World NTD Day 2024: investing to control and eliminate neglected tropical diseases
Global investment into research and development of new products for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs, also known as neglected infectious diseases) is limited and there is an urgent need to develop new or improved products and to optimise the use of existing products to achieve disease control and elimination. Neglected infectious diseases (NIDs) were added to the scope of the second EDCTP programme (EDCTP2) in 2014. Since then, our research funding has achieved important milestones that can help to control and eliminate these diseases.

Read more »

EDCTP Fellows' Meeting 2023 report

The Eleventh EDCTP Forum in Paris, France, was preceded by two special events on Tuesday, 7 November 2023: the Fellows Alumni Meeting, focusing on the EDCTP fellowship programme, and the meeting of the EDCTP-Africa CDC Master’s Fellows in Epidemiology & Biostatistics, a fellowship programme run in partnership with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).
Global Health EDCTP3 launches calls with over €140 million in funding opportunities

The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking has launched seven calls for proposals following the publication of its 2024 Work Programme. These calls represent an overall investment of €140 million to support clinical research and research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa.

HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2024-01-two-stage call covering six topics for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA):

- Developing novel, innovative HIV therapeutics for reducing the disease burden of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa
- Research on existing Malaria vaccines and development of new promising candidates
- Accelerating development and integration of therapeutics against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa
- Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through R&D in novel and existing antimicrobials
- New tools, technologies and approaches for vector control in sub-Saharan Africa
- Innovative digital health solutions for sub-Saharan Africa

HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2024-02-two-stage call covering one topic for Coordination and Support Actions (CSA):

- Global Health EDCTP3 JU training fellowship with return phase

The stage 1 deadline for both calls is 4 April 2024.
A series of info days are being organised by the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking and partners to provide information on the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals under the Work Programme 2024, as well as eligibility criteria and other relevant administrative matters.

- **6 February (11:00 - 13:00 CET):** Online English-language Info day hosted by the European Commission. [Link to register here](#).
- **7 February (11:00-12:30 CET):** Online Portuguese-language Info day hosted by the Portuguese Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation. [Link to register here](#).
- **7 February (09:30-16:00 CET):** In-person French-language Info day hosted by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. [Link to register here](#).

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**EU Global Health Strategy: Council approves conclusions**

On 29 January 2024, the European Council approved conclusions on the 'EU Global Health Strategy: Better health for all in a changing world', which reaffirms the leading role of the
EU and its member states in advancing global health. The Strategy puts forward three key interrelated priorities in dealing with global health challenges:

- deliver better health and well-being of people across the life course;
- strengthen health systems and advance universal health coverage;
- prevent and combat health threats, including pandemics, applying a One Health approach.

The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking has been recognised as a key initiative for supporting the implementation of the strategy.

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**UK joins Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes**

The United Kingdom is now associated to Horizon Europe – the world’s largest international research and innovation programme and Copernicus, the EU’s world-leading Earth observation programme. On 4 December 2023, the EU and UK completed the final step towards the UK’s association to Horizon Europe. Association to Horizon Europe will allow researchers and organisations in the UK to participate in the programme on equal terms with researchers and organisations from EU Member States. This applies from the 2024 Work Programmes and onwards, including for the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking.

[Read more »](#)

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**Talk on the effects of climate change on public health with Prof. Marcel Tanner**

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EDCTP High Representative Marcel Tanner participated on 22 January 2024 in a talk live-streamed with Ifakara Health Institute’s research scientists, Prisca Kweyamba and Swai Kyeba to delve into the topic "Climate Change Effects on Public Health." In the one-hour discussion, Prof. Tanner emphasized the importance of adopting a comprehensive and collaborative approach that considers societal, cultural, and ecological issues, for more sustainable solutions. You can listen to the recording of the talk on Ifakara Health Institute’s YouTube channel.

Project news

Results of two studies offer new hope for preventing malaria in pregnant women with HIV

Malaria during pregnancy can cause serious maternal and newborn health issues, especially in women living with HIV. The World Health Organization recommends daily doses of the antibiotic co-trimoxazole to prevent malaria in pregnant women living with HIV residing in areas with high malaria transmission. However, its efficacy in sub-Saharan Africa is threatened because malaria parasites are becoming increasingly resistant to the drug.

