

Virtual meeting of the EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

13-14 October 2021

Meeting document 7

SAC Annual Report 2021	
Agenda item	8.1
Description/purpose	The draft SAC Annual Report 2021 is provided for discussion and input.
Action required	Discussion





EDCTP
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2021 Annual Report of the EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee



1 Introduction

The General Assembly (GA) established the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to act as the principal advisory group to EDCTP. The SAC provides scientific and strategic advice to the GA and the Secretariat (SEC), overseeing the scientific integrity of the EDCTP programme.

1.1 SAC membership

The SAC comprised the following 17 members during the 2021 reporting period:

	Name	Gender	Country of residence	Organisation name and country	Professional expertise
1	Prof. Richard Adegbola	M	Nigeria	Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Nigeria	Vaccines, microbial infections, diagnostics, capacity development, public health
2	Prof. Christian Burri	M	Switzerland	Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Switzerland	Clinical trials operations, resource-limited settings, neglected diseases, public health, research ethics
3	Prof. Eric Delaporte	M	France	University of Montpellier, France	HIV, tuberculosis, emerging diseases, neglected tropical diseases, clinical trials, implementation research
4	Prof. Paulo Ferrinho	M	Portugal	Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Universidade NOVA, Portugal	Tropical diseases and infectious diseases of poverty, epidemiology, implementation research, training and capacity building, institutional strengthening
5	Prof. Harleen Grewal	F	Norway	University of Bergen, Norway	Tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, clinical trials, capacity building, lower respiratory tract infections
6	Prof. John Gyapong (SAC Vice-chair)	M	Ghana	University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana	Epidemiology, neglected tropical diseases, clinical trials, implementation research, research ethics
7	Prof. Catherine Hankins (SAC Chair)	F	Canada	Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development, The Netherlands	Biomedical HIV prevention, research ethics, emerging pathogens, knowledge translation, Good Participatory Practices (GPP)
8	Prof. Collen Masimirembwa	M	Zimbabwe	African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology, Zimbabwe	HIV, neglected tropical diseases, molecular and clinical pharmacology for drug safety and efficacy, drugs and diagnostics innovation, clinical trials, capacity building
9	Prof. Martin Meremikwu	M	Nigeria	Institute of Tropical Disease Research & Prevention, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (Nigeria)	Child health, clinical trials, systematic reviews, tropical infections, bioethics

10	Prof. Keymanthri Moodley	F	South Africa	Stellenbosch University	Bioethics, clinical trials, HIV research ethics, capacity development
11	Dr Juliet Nabyonga-Orem	F	Uganda	WHO (Zimbabwe)	Implementation research, knowledge translation, research capacity strengthening, partnerships and health policy dialogue, public health
12	Prof. Michael Ramharter	M	Germany	University of Hamburg / Bernard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany	Clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa, antimalarial drug development, neglected tropical diseases, post-registration safety programmes in Africa, capacity building
13	Dr Jutta Reinhard-Rupp	F	Switzerland	Merck Serono, Switzerland	Global health, child health, pharma industry, product development, research capacity building
14	Prof. Peter Smith (SAC Vice-chair)	M	United Kingdom	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom	Epidemiology, field trials of diverse interventions, vaccines, malaria, emerging infections, clinical trials methodology; broad experience from other funding agencies and WHO
15	Prof. Christine Stabell Benn	F	Denmark	University of Southern Denmark, Denmark	Epidemiology, clinical trials, vaccines, infectious diseases, capacity building
16	Prof. Marleen Temmerman	F	Belgium	Aga Khan University, Kenya Ghent University, Belgium	HIV, microbicides, maternal and child health, implementation research, research capacity strengthening and training, sub-Saharan Africa
17	Prof. Halidou Tinto	M	Burkina Faso	Institute for Research in Health Sciences, Burkina Faso	Parasitology, malaria, clinical trials, epidemiology, ethics, regulatory affairs

Eight SAC members were to reach the 2-year limit of their second term on 31 December 2021. On 12 April 2021, the EDCTP General Assembly passed a resolution for any SAC members who had served five years and whose contracts were due to expire in 2021 to be re-appointed in their current role for an exceptional 'one-year transitional term', following which they would be required to step down. Accordingly, in order to maintain continuity in the SAC during the unusual circumstances presented by COVID-19 and the transition period from EDCTP2 to Global Health EDCTP3, a contract extension for an exceptional 'one-year transitional term' was offered to the following eight SAC members:

