



EDCTP Update | August 2023



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Eleventh EDCTP Forum



EDCTP Forum

Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation
and Impact in Africa

7—10 November 2023 | Paris, France

Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond

From 7-10 November 2023, the [Eleventh EDCTP Forum](#) will take place in Paris, France.

[Registration](#)

Registration for the Eleventh EDCTP Forum is possible for in-person and virtual participation.

[Forum programme at a glance](#)

The programme at a glance provides an overview of the session types of the Eleventh EDCTP Forum which includes plenary sessions, parallel sessions and scientific symposia, workshops, poster presentations, and more. The detailed Forum programme will be available soon.

[Featured speakers](#)

Get to know our confirmed keynote and panel speakers.

[Sponsorship opportunities](#)

Our sponsorship opportunities can help raise the visibility of organisations working in the same field as EDCTP. [Find out who our sponsors are.](#)

EDCTP session at SSUNGA78: Investing in Research and Development of Innovative Digital Health Solutions for Africa



As part of the 9th edition of the Science Summit around the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA78), and on the occasion of EDCTP's 20th anniversary, EDCTP will organise a side event to illustrate the value of investing in research and development of innovative digital health solutions for addressing unmet medical needs in Africa through a global partnership such as EDCTP. This is a hybrid side event, and it will take place in New York, United States, and virtually on 14 September 2023 from 15:00-17:00 CEST. Registrations for in-person and virtual participation are open.

[Read more »](#)

Guinea-Bissau joins EDCTP Association



EDCTP is pleased to welcome Guinea-Bissau on board as the newest member country of the EDCTP Association, bringing the total number of African countries to 26. The admittance of Guinea-Bissau was approved by the EDCTP Association members on 22 August 2023. Additionally, the country formalised its commitment to the EDCTP Association for participation in the [Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking](#). Guinea-Bissau will be represented in the EDCTP General Assembly by Professor Aladje Baldé and Dr Baltazar Cá of the Instituto Nacional de Saúde Pública (INASA).

[Read more »](#)

Final results of landmark RTS,S and SMC study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Seasonal drug-vaccine combination sustains dramatically superior malaria protection over 5 years.



Malaria Vaccine
(Given Before Rainy Season)



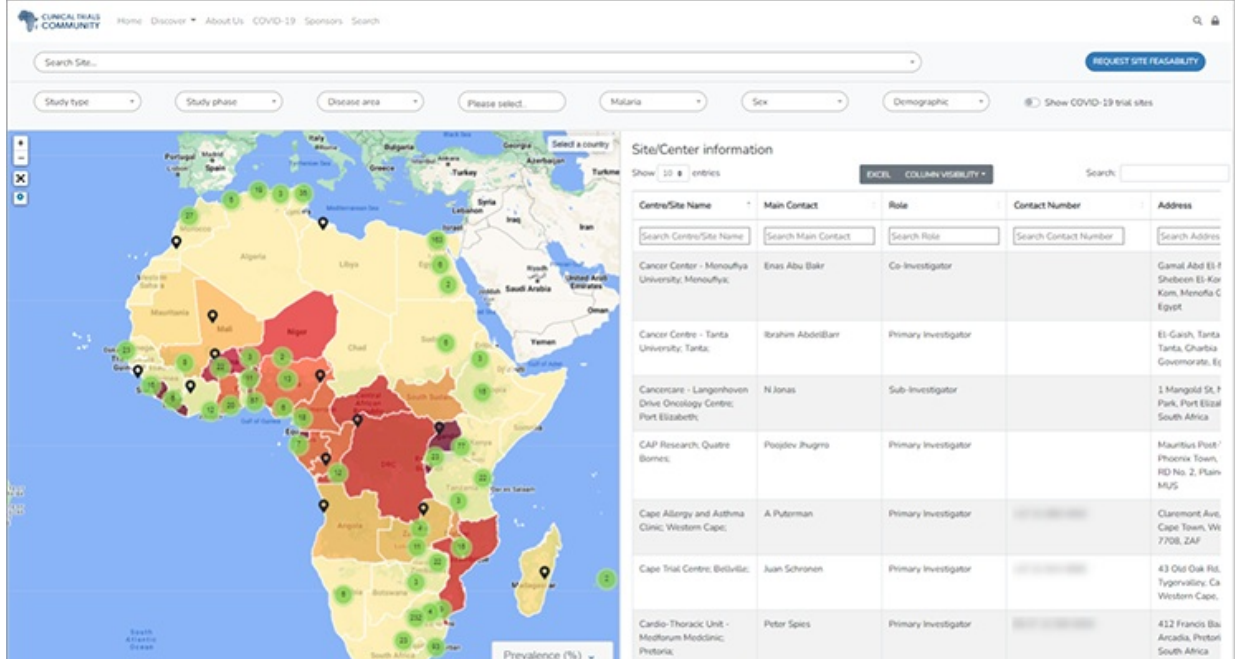
Antimalarial Drugs (SMC)
(Given During Rainy Season)