Two recent publications by EDCTP-funded studies IMPROVE-2 and MAMAH, show that the addition of the antimalarial drug dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine (DP) to daily co-trimoxazole substantially reduces the risk of malaria infection in pregnancy.

These grants are part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union, with co-funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida),
Advancing Paediatric Antibiotic Research: Two New African-European Research Collaborations Tackle Severe Infections in Neonates and Children

On 30-31 January 2024, expert scientists and clinicians from PediCAP and SNIP-AFRICA, two major research partnerships combatting antimicrobial resistance, convene in Johannesburg, South Africa, to present groundbreaking results and ways to advance antibiotic research tailored to the needs of children and their families.

Read more »

IAVI receives funding for efficacy trial of promising TB vaccine candidate in Africa

IAVI secured US$55 million award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct a Phase IIb trial assessing the safety and efficacy of the tuberculosis (TB) vaccine candidate MTBVAC to prevent active TB lung disease in adolescents and adults. Previous Phase Ib/IIa dose-ranging studies of MTBVAC in adults and neonates demonstrated favorable immunogenicity and safety profiles. In addition to this, Spanish biopharmaceutical company Biofabri is conducting a Phase III trial of MTBVAC in neonates in South Africa, Madagascar, and Senegal, which is supported by EDCTP.

Read more »

New formulation of artemether-lumefantrine (AL) for infants <5 kg in weight: the CALINA study

The normal paediatric practice is to give neonates and young infants < 5kg either a full course of treatment or half a tablet of AL, but there were no supporting data for this age and weight group. The safety and efficacy of AL are well studied in children ≥ 5 kg; however, the existing paediatric formulation is not optimal for use in children under 5 kg of weight. Novartis has developed a new formulation of the AL dispersible tablet for infants under 5 kg of weight. A Phase II/III trial in Burkina Faso and The Democratic Republic of the Congo has completed and its results are expected
in early 2024. The study is part of the PAMAfrica consortium which is funded by EDCTP and co-funded by Novartis and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MVV).

WANETAM annual general meeting

The EDCTP Regional Network of Excellence WANETAM held its annual retreat in Lagos, Nigeria on 24-26 January 2024, which was hosted by the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research. The meeting provided an opportunity to assess the Network’s achievements, highlight challenges and reflect on ways to best shape the direction of the network. Ms Michelle Nderu, EDCTP Project Office, presented the Global Health EDCTP3 programme to inform future plans. The meeting was also attended by local media and news articles were published on Pharmanews and Healthwise.

ShigaPlexIM consortium annual meeting

The Fourth annual meeting of the ShigaPlexIM consortium was a hybrid event taking place in-person in Leiden, The Netherlands on 24 January 2024 and online. Dr Debora Bade, Project Officer, represented EDCTP at the meeting. The ShigaPlexIM consortium aims to determine the incidence of Shigella disease in Burkina Faso and Zambia among children under 5 presenting with diarrhoea and to evaluate a Shigella vaccine candidate. Besides discussing findings from both epidemiological studies, the meeting focused on the last preparations required to start recruitment into a phase Ia/b trial aimed to determine the most tolerable and immunogenic dose of the InvaplexAR-DETOX vaccine candidate, with or without the mucosal adjuvant, double mutant labile toxin (dmLT) in healthy adults in the Netherlands and Zambia. Findings of the baseline study to determine the Shigella burden in Burkina Faso were recently published.

UNIVERSAL project’s potential impact on the health of children living with HIV, told by Dr Vivian Mumbiro

Dr Vivian Mumbiro, from the University of Zimbabwe Clinical Research Centre, reflects on the evolving landscape of paediatric HIV
and how the EDCTP-funded UNIVERSAL’s once-daily formulations will simplify treatment so we can build a healthier future for children living with HIV.

Read more »

priMe annual meeting 2023

The priMe project held its annual meeting with all partners in Entebbe, Uganda on 29-30 November 2023. The project conducts a pivotal phase III trial designed as a double-blind, multicenter, randomised, single administration, active-controlled trial to assess the efficacy and safety of the novel TB vaccine VPM1002 against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) infection.

During the meeting and together with all partners of the priMe consortium, invaluable experiences were exchanged, milestones were celebrated, and longstanding partnerships were strengthened with insightful discussions, progress assessments, and the recognition of exceptional performances by the trial sites.