Member of SAC	Contract date (first term)	Contract termination date (first term)	Contract termination date for second term:	Exceptional one-year transitional term end date:
Prof. Christian Burri	04/Nov/16	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22
Prof. John Gyapong (Vice-Chair)	04/Nov/16	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22
Prof. Catherine Hankins (Chair)	01/Jan/17	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22
Prof. Martin Meremikwu	04/Nov/16	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22
Dr Jutta Reinhard-Rupp	04/Nov/16	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22
Prof. Peter Smith (Vice-Chair)	04/Nov/16	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22

Prof. Marleen Temmerman	04/Nov/16	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22
Prof. Halidou Tinto	04/Nov/16	31/Dec/19	31/Dec/21	31/Dec/22

1.2 SAC responsibilities

Specific responsibilities of the SAC in 2021 included:

Strategic planning

- Assisting in the design of the scientific and strategic framework of the EDCTP programme, in particular, updating the Strategic Research Agenda
- Advising on the development of the EDCTP operational plan
- Advising on strategies to foster synergies and partnerships with stakeholders in the North and South
- Contributing to the preparation of scientific and strategic documents relevant to EDCTP, as required
- Providing scientific and strategic advice to the GA and the SEC to ensure the successful completion of on-going projects
- Identifying strategic research needs and priorities for accelerating the development of new or improved clinical interventions, including the necessary training, networking, and capacity building to be undertaken to achieve these objectives
- Reviewing the landscape of Poverty-Related and Neglected Diseases (PRNDs) to identify the role that EDCTP should play in partnership with other stakeholders to accelerate the development or improvement of interventions against these diseases
- Assessing the state of global product development pathways and the critical path opportunities for future product development
- Providing advice on the launch and review of any calls for proposals and other programmes.

Reporting and Monitoring & Evaluation

- Supporting and providing input on the monitoring and evaluation framework of the EDCTP programme
- Providing input on the monitoring of scientific outcomes and strategic impacts of EDCTP-funded grants and programs
- Reviewing a draft annual report prepared by the SAC Chairperson on the previous year's SAC activities, achievements, and strategic and scientific advice provided to the SEC, GA, and Board throughout the year. The annual report is to be submitted to the GA by 31 January of each year.

Advocacy and representation at meetings and events

- Participating in EDCTP working groups, stakeholder meetings, and the EDCTP Forum
- Advising and assisting in the organisation of workshops, meetings, and other relevant events.

2 Activities for 2021

The SAC work plan for 2021 set out several planned activities with specific deliverables. This report summarises the deliverables that have been achieved during the year along with additional activities undertaken by the SAC.

Topic	Deliverable(s) as set out in 2020 work plan	Output
SAC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC to meet in two face-to-face meetings in 2021 which will be minuted with clear scientific and strategic recommendations • The SAC Chair to report the outcomes of the SAC meetings to GA • The SAC Chair to report the outcomes of the GA meeting to the subsequent SAC meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC members attended two official meetings in 2021. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, both meetings were held in virtual format. The first meeting was held on 11-12 May 2021. The second was held 13-14 October 2021. • The SAC Chair Catherine Hankins attended the virtual GA meetings held on 28 May 2021 and 15 October 2021, at which she provided an update to GA members on SAC activities. The SAC Chair also attended the virtual Board meetings held on 22 March 2021, 16 September 2021 and 15 November 2021. Additionally, the SAC Chair attended <i>ad-hoc</i> virtual EDCTP Association meetings on 12 March 2021 and 16 April 2021 on the operationalisation of the Global Health EDCT3 programme, involving all GA members. • During the May 2021 SAC meeting the Chair updated the SAC members on the outcomes of the October 2020 GA meeting. During the October 2021 SAC meeting the Chair updated the SAC members on the outcomes of the May 2021 GA meeting.
Strategic planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on implementation of the 2020 EDCTP work plan • Provide strategic and scientific advice on the candidate Global Health EDCTP3 partnership • Make recommendations on strategic activities that will require involvement of the EDCTP High-Representatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAC provided input and recommendations on the implementation of the 2020 EDCTP work plan • SAC members continued to participate in working groups on the topics of gender and diversity in research and community engagement. • Activities to provide strategic and scientific advice on the candidate Global Health EDCTP3 partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA): SAC members were requested by the GA Working Group on the operationalisation of Global Health EDCTP3 to