greater reduction in severe malaria and deaths among children than current SMC approach

The final results of a phase 3 study confirm two-thirds reduction in cases of malaria, including cases of severe malaria, and deaths from malaria, for RTS,S-drug combination over either intervention given alone in settings of highly seasonal malaria transmission. Results also showed the RTS,S vaccine has similar high efficacy to drugs in preventing malaria in highly seasonal transmission settings, and that overall reduction in malaria incidence likely “tops” 90% among children protected by bednets, vaccines, and drugs. Read the [publication](#) and a [press release](#) on the findings.

The CTC Platform: empowering the clinical trials Community in Africa



The Clinical Trials Community (CTC) Platform is an easy to use online registry of clinical trial sites in Africa. It aims to increase the level of clinical trial investments in Africa by raising the visibility of African clinical trialists and research sites as well as making transparent and accessible individual country regulatory and ethics procedures to inform decision-making by sponsors.

The CTC Africa platform invites research ethics committees (REC) administrators to capture the information about their RECs, and so doing, help the research community make informed decisions of where clinical trials take place. Registration to the platform is free. For more information about the CTC Platform and registration, please visit www.ctc.africa.

The platform was developed by nuvoteQ in partnership with the Science for Africa Foundation, with funding provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and EDCTP under the [CTCAN initiative](#).

Project news

CHAPAS-4 trial shows benefit of new antiretroviral combinations for second-line treatment of children living with HIV



The CHAPAS-4 trial has found that newer antiretroviral combinations including tenofovir alafenamide and dolutegravir are superior to older second-line options for children living with HIV. These results were presented on 25 July at the [International AIDS Society Conference](#) in Australia. In addition, CHAPAS-4 found that combinations including the drugs darunavir or atazanavir are excellent alternative options. CHAPAS-4 was a large randomised controlled trial, with 919 children aged 3-15 years from Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe taking part. It aimed to improve treatment options for children living with HIV requiring second-line treatment after first-line treatment with efavirenz or nevirapine.

Children were followed-up for at least 2 years after starting second line treatment.

[Read more »](#)

ALIVE trial completed in Mozambique



The EDCTP-funded STOP consortium’s ALIVE phase II trial has been successfully completed in Mozambique. The research team is analysing the data and aims to publish the preliminary results soon. The analysis will show whether the fixed-dose combination is more effective than the standard treatment for treating *Trichuris* and hookworm.

[Read more »](#)

PrepVacc trial could be ‘the last roll of the dice’ for an HIV vaccine this decade



Photo credit: CCN/Luke Dra

A novel trial conducted by the EDCTP-funded PrepVacc project, which has been described as “the last roll of the dice” for a generation of HIV vaccines, has entered its latter stages. The trial is testing two vaccines alongside two forms of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to test vaccine efficacy while offering protection to prevent the spread of HIV.

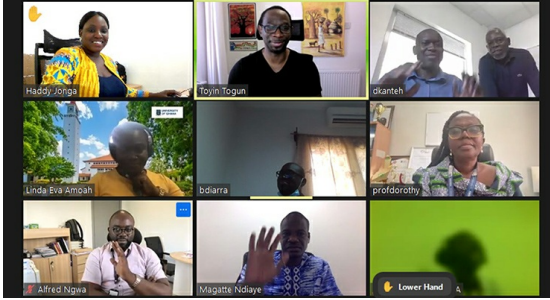
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VITALITY project updates



The VITALY project announced in their [August newsletter](#) that the trial will be unblinded during the third week of November 2023 at Victoria Falls on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, the two countries where the trial was conducted. The project will organise an ‘unblinding’ meeting which will bring together investigators across the 6 institutions in 4 countries that form the VITALITY consortium. The VITALITY trial is a randomised double-blinded placebo-controlled trial of high-dose Vitamin D and calcium supplementation to improve musculoskeletal health in children growing up with HIV.

