Eleventh EDCTP Forum

Dr Michael Makanga named new Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
WHO recommends R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine
DREAMM: Strengthening routine care in African hospitals significantly reduced HIV-linked meningitis deaths
AMBITION-cm study wins the 2023 European Hector Research Award in HIV
Launch of the GloPID-R Africa Hub
Out of the Shadows: the story of DNDi
Launch of the European Partnership for Personalised Medicine
Recent events
Project news
EDCTP Fellows
Publications
Resources
Training and funding opportunities
Mark your calendar
The Eleventh EDCTP Forum will officially open in a few days. We expect a record number of participants this year. It is heartening to see the high level of interest from stakeholders around the world to join us in person and virtually to discuss cutting-edge, impactful global health research, networking, and collaboration.

The Eleventh Forum offers an exciting and diverse scientific programme showcasing cutting-edge clinical research on poverty-related infectious diseases conducted by African-European partnerships, as well as topics covering research capacity strengthening and partnerships, health policy, ethics and regulatory affairs, and pharmacovigilance. For more information, please access the detailed Forum programme.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our partners and hosts for the Forum, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of France and ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases and the generous contributions from our sponsors.

Registrations for in-person participation are now closed. It is still possible to register for virtual participation.

Follow EDCTP on X and LinkedIn for more updates on the Eleventh EDCTP Forum.

Dr Michael Makanga named new Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
The Governing Board of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking has appointed Dr Michael Makanga as the Executive Director. He will take up his duties on 16 November 2023.

“We are very pleased to welcome Dr Michael Makanga as the new Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. Following a thorough recruitment process involving several strong candidates, he brings the necessary experience, knowledge and skills to lead the important work carried out by this Joint Undertaking. We are looking forward to beginning this new and exciting phase under his leadership”, said Dr Henning Gädeke, Chair of the EDCTP Association Board; Chair of the Governing Board of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking.

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WHO recommends R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine
WHO has recommended the R21/Matrix-M for the prevention of malaria in children. This highly effective vaccine was developed by the Jenner Institute at Oxford University and Serum Institute of India with support from the EDCTP, the Wellcome Trust, and the European Investment Bank ('EIB').

“We are very pleased with the WHO recommendation for use the new malaria vaccine R21/Matrix-M, for the prevention of malaria in children. EDCTP supported the phase Ib/IIb trials on this vaccine which generated promising results enabling further evaluation in the recently completed phase III multicentre trial,” Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Association Executive Director

DREAMM: Strengthening routine care in African hospitals significantly reduced HIV-linked meningitis deaths

The EDCTP-funded DREAMM project (Driving Reduced AIDS-associated Meningo-encephalitis Mortality) aimed to develop, implement, and evaluate pragmatic implementation interventions and strategies to reduce mortality from HIV-related CNS infection. The project results were published in The Lancet HIV. DREAMM implementation interventions and strategies substantially reduced all-cause 2-week mortality from 49% to 24% among people living with HIV presenting to public hospitals in Africa with suspected HIV-related CNS infection. Health system engineering combined with a multidisciplinary approach driven by local leadership proved a powerful means for enacting quality care.

AMBITION-cm study wins the 2023 European Hector Research Award in HIV
EDCTP congratulates the AMBITION-cm study team, led by Professor Joe Jarvis at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, on winning the 2023 European Hector Research Award in HIV. This prize for European HIV research, given by the H.W. & J. Hector Foundation, Weinheim, recognises the best scientific achievements in HIV research. The AMBITION-cm study was funded by EDCTP in collaboration with the UK Medical Research Council, UK Department of International Development (now FCDO) and Wellcome, and with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

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Launch of the GloPID-R Africa Hub

The GloPID-R Africa Hub was officially launched during a conference on August 22-23 in Cape Town, hosted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). In line with the GloPID-R regional hub strategy, the Africa Hub facilitates the coordination of funders
of research on infectious diseases with pandemic and epidemic potential while helping to strengthen regional ownership and address inequity in the distribution of research funding. The Africa Hub is hosted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) with the generous support of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) funded by the UK Department of Health & Social Care.

