

## EDCTP Update | April 2024



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**World Malaria Day 2024: Accelerating the development of innovative approaches to end malaria**



## EDCTP2's investments in malaria research



**€156.36 M**

In 65 projects on malaria awarded to date.



**€138.32 M**

to support 17 projects with collaborative clinical trials and clinical studies conducted by European-African consortia.



**€7.70 M**

to support 5 projects that facilitate the translation of research results of medical interventions into policies and practices for national health programmes.



**€10.34 M**

to support 43 fellowships that focus on the career development of individual researchers.



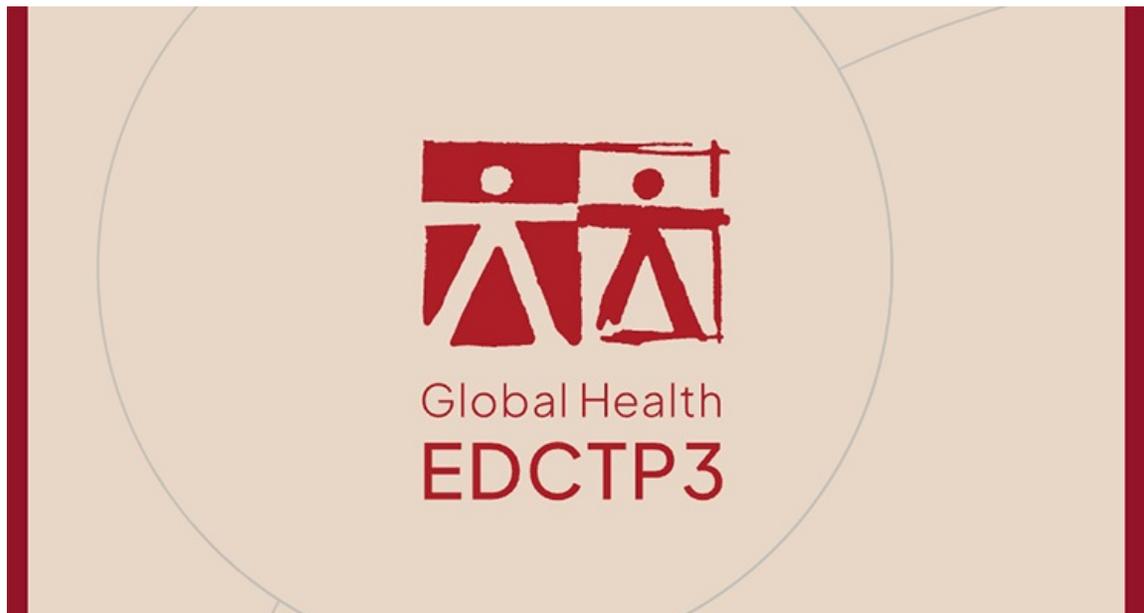
Supported by the European Union



On this World Malaria Day, under the theme 'Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world' we are reminded that more than 90% of malaria cases and deaths occur in Africa, where vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, infants and children are most affected. EDCTP reiterated its commitment to support the development of new and improved medical interventions for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of malaria, as well as product-focused implementation research, to ensure that these products reach the populations that need them most. Moreover, recent results from EDCTP-supported studies offer new hope towards achieving the malaria eradication agenda.

[Read more »](#)

## Global Health EDCTP3 mobilises emergency funding to tackle the ongoing Mpox outbreak



In the light of rising numbers of cases being reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the high public health risk, Global Health EDCTP3 is activating its emergency funding mechanism.

With a budget of € 5 million, the emergency call for proposals will support research and innovation projects that will advance our understanding of the ongoing Mpxv epidemic in the DRC, contribute to the development of preventive and management strategies and support an efficient public health response.

The funding will support projects working on:

- Vaccine research and development
- Therapeutic research and development
- Surveillance strategies, rapid diagnostics and epidemiological studies

Global Health EDCTP3 has launched this action as the Ministry of Health of DRC assessed the situation and considered the ongoing outbreak as a public health emergency which requires a rapid and efficacious response.

Global Health EDCTP3 is using all means at its disposal to enable research work to start as soon as possible. The call for proposals will open on 14 May 2024 for a limited time (closure expected on 29 May 2024), and the signature of the resulting projects will be prioritised for their work to start immediately after. Grants will be subject to certain clauses, including rapid data-sharing, to ensure that authorities can apply research findings immediately in their response.

