



EDCTP Update | November 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

EDCTP's Eleventh Forum took place in Paris, France and virtually from 7 to 10 November 2023. The discussions and presentations through the Forum are "testament to the power of collaboration, to innovation and to the shared pursuit of knowledge." The theme **"Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation and Impact in Africa – Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond"** was well reflected in the Forum programme and we heard remarkable stories of EDCTP successes over the last 20 years, and exciting insights on prospective Global Health EDCTP3 activities.

As part of the plenary session I, the [opening ceremony](#) on 7 November heard a range of distinguished guests – from Africa and Europe – praise EDCTP for its achievements to date and express their hopes for even greater impact in the future. The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of the French Minister of Higher Education and Research, Sylvie Retailleau. In her welcoming remarks, Minister Retailleau praised the work that EDCTP has been supporting in the development of new medical interventions and building research capacity and pandemic preparedness in sub-Saharan Africa.

Delivering the [keynote address](#) during the Dr Pascoal Mocumbi EDCTP Prize award ceremony, Professor Michel Kazatchkine praised EDCTP, commenting "After 20 years, I believe we can say with confidence that EDCTP has been both a unique model and a remarkable success."

In his opening plenary keynote address, Dr Michael Makanga gave a whistle-stop tour of the first [20 years of EDCTP](#) – summarising not just trends in funding but also, most importantly, what that funding has achieved.

The second day started with an [inspiring keynote address](#) on COVID-19 by Professor Salim Abdool Karim, who described how a discovery made in Africa has led to a possible intervention for use in Africa – and discussed what it will take for this to be the norm rather than the exception.

The afternoon saw a keynote address from Professor Claudia Hanson and a subsequent panel discussion explored the factors affecting [maternal and neonatal survival](#) – and the need to make pregnant women and newborns a high priority. The session aimed to commemorate the life of Ana Lúcia Cardoso Weinberg, a much-loved member of EDCTP staff who sadly passed away in 2022 due to a rare cardiovascular condition, spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD).

An outstanding malaria researcher in his own right, Professor Abdoulaye Djimdé outlined his philosophy on the best ways to strengthen institutional research capacity during the [plenary session on 9 November](#).

The last day of the Forum started with a lively plenary session [debate](#) in which two teams

argued for or against the motion 'Resetting of local priorities is essential to progress against inequalities in global health'.

In his new role as Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking, Dr Michael Makanga introduced in the final plenary session a [panel of guests and explored opportunities for EDCTP3](#) to work with a range of stakeholders to advance global health.

A distinguished panel of speakers from Africa and Europe [officially closed the Eleventh EDCTP Forum](#), applauded EDCTP2's work to date and looked forward to even greater successes through the Global Health EDCTP3 programme.

Visit the [Eleventh EDCTP Forum blog](#) for more summaries of sessions and presentations.

The EDCTP Forum in Paris has been a record-breaking event for EDCTP with 1118 delegates (960 in-person, 158 virtual) from 64 countries. While we celebrate the Forum's successes, we acknowledge the issues faced by participants from Africa in applying for a visa to attend the event in Paris. Thanks to the French Ministry of High Education and Research and the tireless support of the Forum Host Country Committee, who engaged with the French Government and embassies across Africa, many participants were able to get their visas on time to participate in the Forum. The Eleventh EDCTP Forum welcomed 502 in-person participants from 35 African countries.

We appreciate the disappointment and frustration of those participants who did not receive a visa in time and could only join online. We commit to doing everything we can to ensure wider participation across Africa and we will continue to work with national governments to reduce these challenges in future Fora.

We are looking forward to welcoming participants in 2025 at the next EDCTP Forum in Kigali, Rwanda.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our hosts, all presenters, chairs, sponsors, exhibitors, and both the virtual and in-person participants who helped us make this Eleventh EDCTP Forum a success. None of this would have been achieved without the efforts of the members of the Organising, Scientific Programme, and Host Country committees of the EDCTP Forum.

For more information about the Eleventh EDCTP Forum, please visit www.edctpforum.org.