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Out of the Shadows: the story of DNDi

Filmed to mark the 20th anniversary of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), *Out of the shadows* tells the story of how DNDi’s partnerships have delivered new treatments that have saved lives and put certain diseases, like sleeping sickness, on the pathway to elimination. The film also shows why these alliances are needed for the next 20 years: both for climate-sensitive diseases like dengue, but also to ensure that even the most neglected patients reap the benefits of today’s AI-powered revolution in drug discovery.

Read more about DNDi’s 20th anniversary »

Launch of the European Partnership for Personalised Medicine
The new European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed) was officially launched on 5 October 2023 at a high-level conference on Personalised Medicine in Valencia. Under the banner of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the conference focused on the influence of Personalised Medicine in the evolution of healthcare for improving people's lives. The Partnership kick-off is a boost to research in precision medicine across the European Research Area, with 49 partners participating in its development. It will promote all areas and disciplines of precision medicine, facilitate innovation and transfer, as well as encourage its consolidation in health systems, allowing continuous improvement. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, represented EDCTP at the launch.

Read more »

Recent events

EDCTP visit to projects in Ghana | 28 September-5 October
The visit to projects in Ghana took place from 28 September to 5 October 2023. The EDCTP team comprised Mr Abdouli Barry, Director of Finance and Administration, Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager, and Dr Michelle Helinski, Senior Project Officer. They visited several institutions that are conducting EDCTP-funded activities, including the University of Ghana in Accra, the Kintampo Health Research Centre in Kintampo, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)/ Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR) in Kumasi, and the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ho. The KCCR has published an article about the visit including the projects and representatives the team has met.

Read more »

Project news

ERASE-TB: Mozambique team schools engagement

In a blog post, the ERASE-TB team based at the Instituto Nacional de Saúde (INS) in Maputo highlights its outreach health programme aimed at providing young people with health-related information as well as updates on the study. This is achieved by working closely with two nearby secondary schools with whom they have established excellent relationships. The ERASE-TB study aims to assess the potential of innovative approaches to detect early signs of active TB disease.

Read more »

GIFT study: Madagascar site completes recruitment

The EDCTP-funded GIFT study announced that the site of Madagascar has completed the recruitment of 225 women to participate in the study. The GIFT study is developing a lateral flow test that will be able to detect genital inflammation, a sign of sexually transmitted infection. Visit the GIFT study website for more information.

STOP project annual meeting

Members of the STOP project gathered in Maputo, southern Mozambique, for the final consortium meeting. The EDCTP-funded project, which started five years ago, conducted a clinical trial in Kenya, Mozambique and Ethiopia to test the efficacy of a fixed-dose combination (FDC) of ivermectin and albendazole to treat soil-transmitted helminths (STH)
ASCEND project’s success leads to a sharp rise in adverse drug reaction reporting in Tanzania

The ASCEND project aims to build capacity for research and medicines regulation, specifically in clinical trials in Tanzania and Zanzibar. The project which ends on 31 December 2023 has reported that its activities have led to dramatic improvements in the reporting of adverse drug events in Tanzania. This was achieved thanks to the development of electronic systems to assist in the reporting of adverse drug reactions.

TB-CAPT progress meeting and data unblinding

From 2-4 October the TB-CAPT Consortium convened for a face-to-face progress meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, hosted by local project partners from Ifakara Health Institute. The meeting provided an opportunity for partners to come together, discuss progress, and share lessons learned. The results of the CORE trial are particularly exciting, and the consortium looks forward to sharing them with the wider TB community at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum. The TB-CAPT Scientific symposium is scheduled for Thursday 9 November 16:30-18:00.