Meeting of the TALENT Fellowship Steering Committee



The TALENT Fellowship Steering Committee held its periodic meeting on 23 August to take stock of progress with the PhD fellows currently leading their research at various institutions in West Africa. The TALENT Fellowship is coordinated by the EDCTP-funded [WANETAM](#) network of excellence. The Fellowship aims to deliver a gender-sensitive academic programme for PhD and MSc training, aimed at promoting capacity development in clinical research in endemic and emerging infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with women's inclusion as a core value.

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EACCR3 second annual general meeting



The Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR) held its annual general meeting for the EACCR3 Network of Excellence in Zanzibar, Tanzania on 1-2 August 2023. The two-day event was representation of all partner organizations and had three general objectives: to evaluate EACCR3 performance in year 2, and share challenges and best practices of project implementation in year 2, to disseminate research findings and assess student progress with scientific and research work; and to clarify year 3 deliverables and milestones.

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EDCTP Fellows

Dr Solomon M. Abay: PrazOpt project stakeholder meeting



The PrazOpt project held its stakeholder meeting in Hawassa, Ethiopia on 31 July 2023. Key findings of the PrazOpt project, which targets preschoolers with schistosomiasis, have been shared with policymakers, NTD programmers, healthcare providers, and researchers. The PrazOpt project is coordinated by the EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Solomon M. Abay (Ethiopia). It involves researchers from Hawassa University and Karolinska Institutet.

Dr Oghenebrume Wariri presents results of TIMELY study



EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Oghenebrume Wariri (The Gambia), presented the results of his TIMELY study, which aimed to investigate the timeliness of receiving routine childhood vaccinations in The Gambia and understand the contribution of demand-side factors, geographic accessibility to immunisation clinics, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The study findings was published in [Plos One](#) and provides an important step towards research on childhood vaccinations in The Gambia.

Dr Kingsley Badu publishes results on accuracy of diagnosis among clinical malaria patients



The WHO recommends confirmation of all suspected malaria cases before treatment. Microscopy and rapid diagnostic test (RDTs) are widely used for point-of-care diagnosis in spite of their poor sensitivity at low parasite density. The EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Kingsley Badu (Ghana), published the results of a study that sought to quantify the sub-microscopic infections below the detection limit of RDTs and microscopy among patients referred to the lab for malaria test.

[Read more »](#)

Publications

- *Journal of Medical Case Reports*: [Incidental radiological findings during clinical tuberculosis screening in Lesotho and South Africa: a case series](#). Glaser, N, *et al.* (25 August 2023)
- *PLoS Genet*: [Neutrophil extracellular trap formation and gene programs distinguish TST/IGRA sensitization outcomes among *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* exposed persons living with HIV](#). Kroon EE, *et al.* (24 August 2023)
- *PLoS One*: [Evaluation of Xpert MTB/XDR test for susceptibility testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* to first and second-line drugs in Uganda](#). Katamba, A, *et al.* (24 August 2023)
- *Malaria Journal*: [Women's empowerment and uptake of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria during pregnancy: results from a cross-sectional baseline survey in the Lake endemic region, Kenya](#). Odwe G, *et al.* (23 August 2023)
- *Bulletin of the National Research Centre*: [Needs and contents of a customized digital tool for retention in care and medication adherence among pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV in Kilimanjaro](#). Maro RA, *et al.* (15 August 2023)
- *Trials*: [The effect of a customised digital adherence tool on HIV treatment outcomes in young people living with HIV \(YPLHIV\) in Blantyre, Malawi: a protocol for a randomised controlled trial](#). Msosa, T, *et al.* (15 August 2023)
- *PLoS Comput Biol*: [Call detail record aggregation methodology impacts infectious disease models informed by human mobility](#). Gibbs, H, *et al.* (10 August 2023)

August 2023)