EDCTP Fellows

Fellow profile: Professor Richard Phillips (Ghana)

EDCTP Fellow Professor Richard Phillips has established an extensive programme of research on Buruli ulcer in Ghana, in partnership with collaborators in Europe. His research has provided significant input into WHO-recommended treatments for Buruli ulcer. On the occasion of World NTD Day 2024, we asked Professor Phillips how his EDCTP Fellowship is helping advance his research to shorten the treatment of Buruli ulcer.

Read full interview »

Podcast with Dr Oghenebrume Wariri

EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr
Oghenebrume Wariri from The Gambia participated in an episode of the podcast ‘Improving access to vaccines in children.’ In this episode, Dr Wariri delves into his career journey, highlighting his contributions toward improving access to vaccines in children. Alongside providing updates on his recent award, Dr Wariri also shared his experiences on collaborations and research translation.

Listen to the podcast »

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.

- BMC Infectious Diseases: Study protocol: a pragmatic, cluster-randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effect of implementation of the Truenat platform/MTB assays at primary health care clinics in Mozambique and Tanzania (TB-CAPT CORE). Leukes, VN, et al. 19 January 2024
- BMC Public Health: Immunisation coverage and factors associated with incomplete immunisation in children under two during the COVID-19 pandemic in Sierra Leone. Wassenaar, M, et al. 10 January 2024
- Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease: The NLR SkinApp: Testing a Supporting mHealth Tool for Frontline Health Workers Performing Skin Screening in Ethiopia and Tanzania. Mwageni, N, et al. 10 January 2024
- BMC Public Health: Increasing the uptake of Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in pregnancy using Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) through seasonal malaria chemoprevention channel delivery: protocol of a multicenter cluster randomized implementation trial in Mali and Burkina Faso. Koita, K, et al. 2 January 2024
- Immunity, Inflammation and Disease: Presence of neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in asymptomatic population of N'Djamena, Chad. Wondeu, ALD, et al. 1 January 2024
- BMJ Glob Health: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the coverage and timeliness
- Tropical Medicine and Health: Efficacy and safety of praziquantel treatment against Schistosoma mansoni infection among pre-school age children in southern Ethiopia. Tadele, T, et al. 20 December 2023
- Malaria Journal: Anopheles gambiae s.s. resistance to pyrethroids and DDT in semi-urban and rural areas of the Moyen-Ogooué Province, Gabon. Boussougu-Sambe, ST, et al. 18 December 2023
- AIDS Research and Therapy: Determinants of survival of adolescents receiving antiretroviral therapy in the Centre Region of Cameroon: a multi-centered cohort analysis. Tendongfor, N, et al. 15 December 2023
- Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: Optimized strategy for real-time qPCR detection of Onchocerca volvulus DNA in pooled Simulium sp. blackfly vectors. Doherty, M, et al. 14 December 2023
- Scientific Reports: Genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 reveals highest severity and mortality of delta over other variants: evidence from Cameroon. Fokam, J, et al. 8 December 2023
- BMC Public Health: HIV assisted partner services (aPS) to support integrated HIV and hypertension screening in Kenya: a pre-post intervention study. Wamuti, B, et al. 1 December 2023
- Vaccines (Basel): Characterization of Rotavirus Strains Responsible for Breakthrough Diarrheal Diseases among Zambian Children Using Whole Genome Sequencing. Mwape, I, et al. 26 November 2023
- Open Forum Infectious Diseases: Increased Levels of Caspase-1 and IL-1β Among Adults With Persistent Immune Activation After 12 Years of Suppressive Antiretroviral Therapy in the Infectious Diseases Institute HIV Treatment Cohort. Nabatanzi, R, et al. 7 November 2023
- Scientific Reports: Predicted resistance to broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) and associated HIV-1 envelope characteristics among seroconverting adults in Botswana. Moraka, NO, et al. 24 October 2023
- Diagnostics (Basel): Detection of Plasmodium falciparum in Saliva and Stool Samples

- Open Research Africa: Funding and COVID-19 research in Africa: two years on, are the research needs of Africa being met? Antonio, E, et al. 12 September 2023.