		<p>review amendments to the SRIA proposed by the European Commission and to propose updates on the July 2020 version for consideration by the GA Working Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input on two proposed call texts for the first Work Programme of Global Health EDCTP3 - Input on updated EDCTP Strategic Research Agenda for 2021-2022: SAC advised on the future strategy and identification of research priorities for PRNDs research within the remit of the Global Health EDCTP3.
Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit advice and recommendations to the EDCTP Secretariat on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis • Contribute to the Monitoring and Evaluation of key EDCTP projects involving large consortia with significant investments • Provide input on EDCTP programme indicators • Report from site visits to major EDCTP trial sites (if applicable). 	<p>The SAC Working Groups for the SRA assumed a consultancy role to advise the SEC on a permanent basis.</p> <p>The SAC provided input and recommendations on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of COVID-19 on EDCTP activities and infectious disease research • How to maximise the impact of EDCTP investments across funding schemes and how to increase participation of under-represented countries and of women scientists in research • Review of progress of the Consortia for Epidemic-Preparedness and input on planned activities yet to be implemented and future perspectives. • Oversight committees for complex EDCTP2 grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Smith chaired the oversight committee of the PanACEA project on 19 May 2021. • Christine Stabell-Benn and Peter Smith participated in the EDCTP's malaria vaccine portfolio oversight committee on 9-10 June 2021. • Harleen Grewal and Richard Adegbola participated in the EDCTP's TB vaccine portfolio oversight committee on 4-5 November 2021.
Advocacy and representation at meetings and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in planning any high-level EDCTP events, including the Tenth EDCTP Forum scheduled to take place from 17-21 October 2021 (for example, input to the scientific programme, including speaker and topic suggestions, and peer review of submitted abstracts) • Actively advocate on behalf of EDCTP 	<p>The postponed Tenth EDCTP Forum took place on 17-21 October 2021. The SAC provided input and recommendations on the following:</p> <p>EDCTP Forum activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAC Chair Catherine Hankins was the Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee and oversaw scientific programme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings as required. 	<p>planning activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAC members (Richard Adegbola, Paulo Ferrinho, Martin Meremikwu, Marleen Temmerman) participated in the Scientific Programme Committee and provided input on the programme planning, including suggestions for topics and plenary speakers, and reviewed abstracts and sponsored symposia submissions. SAC members participated as facilitators/mentors for Meet the Experts sessions SAC members participated as chairs and speakers in Forum parallel and plenary sessions and symposia. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Forum was held virtually, in conjunction with several Maputo-located events that were streamed live. John Gyapong and Marleen Temmerman represented SAC in-person at the official opening and other aspects of the Forum in Mozambique. <p>Advocacy and meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet Nabyonga continued to be involved in the implementation of the EDCTP-WHO collaboration on strengthening national health research systems (NHRS) and was part of joint WHO-AFRO and EDCTP publication on health research governance in Africa. The SAC Chair Catherine Hankins participated in an advocacy video highlighting the main achievements of the second EDCTP programme (EDCTP2) and looking ahead towards the Global Health EDCTP3 programme. The SAC Chair contributed to the drafting of an EDCTP publication on capacity development. Christian Burri co-chaired a webinar on the EDCTP Knowledge Hub on 25 February 2021 Marleen Temmerman was appointed as one of six high-level expert members of the European Union Advisory Group on Research and Innovation, assigned to focus specifically on the topic 'Africa-Europe cooperation in R&I for empowered public health systems', including representing the interests of EDCTP. Peter Smith provided advice on the Lassa vaccine strategic
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		<p>investment discussions with CEPI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Gyapong, Catherine Hankins, and Peter Smith provided advice on EDCTP strategic engagement with Africa CDC on COVID-19 Vaccines R&D and Access Strategy. • Marleen Temmerman participated in the EDCTP session at the UNGA76 Science Summit on 22 September 2021 and gave a keynote address on a global policy framework for global health and clinical trials, including the preliminary recommendations of the European Union Advisory Group on Research and Innovation.
SAC Annual Report and Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report 2021 and annual work plan 2022 to be approved by the GA. 	The SAC annual report 2021 and annual work plan 2022 were finalised and submitted to the GA for approval by the deadline of 31 January.