SPaRCS project: Reflections on learnings and future possibilities from a participatory action learning project

The University of the Western Cape (Schools of Public Health and Pharmacy) and its collaborators from Ministries of Health and National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) from four countries – Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe – held a final public event on 24 October 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa, which focused on learnings from the three-year project Strengthening pharmacovigilance and regulatory capacities in four Southern African countries (SPaRCS) and ideas for
future possibilities for strengthening systems for medicines quality and safety in the region. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, the EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager and Head of the Africa Office, represented EDCTP at the meeting.

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EDCTP Fellows

PEST4MEN study shows promise for reaching highly mobile men in the fishing communities with HIV testing services in Uganda

PEST4MEN (peer-led HIV self-testing intervention for men) has demonstrated that it is possible to improve the uptake of HIV self-testing services among highly mobile men in the fishing communities by working with men to reach men. Led by EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Joseph KB Matovu (Uganda), the results of the PEST4MEN study were presented at the Grand Global Hotel in Kampala, Uganda on 14 September 2023. The study showed that the use of men to reach fellow men resulted in 99% uptake of HIV self-testing services among men who were enrolled into the study.

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

- Malaria Journal: Enhanced effect of seasonal malaria chemoprevention when coupled with nutrients supplementation for preventing malaria in children under 5 years old in Burkina Faso: a randomized open label trial. Sondo P, et al. (18 October 2023)
- PLOS Digital Health: Developing contents for a digital adherence tool: A
formative mixed-methods study among children and adolescents living with HIV in Tanzania. Swai, IU, et al. (18 October 2023)


- Cellular & Molecular Immunology: The immune response to SARS-CoV-2 in people with HIV. Höft, MA, et al. (11 October 2023)

- BMJ Open: Characterisation of HIV-1 reservoirs in paediatric populations: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis. Ka’e, AC, et al. (10 October 2023)


- Trials: Mobile phone text messaging plus motivational interviewing versus usual care: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial to evaluate effects on breastfeeding, child health, and survival outcomes, among women living with HIV (MTI-MI). Zunza, M, et al. (5 October 2023)

- Frontiers in Medicine: Ticks are unlikely to play a role in leprosy transmission in the Comoros (East Africa) as they do not harbour M. leprae DNA. Krausser, L, et al. (4 October 2023)


- BMC Infectious Diseases: Reviewing the journey to the clinical application of bacteriophages to treat multi-drug-resistant bacteria. Mboowa, G. (3 October 2023)

- BMC Infectious Diseases: Species identification and drug susceptibility testing of non-tuberculous mycobacteria by Line Probe Assay in Lambaréné, Gabon-a cross-sectional study. Ndanga, MED, et al. (3 October 2023)


- Environmental Pollution: Assessment of risk of exposure to Campylobacter species and their antibiotic-resistant genes from selected rivers in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Chibwe, M, et al. (1 October 2023)


- Scientific Reports: Host feeding preferences of malaria vectors in an area of low malaria transmission. Gueye, A, et al. (29 September 2023)


- Infection and Immunity: Associations between prenatal malaria exposure, maternal antibodies at birth, and malaria susceptibility during the first year of life in Burkina Faso. Natama, HM, et al. (27 September 2023)

- Frontiers in Public Health: Temperature variations in pharmaceutical storage facilities and knowledge, attitudes, and practices of personnel on proper storage conditions for medicines in southern Malawi. Khuluza, F, et al. (22 September 2023)

- Pathogens: Efficacy of Single-Dose Praziquantel for the Treatment of
Schistosoma mansoni Infections among School Children in Rwanda, Kabatende, J, et al. (17 September 2023)

Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease: Procedure for Handling and Storage of Onchocerca volvulus Microfilariae Obtained from Skin Snips for Downstream Genetic Work, Hedtke, SM, et al. (12 September 2023)


Journal of Infection: Clinical utility of C-reactive protein-based triage for presumptive pulmonary tuberculosis in South African adults, Calderwood, C J, et al. (12 November 2022)