[Read the call for proposals »](#)

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## **Novartis and Medicines for Malaria Venture announce positive efficacy and safety data for a novel treatment for babies <5 kg with malaria**



Positive data from the phase II/III CALINA study, part of the EDCTP2-funded [PAMAFrica project](#), demonstrated that a novel formulation of Coartem<sup>®</sup> (artemether-lumefantrine) developed for babies weighing less than 5kg has the required pharmacokinetic profile and good efficacy and safety to treat malaria in this vulnerable group. The data, which was presented at the MIM 2024 symposium '[Grassroots Mobilization to End Malaria: Integrating the care of the young infant](#)' on 26 April, have been submitted for regulatory review.

[Read more »](#)

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## Professor Marcel Tanner receives award at MIM 2024



Professor Marcel Tanner, EDCTP High Representative, is one of the recipients of the Ogobara Doumbe MIM Award for Life Time Achievements in Malaria Research and Capacity Building. This award was given in recognition of his efforts in the training of many individuals globally through scholarships in malariology, and especially within the MIM community of global malaria researchers. In receiving this award, Prof. Tanner was encouraged to continue to provide strategic directives on how to mobilise at the grassroots by investing, innovating and integrating such efforts to end malaria. The award is named after Prof. Ogobara Doumbo (1956-2018), a Malian-born researcher and capacity builder, who co-created the Bamako Malaria Research and Training Center that trains and works with the health system in villages.

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## Survey on decentralised clinical trials in Africa



Decentralised Clinical Trials (DCTs) are types of clinical trials, which use some technologies to run study activities remotely, or in a setting other than the health facility where the research doctors are based. DCTs could facilitate the conduct of clinical trials by increasing the convenience for trial participants since they could take part in the trial without the need to go to the research centers physically. Given the potential benefits of DCTs and because information on DCT is sparse in resource-limited settings, [CTC Africa](#) is assessing the challenges and enablers for conducting DCTs in the African continent through a survey. Click [here](#) to access the survey. The survey will close on 2 May 2024.

## Recent events

### **EDCTP at the MIM Society 8th Pan-African Malaria Conference and site visit in Rwanda**



The Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) Society 8th Pan-African Malaria Conference took place on 21-27 April 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda under the theme 'Grassroots mobilization to end malaria: invest, innovate and integrate'. The conference provided a platform to

share perspectives that strengthen efforts towards locally-driven R&D and grassroots mobilization to end malaria through innovation, collaborations, political and financial investment and synergy among key stakeholders.

Several grantees supported by the EDCTP2 and Global Health EDCTP3 programmes presented their work in scientific symposia, plenaries, oral and poster presentations. A complete overview of sessions and presentations is available [here](#).

Professor Marcel Tanner, High Representative, Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, and Dr Montserrat Blázquez Domingo, Senior Project Officer, represented EDCTP at MIM 2024.

On 24 April 2024, the EDCTP team was invited by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre to visit the Rukara village outside Kigali where community health workers and volunteers have been placed at the heart of integrated malaria elimination activities, including clinical care of index cases, active case finding among close contacts of index cases, indoor spraying, surveillance linked to catching mosquitoes for entomological studies, and destruction of breeding places of mosquitoes. Malaria cases at Rukara Health Centre have dropped from 3,184 cases in 2020, to 748 in 2021, to 47 in 2022, slightly up to 75 in 2023, and currently at 23 cases in 2024.

The team also met with representatives of the Ministry of Health in Rwanda to discuss preparations for the Twelfth EDCTP Forum to be held in Kigali in 2025.

## **UKCDR and AFD side event to the OECD Science and Technology Policy Ministerial**



On 22 April 2024, UKCDR and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) held a [side event](#) in Paris, France, which gathered international public funders of research for development and a range of wider stakeholders. The side event aimed to highlight research as a force for development. Bringing key actors together around a collective agenda, two sessions explored the topics of 'Promoting principle and good practices in funding research for development' and 'Informed decision-making and donor coordination'. Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships (North) and Communications Manager, represented EDCTP at the event.