Abdoulie Barry appointed as EDCTP Acting Executive Director

Mr. Abdoulie Barry has been appointed as Acting Executive Director of the EDCTP Association with effect from 16 November 2023. Abdoulie will combine the Executive Director role with his current role as Director of Finance & Administration. Abdoulie's appointment follows the resignation of Dr Michael Makanga, who has been appointed as the [Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking](#).

[Read more »](#)



EDCTP Prizes 2023

EDCTP awarded its prizes for research excellence and the Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum. The biennial EDCTP Prizes recognise outstanding individuals and research teams from Africa and Europe who have made significant achievements in their research field. Additionally, the awardees will have made major contributions to strengthening clinical research capacity in Africa and supporting South-South and North-South networking.



Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize winner: Professor Peter Kreamsner

Professor Peter Kreamsner is an international leader in the prevention, diagnosis, and management of tropical diseases. In his career of 40 years, he has published more than 700 scientific papers. His exceptional commitment to supporting African and European scientists is reflected in his supervision and promotion of more than 100 doctoral students, nearly half of them Africans. Many are now Professors and Directors in leading positions in research institutions, faculties, and universities.

[Read more »](#)



Outstanding Female Scientist Prize: Professor Kogieleum Naidoo

Prof. Naidoo is a leading expert in HIV-associated tuberculosis (TB). She is the lead investigator in several national and international phase II/III studies aimed at finding and preventing TB, TB-HIV integration, optimising TB-HIV treatment success, improving DR-TB diagnosis and outcomes, and identifying correlates of TB risk and outcomes in people living with HIV/AIDS, helping advance understanding of these intertwined diseases.

[Read more »](#)



Outstanding Research Team Prize winner: The Health Research Unit Zimbabwe

THRU-Zim leads and conducts high-quality and high-impact interdisciplinary research studies across the life course from neonates, adolescents, young adults and older people in the fields of HIV, tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health, antimicrobial resistance, mental and musculoskeletal health and multimorbidity. These are led from within the country, including all data management and analysis.

[Read more »](#)



Scientific Leadership Prize winner: Professor Kamija Phiri

Prof. Phiri leads the Training & Research Unit of Excellence (TRUE), an independent research organisation, which he established in 2018 with several field sites in southern Malawi. This self-sustaining unit supports research and postgraduate training. His research interests are the control of malaria and anaemia in children and pregnant women. His research has supported 22 PhDs.

[Read more »](#)

Professor Marcel Tanner was awarded the 2023 Brandenberger Prize



Professor Marcel Tanner, EDCTP High Representative, received this year's Brandenberger Prize. The 2023 prize, under the theme 'Politics and Science: creating added value through focused dialogue,' was awarded to Prof. Marcel Tanner "because he has contributed to improving the living conditions of many people with his work committed to humanity and his long-standing commitment to dialogue and cooperation between politics and science."

[Read more »](#)

Article: Antibiotic resistance causes more deaths than malaria and HIV/Aids combined. What Africa is doing

to fight this silent epidemic



Drug resistance against malaria and other diseases is a growing problem. TONY KARUMBA/AFP via Getty Images

Each year antimicrobial resistance – the ability of microbes to survive agents designed to kill them – claims more lives than malaria and HIV/Aids combined. Africa bears the brunt of this development, which thrives on inequality and poverty. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, gives his insight on what health organisations on the continent are doing to fight this threat to medical progress.

[Read more »](#)

Meeting report: Optimizing Efficiency and Impact in the African Clinical Trials Ecosystem



The report of the meeting 'Optimizing Efficiency and Impact in the African Clinical Trials Ecosystem' is now available. The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa from 16-18 May 2023 and it was organised by the African Union/Africa CDC, AUDA NEPAD, EDCTP and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It aimed to discuss the current state of the Africa clinical research ecosystem and develop a collective vision for strengthening it to drive its impact.

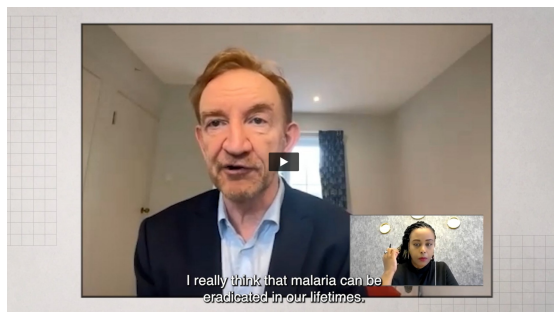
The meeting built on a discussion convened in 2022 on the heels of the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting in Brussels, and a 2019 Pan African Clinical Trials Alliance (PACTA) meeting organised by EDCTP and hosted by AUDA-NEPAD. Both meetings acknowledged the importance of strengthening the clinical trial ecosystem within low- and middle-income countries, including through approaches such as better visibility of research capabilities in Africa and enhanced clinical trials registration.