Clinical Microbiology Reviews: The Changing Paradigm of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Treatment: Successes, Pitfalls, and Future Perspectives, Dookie, N, et al. (6 October 2022)

The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal: Clinical Presentation and Outcome of Acute Respiratory Illnesses in South African Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Redfern, A, et al. (13 July 2023)

The Journal of Immunology: Characterization of Mycobacterium tuberculosis–Specific Th22 Cells and the Effect of Tuberculosis Disease and HIV Coinfection, Makatsa, MS, et al. (7 January 2022)

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

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) | Deadline for application: 15 November 2023
The Mérieux 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 18-22 March 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 »

Call for proposals for Residencies & Workshops | Deadline for applications: 6 December 2023
The Brocher Foundation offers to Researchers the opportunity of a 1 to 3 months Residency or to organise a 2 or 3-day multidisciplinary Workshop on the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of new medical developments.

Global Research Professorship Round 7 | Deadline for applications: 6 December 2023
The Global Research Professorship award aims to fund research leaders to promote effective translation of research and to strengthen research leadership at the highest academic levels. The programme funds researchers undertaking research that aims to specifically and primarily benefit people in LMICs eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA).

More information »

Meade Collaboration Travel Grants in Epidemiology 2023 | Deadline for application: 6 December 2023
These collaboration travel grants aim to support mid-career sub-Saharan African researchers in the field of epidemiology to spend between one-three months at a research organisation in the UK. Applications are welcomed from mid-career researchers in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), working in the field of epidemiology, who are making the transition to research independence and wish to develop collaborations with researchers based at a UK research organisation.

More information »
Mark your calendar

EDCTP events

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

Seminário Internacional CNECV - "One Health, One Ethics | Uma Saúde, Uma Ética" | 3 November 2023 (Portuguese)
The Conselho Nacional de Ética para as Ciências da Vida has been organising a series of initiatives dedicated to ‘One Health’ topic. This calendar of activities will culminate in the CNECV annual seminar which will take place on the ‘World One Health Day’ on 3 November 2023 at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal.

More information »

Science Communication and Gender Equity: Celebrating the 2023 L’Oréal USA For Women in Science Fellows | 15 November 2023
The Science Communication and Gender Equity will take place in person on 15 November 2023 at the National Academy of Science in Washington, DC. Those who are unable to participate in person will be able to join via a webcast. The meeting will provide information about the science of science communication and discuss the intersection of science communication and gender equity. Participants will also see science communication in action from 2023 For Women in Science Fellows--a distinguished group of early-career women researchers who have been recognized by L’Oréal USA for their contributions to STEM fields.

More information and registration »

ECTMIH2023 | 20-23 November 2023
The 13th European Congress on Global Health will take place in Utrecht, the Netherlands on 20-23 November 2023. The overarching theme of the congress is planetary health, focusing on the health of ‘human civilisations and the national systems on which they depend’ and reflecting the interconnectedness of human health and climate change in a rapidly changing environment. ECTMIH2023 aims to accelerate the understanding, appreciation, and connections between tropical medicine, global health, and the urgent field of planetary health.

More information »

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. EDCTP is represented in the conference’s Scientific Programme Committee by Dr Thomas
Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office. Together with Professor Rose Leke, Emeritus Professor of Immunology and Parasitology and founder of HIGHER Women Consortium Cameroon, Dr Nyirenda will once again co-lead Track 8: ‘Combating Infectious Diseases, NTDs and Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa’.

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 »

European Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2023 | 5-6 December 2023

EC-DG RTD, with the support of ERA-LEARN, is organising the second edition of the Partnership Stakeholder Forum in Brussels on 5-6 December 2023. The event will bring together the whole community of European Partnership stakeholders to discuss policy and practical aspects related to European Partnerships. It will furthermore provide an avenue for networking, broadening engagement and sharing of experiences.

More information »

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.

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