## **LRI Spring Meeting 2024**



On 17-19 April 2024, the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) held its annual Spring Meeting in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. This in-person event brought together 100 researchers, partners, committee members and other stakeholders from 25 countries to present and discuss the progress and results of almost 40 ongoing LRI-funded leprosy research projects and deliberate on cross-cutting issues such as research impact and endpoints for clinical trials. Mr Ephrem Mamo Gebrehiwot (Ethiopia) represented the EDCTP/LRI co-funded [PEP4LEP](#) project and presented on 19 April 2024 on combining the administration of leprosy post-exposure prophylaxis using single dose rifampicin (SDR-PEP), with skin screening for leprosy, other neglected tropical skin diseases and common skin diseases in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Tanzania. EDCTP was represented by Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships (North) and Communications Manager, who also gave a presentation on EDCTP and our collaboration with LRI on the afternoon of 18 April 2024.

The online 'Highlights of LRI Spring Meeting' will take place from 14:00 to 16:30 CEST on 30 May 2024 and will feature select project progress presentations from the in-person meeting. The event is open to anyone with an interest in leprosy research, and participation is free of charge. Further details including the programme and link to registration will be shared on LRI's [LinkedIn channel](#).

## **SFA Foundation, EDCTP and CTCAN Meeting**



The [Clinical Trials and Research Community \(CRT\) programme](#) of the [Science for Africa \(SFA\) Foundation](#) hosted a delegation from EDCTP Association, the Global Health EDCTP3-

funded [Clinical Trials African Network \(CTCAN\) consortium](#) and the [EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence](#) on 15-17 April 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

On 15-16 April 2024, the focus of the engagement was on discussions regarding the implementation of the CTCAN project. This collaboration would involve working closely with the EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence, who would contribute expertise and knowledge to various work packages.

On 17 April 2024, a high-level session was convened to discuss strengthening the bilateral strategic partnership between the SFA Foundation and the EDCTP Association. The primary goal was to leverage existing investments from both organisations, aiming to coordinate efforts to reduce duplication and enhance resource utilization. This strategic approach aims to amplify the impact of their activities across sub-Saharan Africa.

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## EDCTP2 project news

### Promising patient-friendly oral drug against visceral leishmaniasis enters phase II clinical trial in Ethiopia



A phase II clinical trial for an all-oral treatment for visceral leishmaniasis has started in Ethiopia. The new molecule called LXE408, is expected to be safer than the current treatment. The trial, conducted by Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) and its partners, is funded by EDCTP under the VL-INNO project.

[Read more »](#)

### New treatment strategy could bring children with pneumonia home from hospital earlier



Children who are recovering from severe pneumonia could safely switch from injectable to oral antibiotics earlier, allowing them to come home from hospital sooner. This is according to new results from the EDCTP-funded [PediCAP](#) clinical trial, presented on 29 April 2024 at the ESCMID Global conference in Barcelona.

[Read more »](#)

### PREPARED project publishes guidance for editors and publishers

The peer-review process of academic manuscripts was even more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic than before. The [PREPARED](#) project developed guidance for editors, that can be used during a future crisis or in routine work. It provides a framework for the swift and fair identification of manuscripts that could be



sent for peer review and those which could be rejected in the first stage of the peer review process. You can read the guidance in full [here](#).

## ERASE-TB: Follow up completed in Zimbabwe



On 5 April 2024, the team of the [ERASE-TB](#) study announced the completion of the follow-up with participants in Zimbabwe. A total of 913 index cases and 2108 household contacts have been enrolled in the study across all the participating study centres (Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe). The ERASE-TB study aims to explore the potential of new molecular approaches to detect early signs of clinical TB.

## UNIVERSAL submits data to the FDA to support the dosing of a new drug combination to treat HIV in children



The UNIVERSAL project announced the submission of a pharmacokinetic modelling and simulation analysis to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This submission aims to support the new dosing of Darunavir/Ritonavir (DRV/r) 120/20mg, combined in one tablet, as the optimal ratio to treat HIV in children across all World Health Organization (WHO) paediatric weight bands. These drugs are already used in combination to treat HIV in both adults and children, but the formulations are not specifically made for children. The UNIVERSAL project aims to develop new fixed-dose combinations for children newly diagnosed with HIV and for those who do not respond to first-line therapy.