[Read more »](#)

Celebrating 20 years

As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, we published throughout the days of the Eleventh EDCTP Forum a series of short films. These include a four-part series that presents the impact of EDCTP through selected case studies under different themes, as well as short films portraying EDCTP Fellows. You can watch the films by clicking on the images below.

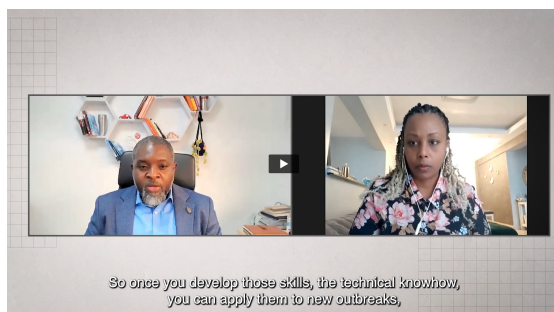
Chapter 1: Accelerating the development of medical interventions



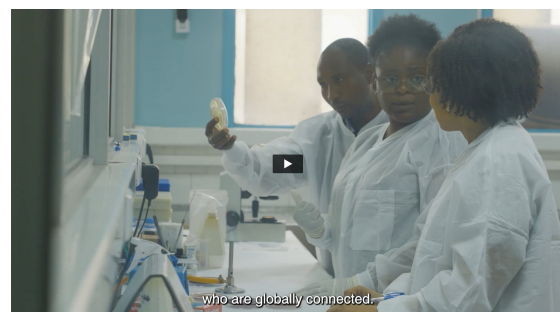
Chapter 2: Collaboration and capacity development



Chapter 3: Joining forces against emerging infectious diseases



Chapter 4: Joining forces for better health



EDCTP Fellow: Dr Esperança Sevene (Mozambique)

EDCTP Fellow: Professor Abdoulaye Djimé (Mali)



EDCTP Fellow: Dr Joseph Fokam (Cameroon)



EDCTP Fellow: Dr Cissy Kityo (Uganda)



Project news

SIMBLE project partners meet in Grenoble



The third annual consortium meeting of the EDCTP-funded [SIMBLE project](#) took place on 13-15 November 2023 in Grenoble, France. The SIMBLE project aims to introduce better adapted diagnostics for bloodstream infections in West Africa. For this purpose, they designed the simplified blood culture system "Bactinsight" that can withstand tropical conditions such as dust, humidity and unreliable power supplies.

[Read more »](#)

ASAAP study reaches 75% recruitment milestone



The ASAAP consortium is proud to have achieved the milestone of 75% recruitment of the phase III study (for which the total sample size is 1664 children). An interim evaluation took place on 24 October 2023. The ASAAP study is a multicentre phase III trial to evaluate safety, tolerability, efficacy and transmission-blocking activity of an artemisinin-based triple therapy with artemether-lumefantrine (AL) and atovaquone-proguanil (AP) versus artemether-lumefantrine (AL) bi-therapy for

the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in African children from 6 months to 10 years of age.

VITALITY trial investigator's meeting



The VITALITY trial organised its investigators' meeting from 21-23 November 2023 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The main goal of the meeting was to unblind the trial data and discuss the results, as well as to present progress and results of other sub-studies. The Consortium plans to disseminate the trial results at key international conferences and in peer-reviewed journals. The VITALITY trial aimed to determine whether high-dose vitamin D and calcium carbonate supplements can protect bone and muscle development in children living with HIV.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP Fellows

Prof. Vivi Maketa receives award for the Medical Sciences category of the Early Excellence in Science Awards 2023



The EDCTP Career Development Fellow Professor Vivi Maketa (University of Kinshasa, DR Congo), has received the award for the Medical Sciences category of the Early Excellence in Science Awards 2023 by the Bayer Foundation for her exceptional contributions to the design and implementation of research projects on infectious and neglected diseases.

