao of the Université des Sciences, des Techniques



et des Technologies de Bamako (USTTB), Bamako, Mali. The INTEGRATION study has the potential to produce a direct benefit in public health impact at both regional and global levels, improving the health of expecting mothers as one of the most needed populations by providing evidence-based data.

Read more »

PAMAfrica: start of recruitment for the CAPTURE 1 clinical study



The first participant dosed with the novel antimalarial combination of M5717 (cabamiquine)-pyronaridine was recruited on 29 March 2023 in the Tororo District Hospital, Uganda.

The CAPTURE 1 (CAbamiquine in PrevenTion and CURE) clinical study is a proof-of-concept phase IIa trial aiming to evaluate the safety, efficacy, and pharmacokinetics of the nonartemisinin combination M5717 (cabamiquine) plus pyronaridine in adults and adolescents presenting acute uncomplicated Plasmodium malaria.

BREEDSAFCA: Four new RECs in Cameroon



In January 2023, two new regional Research Ethics Committees (RECs) were set up in the North West and North Region of Cameroon. The establishment of the committees was supported by the project 'Strengthening the regulatory framework to upgrade ethical review of clinical research and drugs safety monitoring in Cameroon' (BREEDSAFCA) and follows the establishment of two other RECs supported by the project, namely the West Regional Ethics Committees (in August 2021) and the Littoral Regional Ethics Committee (in September 2021). This brings the total of RECs in Cameroon to 6 (or 60% of national coverage).

Read more »

Strengthening Cape Verde's capacity in clinical trials: visit to the Bandim Health Project



Earlier this year, members of the BCG-COVID-RCT team visited the Bandim Health Project in Guinea-Bissau. The BCG-COVID-RCT project assessed whether revaccination with BCG protects healthcare workers from the worst effects of SARS-CoV-2. Because it was not possible to conduct the clinical trial in Cape Verde due to the absence of a legal framework for clinical trials, a visit to the countries conducting the trial with already established experience in this field was an alternative solution to share experience and strengthen Cape Verde's capacity building.

Read the full report (PDF) »

Publications

EDCTP is a member of <u>Europe PMC</u>. 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

- medRxiv (Preprint Server for Health Sciences): <u>Analyses of vaccine-specific circulating</u> and bone marrow-resident B cell populations reveal benefit of delayed vaccine booster dosing with blood-stage malaria antigens. Barrett JS et al (24 March 2023)
- Int J Infect Dis: End of the Bedaquiline patent a crucial development for moving forward affordable drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for infectious diseases in lowand middle-income countries. Petersen E et al. (6 April 2023)
- PLOS glob public health: <u>Urinary interleukins (IL)-6 and IL-10 in schoolchildren from</u> an area with low prevalence of *Schistosoma haematobium* infections in coastal Kenya. Kariuki H. Njaanake *et al.* (5 April 2023)
- Lancet HIV: Safety and pharmacokinetics of escalating doses of neutralising monoclonal antibody CAP256V2LS administered with and without VRC07-523LS in HIV-negative women in South Africa (CAPRISA 012B): a phase 1, dose-escalation, randomised controlled trial. Mahomed S et al. (1 April 2023)

with linked comment article:

- Lancet HIV: <u>High volume subcutaneous delivery of long-acting HIV bNAbs.</u> Marina Caskey. (April 2023)
- Pilot Feasibility Stud: Protocol for a feasibility randomized controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of N-acetylcysteine in reducing adverse drug reactions among adults treated for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Tanzania. Mpagama SG et al. (1 April 2023)

Resources



Collaborative clinical R&D online Clinical research capacity PDF

Fellowships online

- EDCTP | Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research
- EDCTP | <u>Guidelines for grantees Progress report</u>
- EDCTP | <u>Template for Grant Agreement Annex 5</u>
- ERUDIT | <u>Planning for Financial Sustainability manual</u>
- Europe PMC webinar | <u>Watch the recording</u> and <u>download the slides</u>
- TRUST project | <u>Video introducing the Global Code of Conduct</u>

Training and funding opportunities

12th Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx) | Veyrier-du-Lac, France, 17-22 September 2023

The 12th Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx), co-organized by the Merieux Foundation and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will take place at Les Pensières Center for Global Health, in Annecy (France) from 17 to 22 September 2023. In line with the historical resolution on "strengthening diagnostic capacities" to be adopted at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2023, the 12th edition of ACDx will emphasise the importance of providing access to effective, fast, and inexpensive diagnostic tools, especially in low-income countries. A call for applications is open with a **deadline of 30 April 2023**.

More information »

Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme: Call for proposals | Deadline: 15 June 2023

The European Commission has opened a \notin 27 million <u>call for proposals</u> for higher education institutions to provide international learning mobility opportunities for African students, trainees and university staff under the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme 2022–2027. The <u>scheme</u> is part of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package's flagship initiative <u>Youth Mobility for Africa</u> that promotes youth exchanges and mobility in Africa and between Africa and Europe, and contributes to strengthening Africa's higher education space. Applications must be submitted by a consortium composed of 4–6 higher education institutions from eligible countries in Africa and one higher education institution from the EU. <u>The call</u> is expected to finance around 15 projects for a maximum grant amount of \notin 1.8 million each. The application deadline is **15 June 2023 17:00 CEST**.

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)

MRC Clinical Trials Unit online MSc courses

The Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit (MRC CTU) at University College London (UCL) offers online MSc courses in Clinical Trials and in Statistics for Clinical Trials. The online <u>MSc in Clinical Trials</u> provides grounding in management and design of clinical trials, and enhances knowledge and understanding of those already working in the field. The online <u>MSc in Statistics for Clinical trials</u> develops knowledge and know-how of statistics in clinical trials. This training is relevant for future clinical trial statisticians, and as well as clinicians and other health professionals who have a strong quantitative interest in trials. The courses start in September 2023.

NIH/NIAID International Research in Infectious Diseases grants

National Institutes of Health (NIH)/ National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) have published a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to support applications for research on infectious diseases in eligible (resource constrained) foreign countries. The intent of the FOA is to foster, stimulate and/or expand basic, translational, and applied research that will advance scientific discovery and engage local scientists in areas of infectious diseases research. Studies may be proposed on any aspect of infectious disease research except clinical trials. Applications from organisations in low- and lower-middle income economy countries are especially encouraged to apply.

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". The calls for abstracts, scientific symposia, and for EDCTP Prize nominations are currently open for application, and sponsorship opportunities are available to profile and raise the visibility of organisations working in the same field as EDCTP. Registration for the Forum will open in May 2023. We invite you to visit the <u>Eleventh EDCTP Forum website</u> for more information, deadlines and application forms.

Other events

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. <u>More information »</u>

Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) meeting | Montreux, Switzerland, 28-29 November 2023

The Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) will hold a two-day meeting in Montreux, Switzerland on 28-29 November 2023 on the topic: "The ethics of health research priority setting". The Forum prioritises the participation of colleagues from low-and middle- income countries. A call for applications is open with a **deadline of 15 May 2023**.

More information »

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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