Resources
Training and funding opportunities

GHIT Hit-to-Lead request for proposals | Deadline for application: 13 February 2024
The GHIT Fund has launched its 20th Request for Proposals for the Hit-to-Lead Platform to support drug discovery and development process to address Malaria, Tuberculosis, Chagas disease, and Visceral leishmaniasis. The deadline to submit the Intent to Apply form is by 10:00 JST on 13 February 2024.
More information »

NIHR Global Health Research Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration Round 4 | Deadline for application: 15 February 2024
A global health research placement award to meet the academic training and career development needs of NIHR GHR Academy members. Individuals can apply for up to £10,000 to design and undertake a short bespoke placement to increase their research training experience, increase understanding of what different parts of the NIHR offer and enhance their career development and trajectory.
More information »

NIHR Global Health Research Cohort Academic Development Award Round 3 | Deadline for application: 15 February 2024
The NIHR Global Health Research Cohort Academic Development Award (GHR CADA) scheme enables NIHR GHR Programme Training Leads/Programme Directors to apply for up to £30,000 to deliver training and career development activities. The scheme aims to help GHR programme cohorts primarily focused in low- and middle-income countries to develop skills needed for a successful academic research career.
More information »

UK FCDO Call for expressions of interest for Product development research for global health | Deadline for application: 23 February 2024
The UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has launched a call for expression of interest for research funding to develop accessible, affordable health products for use in low- and middle-income countries. Interested organisations should submit an expression of interest by 23 February 2024.
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 »

Caroline Miles Visiting Scholarship | Deadline for application: 21 April 2024
The Caroline Miles Visiting Scholarships are awarded to post-doctoral or early-career researchers to enable them to spend up to a month at the Ethox Centre working on a topic relating to one of the Centre's four main research areas: global health ethics; clinical ethics; public health ethics; and research ethics.
More information »

MRC/FCDO African Research Leaders call for proposals | Deadline for application: 24 April 2024
The Medical Research Council (MRC) UK has launched a further call to support ‘rising star’ African Research Leaders. This is a prestigious award, jointly funded by the MRC and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The scheme aims to strengthen research leadership across sub-Saharan Africa by attracting and retaining exceptionally talented individuals who will lead high-quality programmes of research on key global health issues pertinent to the region and beyond. As part of the scheme, the African Research Leader should be supported by a strong linkage with a UK partner.
More information »

NIH International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award | Deadline for application: 6 June 2024
The International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award supports curriculum development for master’s level courses at institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) including courses for skill development, including practicum experiences; and mentoring activities.
More information »

NIH International Bioethics Research Training Program | Deadline for application: 6 June 2024
The International Bioethics Research Training Program supports LMIC-U.S. collaborative institutional bioethics doctoral and postdoctoral research training programs that incorporate didactic, mentored research and career development components to prepare trainees for positions of scholarship and leadership at health research institutions in LMICs.
More information »

Mark your calendar

Global Health EDCTP3 - 2024 Info days | 6-7 February 2024
A series of info days are being organised by the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking and partners to provide information on the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals under the Work Programme 2024, as well as eligibility criteria and other relevant administrative matters.
- 6 February (11:00-13:00 CET): Online English-language Info day hosted by the European Commission. Link to register here.
Webinar: Returning to the Principles of Good Randomized Clinical Trials | 6 February 2024
The Good Clinical Trials Collaborative is hosting a webinar with The Global Health Network on “Returning to the Principles of Good Randomized Clinical Trials” on 6 February 2024 from 11:30-12:30 GMT. Participants of the webinar will hear presentations from global experts on how the Collaborative’s Guidance can Enable good RCTs.
More information »

Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference | 6-7 February 2024
The Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference (ACC2024) will take place virtually from 6-7 February 2024. The conference is jointly organised by the Global Antibiotic Research & Development Programme (GARDP) and the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC). For ACC2024, the collaborating organisations are the European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases (ECRAID) and the Netherlands Antibiotic Development Platform (NADP). Abstract submission for a late-breaker for oral and/or poster presentations closes on 8 January 2024. Participation in the virtual conference is free of charge.
More information »

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 the building of 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 »

World Congress of Epidemiology | 24-27 September 2024
The World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE2024) will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24-27 September 2024. 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. The meeting will feature invited speakers presenting plenary lectures, workshops and interactive sessions. The conference invites submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations showcasing novel research in epidemiology and public health (general abstract submission deadline: 16 February 2023).
More information »

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.