[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](#)

- *mBio*: [Broad and potent neutralizing antibodies are elicited in vaccinated](#)

[Individuals following Delta/BA.1 breakthrough infection.](#) Seow, J, et al. (25 September 2023)

- *Scientific Reports*: **[Burden and associated phenotypic characteristics of tuberculosis infection in adult Africans with diabetes: a systematic review.](#)** Kibirige, D, et al. (14 November 2023)
- *Journal of Neurovirology*: **[Characterizing Epstein-Barr virus infection of the central nervous system in Zambian adults living with HIV.](#)** Musukuma-Chifulo, K, et al. (30 October 2023)
- *Microorganisms*: **[Contribution of the Rapid LAMP-Based Diagnostic Test \(RLDT\) to the Evaluation of Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli \(ETEC\) and Shigella in Childhood Diarrhea in the Peri-Urban Area of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.](#)** Héma, A, et al. (19 November 2023)
- *Scientific Reports*: **[COVID-19 screening in low resource settings using artificial intelligence for chest radiographs and point-of-care blood tests.](#)** Murphy, K, et al. (11 November 2023)
- *PLOS Global Public Health*: **[Current sampling and sequencing biases of Lassa mammarenavirus limit inference from phylogeography and molecular epidemiology in Lassa fever endemic regions.](#)** Arruda, LB, et al. (8 November 2023)
- *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*: **[Diagnostic accuracy of a three-gene Mycobacterium tuberculosis host response cartridge using fingerstick blood for childhood tuberculosis: a multicentre prospective study in low-income and middle-income countries.](#)** Olbrich L, et al. (30 October 2023)
- *Scientific Reports*: **[Genomic characterization of SARS-CoV-2 from Uganda using MinION nanopore sequencing.](#)** Kia, P, et al. (22 November 2023)
- *Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine*: **[No increased in utero and peripartum HIV acquisition risk in HIV-exposed preterm infants.](#)** Ajibola, G, et al. (19 October 2023)
- *Malaria Journal*: **[Performance of ultra-sensitive malaria rapid diagnostic test to detect Plasmodium falciparum infection in pregnant women in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.](#)** Kabalu Tshiongo, J, et al. (23 October 2023)
- *Clinical Infectious Diseases: an Official Publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America*: **[Pharmacokinetic Data of Dolutegravir in Second-line Treatment of Children With Human Immunodeficiency Virus: Results From the CHAPAS4 Trial.](#)** Bevers, L A H, et al. (1 November 2023)
- *Clinical Infectious Diseases: an Official Publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America*: **[Pharmacokinetics and safety of twice-daily ritonavir-boosted atazanavir with rifampicin.](#)** Gausi, K, et al. (20 November 2023)
- *The Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*: **[Population pharmacokinetics of a combination of miltefosine and paromomycin in Eastern African children and adults with visceral leishmaniasis.](#)** Verrest, L, et al. (1 November 2023)
- *Journal of Tropical Medicine*: **[Prevalence and Associated Factors of Dengue Virus Circulation in the Rural Community, Handeni District in Tanga, Tanzania.](#)** Kajeguka, D C, et al. (8 November 2023)
- *Malaria Journal*: **[Prevalence and risk factors associated with malaria infection in children under two years of age in southern Togo prior to perennial malaria chemoprevention implementation.](#)** Arikawa, S, et al. (21 November 2023)
- *Microorganisms*: **[Prevalence of Diarrhoeagenic Escherichia coli among Children Aged between 0-36 Months in Peri-Urban Areas of Lusaka.](#)** Mwape, K, et al. (17 November 2023)
- *Clinical Hypertension*: **[Prevalence of hypertension among antiretroviral therapy naïve patients in Lagos, Nigeria.](#)** Odubela, O, et al. (1 November 2023)
- *Parasites & Vectors*: **[The pipeline for drugs for control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases: 2. Oral anti-infective drugs and drug combinations for off-label use.](#)** Pfarr, K M, et al. (31 October 2023)
- *Respiratory Medicine Case Reports*: **[To treat or not to treat tuberculosis –clinical decision making in patients with previous pulmonary tuberculosis using 18F-FDG PET/CT.](#)** Günther, G, et al. (19 October 2023)
- *The Lancet. Global Health*: **[Translating evidence into global impact: lessons for HIV research and policy development from the AMBITION trial.](#)** Jarvis, J N, et al. (1 November 2023)
- *The Lancet. Microbe*: **[Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra on contaminated liquid cultures for tuberculosis and rifampicin-resistance detection: a diagnostic accuracy evaluation.](#)** Ghebrekristos, Y, et al. (19 September 2023)

