



EDCTP
The power of sharing science

2022 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 |

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| 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 |

In light of the expiration of the SAC contracts extensions of the final exceptional transitional periods for 10 SAC members by 31 December 2022, only seven members will remain as of 1 January 2023:

| # | SAC Member (in alphabetical order by last name) |
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| 1 | Adegbola, Richard |
| 2 | Delaporte, Eric |
| 3 | Ferrinho, Paulo |
| 4 | Grewal, Harleen |
| 5 | Masimirembwa, Collen |
| 6 | Ramharter, Michael |
| 7 | Stabell Benn, Christine |

All SAC members, including those whose contracts expire on 31 December 2022, were requested to send to the Secretariat by 16 September 2022 their nominations (or self-nominations) for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the SAC, for the period of 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2023. Subsequently, Harleen Grewal was elected as SAC Chair and Richard Adegbola as SAC Vice-Chair.

1.2 SAC responsibilities

Specific responsibilities of the SAC in 2022 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.

Activities for 2022

The SAC work plan for 2022 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 2022 work plan | Output |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| SAC meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC to meet in two face-to-face meetings in 2022 that will be minuted with clear scientific and strategic recommendations • The SAC Chair to report the outcomes of the SAC meetings to the GA • The SAC Chair to report the outcomes of each GA meeting to the subsequent SAC meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC members attended two official meetings in 2022. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first meeting was held virtually 25-26 April 2022. The second was held in hybrid format 4-5 October 2022 with 9 members in attendance and 8 joining online. • The SAC Chair Prof. Catherine Hankins attended the virtual GA meetings held on 23 May 2022 and 14 October 2022, at which she provided an update to GA members on SAC activities. The SAC Chair also attended the virtual Board meetings held on 8 February 2022, 11 April 2022, 30 June 2022 and 22 September 2022. • During the April 2022 SAC meeting, the Chair updated the SAC members on the outcomes of the October 2021 GA meeting. During the October 2022 SAC meeting, the Chair updated the SAC members on the outcomes of the May 2022 GA meeting. |
| Strategic planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on implementation of the 2022 EDCTP work plan activities • Provide strategic and scientific advice on the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking through the EDCTP Association Board • Make recommendations on strategic activities that will require involvement of the EDCTP High Representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the request of the EDCTP Association Working Group for Operationalising the GH EDCTP3, the SAC Chair solicited comments from SAC members concerning topics for the Work Plan 2021-2022 Global Health EDCTP3 that included 2 calls for proposals. Compiled comments were provided 11 March 2022 to the Working Group Chair Andrea Spelberg. |
| Monitoring & Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit advice and recommendations to the EDCTP Secretariat on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis | <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 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Regional Networks of Excellence, including input on planned activities yet to be implemented and future perspectives. The SAC meeting held on 25-26 April focused on thorough discussions of the work, activities, and achievements of the four Regional Networks of Excellence, notably, East African Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR), Trials of Excellence in Southern Africa (TESA), Central African Network on Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and Malaria (CANTAM), and West African Network for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria (WANETAM). The SAC members assigned to review the progress in each of the Regional Networks of Excellence were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EACCR: Prof. Eric Delaporte (lead SAC reviewer), Prof. Peter Smith, Prof. Collen Masimirembwa, and Prof. Halidou Tinto. ○ TESA: Prof. Richard Adegbola (lead SAC reviewer), Prof. Paulo Ferrinho, Prof. Christian Burri, and Prof. Harleen Grewal. ○ CANTAM: Dr Jutta Reinhard-Rupp (lead SAC reviewer), Dr Juliet Nabyonga-Orem, Prof. John Gyapong, and Prof. Martin Meremikwu. ○ WANETAM: Prof. Keymanthri Moodley (lead SAC reviewer), Prof. Christine Stabell Benn, Prof. Marleen Temmerman, and Prof. Michael Ramharter. <p>SAC comments were compiled and elicited responses from each of the Regional Networks of Excellence. These were discussed at the 4-5 October meeting of SAC, following which additional feedback was compiled by each review team.</p> • Review of progress of the two EDCTP-funded Consortia for Epidemic Preparedness: ALERRT (African Coalition for Epidemic Research, Response, and Training) and PANDORA-ID-NET (Pan-African Network for Rapid Research, Response, and Preparedness for Infectious Diseases Epidemics). The SAC meeting held on 4-5 October focused on thorough discussions of the work, activities, and achievements of both consortia, as well as future perspectives. • Oversight committees for complex EDCTP2 grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lassa vaccines EDCTP-CEPI joint oversight committee meeting 24 May 2022. Prof. Peter Smith is a member. ○ TB vaccines oversight committee meeting 16-17 November 2022. Prof. Harleen Grewal and Dr Richard Adegbola are members. |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TB drugs oversight committee meeting November 2022. Prof. Peter Smith is a member. ● The EDTCP2 Evaluation Team interviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SAC Chair Prof. Catherine Hankins on 6 June 2022. |
| Advocacy and representation at meetings and events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assist in planning any high-level EDCTP events ● Actively advocate on behalf of EDCTP ● Attend meetings as required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Catherine Hankins provided a quote for EDCTP’s International Women’s Day 2022 message on 8 March that was also used for a social media card. ● Prof. Harleen Grewal provided a quote for EDCTP’s World TB Day 2022 message on 24 March that was also used for a social media card. ● At the launch of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking on 10 May in Paris, Prof. Catherine Hankins chaired a panel discussion ‘<i>How can the Global Health EDCTP3 achieve its mission</i>’, with Prof. John Gyapong among the participating panellists. ● On 3 June 2022, Charani <i>et al</i> called on funders to take a more active role in tackling inequities in global health research in their article Funders: The missing link in equitable global health research? on PLOS Global Public Health. In a guest blog on PLOS GPH, Dr Pauline Beattie (EDCTP Operations Manager), Prof. Catherine Hankins (Chairperson of EDCTP’s Scientific Advisory Committee), and Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Executive Director) described how EDCTP has been successfully supporting equitable European-African research collaborations to develop new and improved interventions against infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa for almost two decades. ● Prof. Catherine Hankins and Prof. John Gyapong were the co-chairs at the Virtual event hosted by EDCTP, “Funding research for impact: strengthening the role of science and evidence-based policymaking” at the Science Summit of the United Nations General Assembly 77 (SSUNGA77) on the 30th September at 15:00-17:00 CEST. Dr Juliet Nabyonga-Orem also participated as one of the speakers. ● Prof. Peter Smith participated in the <i>Shigella combination vaccines</i> meeting at PATH Washington DC, 1-2 June 22. He provided a summary of the meeting, including details on the latest candidates in development (one of which, INVAPLEX is being evaluated under an EDCTP2 grant), and shared presentations from the meeting. |
| SAC Annual Report and Work Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual report 2022 and annual work plan 2023 to be approved by the GA. | The SAC annual report 2022 and annual work plan 2023 were finalised and submitted to the GA for approval by the deadline of 31 January. |