- *Drug Saf*: [Comparative Safety Surveillance of Triple \(IDA\) Versus Dual Therapy \(DA\) in Mass Drug Administration for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in Kenya: A Cohort Event Monitoring Study](#). Khaemba, C., et al. (8 August 2023)
- *Vaccines*: [Maternal and Infant Histo-Blood Group Antigen \(HBGA\) Profiles and Their Influence on Oral Rotavirus Vaccine \(Rotarix™\) Immunogenicity among Infants in Zambia](#). Chauwa, A, et al. (31 July 2023)
- *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*: [Towards the sustainable elimination of gambiense human African trypanosomiasis in Côte d'Ivoire using an integrated approach](#). Kaba D, et al. (31 July 2023)
- *Pharmacogenomics*: [Single-nucleotide polymorphisms in ABC drug transporters alter expression and circulating tenofovir in healthy South African women exposed to pre-exposure prophylaxis](#). Zondo, NM, et al. (28 July 2023)
- *Microb Genom*: [Mapping the phylogeny and lineage history of geographically distinct BCG vaccine strains](#). Elton, L, et al. (1 August 2023)
- *Scientific reports*: [Correlation of N-acetyltransferase 2 genotype and acetylation status with plasma isoniazid concentration and its metabolic ratio in ethiopian tuberculosis patients](#). Sileshi T, et al. (15 July 2023)
- *Pharmacogenomics*: [Warfarin pharmacogenetics in a black Zimbabwean cohort: an observational prospective study](#). M Hidjo, et al. (12 July 2023)
- *PLOS Glob Public Health*: [Acceptability and feasibility of home and hospital follow-up in Burkina Faso and Guinea: A mixed-method study among patients of the COVID-19 Coverage-Africa clinical trial](#). Plazy, M, et al. (12 July 2023)
- *PLoS Med*: [The potential impact of novel tuberculosis vaccine introduction on economic growth in low- and middle-income countries: A modeling study](#). Portnoy, A, et al. (11 July 2023)
- *Int J Infect Dis*: [Prostration and the prognosis of death in African children with severe malaria](#). Agnandji ST, et al. (4 July 2023)
- *Pharmaceutics*: [Responsive Sensory Evaluation to Develop Flexible Taste-Masked Paediatric Primaquine Tablets against Malaria for Low-Resource Settings](#). Ranmal, SR, et al. (4 July 2023)
- *Pathogens*: [Prevalence and Determinants of Schistosoma mansoni Infection among Pre-School Age Children in Southern Ethiopia](#). Tadele T, et al. (21 June 2023)
- *Implementation Science Communications*: [Improving retention and HIV viral load suppression among adolescents living with HIV in TASO Soroti and TASO Mbale centers of excellence using Operation Triple Zero model: a before and after study protocol](#). Bonniface O, et al. (12 June 2023)
- *Microorganisms*: [Lumbar Puncture and Meningitis in Infants with Proven Early- or Late-Onset Sepsis: An Italian Prospective Multicenter Observational Study](#). Bedetti L, et al. (10 June 2023)

Resources



[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)
online



[Clinical research capacity](#)
PDF



[Fellowships](#)
online

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
- 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](#)
- PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
- PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)

Training and funding opportunities

AREF Research Development Fellowship 2023/24 | Deadline for applications: 14 September 2023

The Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) has launched a call for the AREF Research Development Fellowship Programme for 2023/24. The aim of the programme is to provide opportunities for talented health researchers based in Africa, so that they can lead research that is responsive to its African settings and can contribute to reducing the burden of disease.

[More information »](#)

AAS call for mentors | Deadline: 30 September 2023

The AAS invites experienced professionals to join its Mentorship Programme as Mentors and support talented early-career researchers across Africa. The AAS's Mentorship Programme seeks to meet a growing need for mentors in a continent where most Africa-based early and mid-career postdoctoral researchers are not likely to receive adequate support and guidance in critical areas such as grant writing, making career decisions, attaining a job, joining research networks, publishing, public engagement initiatives among other essential career development needs. Experienced researchers and professionals from across the globe are welcome to sign up as potential mentors through the AAS Mentorship Programme [portal](#).