- *Plos One*: [Effect of antibiotic medicines availability on adherence to standard treatment guidelines among hospitalized adult patients in southern Malawi](#). Chiumia FK, *et al.* (31 October 2023)
- *Heliyon*: [Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex molecular networks and their regulation: Implications of strain heterogeneity on epigenetic diversity and transcriptome regulation](#). Mvubu, N E, *et al.* (17 November 2023)
- *PLOS Global Public Health*: [Secondary distribution of HIV self-test kits from males to their female sexual partners in two fishing communities in rural Uganda](#). Matovu JKB, *et al.* (29 November 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

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.

[More information »](#)

Global Research Professorship Round 7 | Deadline for applications: 6 December 2023

The NIHR 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 UK 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 »](#)

Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) calls for proposals | Deadline for application: 26 January 2024

Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) has announced two new calls for proposals:

- **RESILIENTD call for proposals** (budget round 2025), in collaboration with Anesvad Foundation, which focuses on addressing the social determinants of health in the context of skin NTDs, including leprosy, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa.
- **LRI Regular call for proposals** (budget round 2025), which accepts research proposals with a focus on leprosy – including research applications combining leprosy with other diseases that share cross-cutting issues with leprosy.

Both calls open for applications on 1 December 2023, with a deadline of 26 January 2024.

[More information »](#)

Networks of research excellence in epidemic and pandemic sciences across Africa | Deadline for application: 31 January 2024

The [Science for Africa Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Pandemic Sciences Institute](#) at the University of Oxford and the [Mastercard Foundation](#), is releasing a call to establish networks of research excellence in epidemic and pandemic sciences across Africa. Funds are offered for up to six years for the Epidemic Science Leadership and Innovation Networks (EPSILONs), which aim to nurture and promote world-class epidemic and pandemic sciences research and innovation in Africa. A dedicated webinar for applicants will take place on 6 December 2023.

[More information »](#)

GFBR Fellowships | Deadline for application: 29 February 2024

Applications are now open for fellowships relating to the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) 2023 topic 'Ethics of health research priority setting'. The GFBR fellowships provide a unique opportunity for the Forum participants to explore ethical issues that have arisen during the course of a GFBR meeting and to establish new collaborations.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

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 »](#)

Science Forum South Africa (SFSA) | 6-8 December 2023

SFSA 2023 will take place in Pretoria, South Africa this year. EDCTP is hosting a session on **'Global health EDCTP3: Driving sustainable development through health research and innovation'** at 13:30-15:00 (GMT+2) on 7 December 2023 as part of Track 6 on Economic and Science Diplomacy. The session will encourage discussion around the current global health research landscape in Africa and the role of partnerships such as Global Health EDCTP3 to drive sustainable development through health research and innovation. It will include a panel discussion moderated by Dr Michael Makanga, Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking, with speakers: Dr Kogie Naidoo, Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA); Dr Adriaan Kruger, NuvoteQ; Dr Neeraj Mistry, University of Pretoria; and Dr Carol Ruffell, DNDi and GARDP.

We warmly invite you to attend the session and visit us at the EDCTP exhibitor booth. For more information, please visit the [SFSA 2023 website](#).

International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) | 14-17 May 2024

The 18th International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) will take place from 14-17 May 2024 in Cotonou, Benin. The annual INTEREST Conference is the premier scientific conference for HIV in Africa and brings together scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research from around the world. The conference will showcase cutting-edge knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and the prevention of the HIV-1 infection. Additionally, it will continue to foster building a community of African physicians and scientists to facilitate the implementation of local solutions for the management of patients living with HIV-1 infection and for the prevention of HIV transmission. The deadline for abstract submission is 2 February 2024.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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