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: **5 October 2023**

African Career Acceleration Fellowships | Deadline for application: 12 November 2023

The Crick Africa Network (CAN) is offering African Career Acceleration Fellowships supported by LifeArc for early-career biomedical scientists to develop translational scientific programmes and become independent scientists. The Institute is looking for post-doctoral applicants who can demonstrate strong scientific and leadership potential, a keen interest in translational science, and a commitment to establishing their own research groups and continuing their careers on the African continent. Fellows will be hosted at one of 5 African institutions (MRC Gambia, MRC Uganda, University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University and University of Ghana) for a fully-funded 4-year post-doctoral research grant, and will also have funding to visit the Crick and make use of their lab facilities.

[More information »](#)

Advanced course on epidemiology in complex emergencies for effective surveillance and response (in French)

The Mériex Foundation and Epiconcept are organising a second edition of the Advanced course of epidemiology in French: "Epidémiologie dans les situations d'urgences complexes pour une surveillance et une réponse efficace" (Epidemiology in complex emergencies for effective surveillance and response) which will take place at Les Pensières Center for Global Health, in Veyrier-du-Lac (France) from March 18-22, 2024. This Advanced Epidemiology Course is dedicated to French-speaking epidemiologists working in human, animal, and environmental health. It aims to prepare them to contribute to a multidisciplinary and international response to complex emergencies. Deadline for application is 15 November 2023.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

EDCTP events

EAST and Central Africa Dialogue on AI and Data Science Policy Gaps in Global Health | 5 September 2023 (online)

The Science For Africa Foundation (SFA Foundation) is seeking to build an understanding of the gaps in national, regional, and continental policies for the development, application, and governance of Artificial intelligence (AI) and Data Science in global health across the continent. Emphasis being placed on but not limited to policies for data science and AI applications for Genomics, Epidemics and Pandemics, Clinical Trials, and Drug Development. Understanding of the policy trends and gaps will inform stakeholders to influence policy and strengthen the research and innovation landscape. The SFA Foundation will convene key stakeholders to dialogue and develop interventions to address AI and Data Science policy gaps for global health in Africa.

[More information »](#)

Investing in Research and Development of Innovative Digital Health Solutions for Africa | 14 September 2023 (hybrid)

As part of the 9th edition of the Science Summit around the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA78), and on the occasion of EDCTP's 20th anniversary, EDCTP will organise a side event to illustrate the value of investing in research and development of innovative digital health solutions for addressing unmet medical needs in Africa through a global partnership such as EDCTP. This is a hybrid side event, and it will take place in New York, United States, and virtually on 14 September 2023 from 15:00-17:00 CEST. Registrations for in-person and virtual participation are now open.

[More information »](#)

Eleventh EDCTP Forum | Paris, France, 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”. Registration is now open for both in-person and virtual participation, and EDCTP sponsorship opportunities are available to profile and raise the visibility of organisations working in the same field as EDCTP. We invite you to visit the [Eleventh EDCTP Forum website](#) for more information.

Other events

World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE 24) | Cape Town, South Africa, 24-27 September 2024

WCE will bring together epidemiologists and public health experts working in different sectors together in an atmosphere designed to promote dialogue, the interchange of ideas, and state-of-the-art scientific research. The theme of WCE2024 is “**Epidemiology and complexity: challenges and responses**” which will engage the full depth and breadth of methods and practice in contemporary epidemiology.

[More information »](#)

RSTMH Annual Meeting | London, UK, 28-29 September 2023

On the 28 and 29 September 2023, the RSTMH Annual Meeting will take place in person in London. The theme of the meeting is ‘Tropical medicine and global health: priorities for the next 5 years’, linking to the launch of RSTMH’s new 5-year strategy in 2023. EDCTP Executive Director Dr Michael Makanga will be a member of a panel discussion the changing global funding landscape, and its priorities for the next 5 years.

[More information »](#)

3rd International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2023) | Lusaka, Zambia, 27-30 November 2023

The annual International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) provides a unique African-led platform for leaders across the continent to reflect on lessons learned in health and science, and align on a way forward for creating more resilient health systems. Expanding the horizons of the conference once again, CPHIA 2023 will showcase how the continent is breaking down barriers, reaffirming Africa as a powerhouse in science and innovation, generator of new knowledge and health products, and exemplar of progress.

[More information »](#)

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.

[More information »](#)

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