[Read more »](#)

## Stool4TB: third annual meeting

The [Stool4TB study](#) organised its third annual meeting in Maputo, Mozambique on 15 April 2024. The meeting aimed to provide updates on study results and to discuss strategies for the project. The meeting was attended by investigators from Mozambique, Eswatini and Uganda where the study takes place. The Stool4TB



study aims to test an innovative new method for identifying TB infections in children and people living with HIV.

## Stakeholder consultation on the AccessAfrica Guidelines on Post-Trial Access



The [AccessAfrica](#) project has released the first draft of the sub-Saharan Africa Guidelines on Post-trial Access. The Guidelines refer to the ethical principle, enshrined in various international guidelines, “to make available as soon as possible any intervention or product developed, and knowledge generated, for the population or community in which the research is carried out”. The AccessAfrica Guidelines on Post-Trial Access is the first ethical guidance document on this ethical principle that was drafted specifically for the sub-Saharan African region. It is also the first elaboration of what the principle requires. The project team invites stakeholders from sub-Saharan Africa to provide comments on the draft by 20 May 2024.

[Open the draft guidelines document »](#)

## SNECFA project’s dissemination workshop



The [SNECFA project](#) (Strengthening National Ethics Committees in West and Central Francophone Africa) organised a two-day dissemination workshop from 15-16 April 2024 in Chad. The aim of this workshop was to review the new SOP of the National Ethics Committee of Chad and highlight the importance of the TRREE national supplements in health research. The SNECFA project aims to strengthen the capacity of four National Ethics Committees in Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Niger, with a special focus on drafting SOPs for the review of research protocols during routine and emergency health situations.

## ZERCaP: Establishment of Centres of Excellence at three universities in Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Ethics and Regulatory



Capacity Project (ZERCaP) aimed to strengthen ethics and regulatory functions of the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ), including the Research Ethics Committees (RECs). Researchers were implementing clinical trials and conducting health research, but with very limited ethical review and compliance oversight. Through this project three RECs developed to become Centres of Excellence in health research, ethical oversight and compliance and can now partner with MRCZ in building capacity and oversight of clinical trials and health research in other RECs who are at lower levels of institutional development. The RECs now have adequate legal and policy mandate, provide ethical and regulatory oversight as required by the National Ethics Committee, and utilise information and communication technology adequately.

[Read more »](#)

## Meet Dr Joseph Kabatende working with regulatory system strengthening in eastern and southern Africa



Dr Joseph Kabatende is a Health Products and Regulatory Systems Specialist working for the WHO. He completed his PhD in 2023 from Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, after defending his doctoral thesis entitled “Pharmacovigilance of Mass Drug Administration for Control of Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths in Rwanda”. His PhD study was part of the EDCTP-funded [PROFORMA project](#).

[Read more »](#)

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## EDCTP Fellows

### Fellow profile: Professor Wendy Burgers (South Africa)



EDCTP Senior Fellow Professor Wendy Burgers, was promoted to Full Professor at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa, in January 2023, for her research, teaching and social responsiveness activities. In October 2023, she was inducted into the College of Fellows at UCT in recognition of her original, distinguished academic work. More recently, in March 2024, Prof. Burgers was awarded a Silver Medal award from the South African Medical Research Council for outstanding

contributions to science.

[Read more »](#)

## Rising stars from the HEPMAL project



Two students supported through the HEPMAL project, led by EDCTP Senior Fellow Dr Kwadwo Asamoah Kusi (Ghana), successfully completed their thesis as part of the project. Bright Asare graduated on 23 January 2024 with an MPhil in Applied Parasitology from the Department of Animal Biology and Conservation Science, University of Ghana. Rawdat Baba-Adam was an MPhil student on the HEPMAL project, registered in the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology.

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## Dr David Kateete: Transitioning to the next chapter after the EDCTP Career Development Fellowship



The long-term goal of EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr David Kateete (Uganda) was to build capacity and advance his career as an academic. His fellowship focused on characterising the microbiome in tuberculosis. Overall, the goals of the MTI-Plus project were achieved – with wider impact beyond the intended scope.

[Read more »](#)

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## 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*: [Factors associated with malaria vaccine uptake in Nsanje district, Malawi](#). Simbeye, Atusaye J, et al. 17 April 2024
- *Pediatric Pulmonology*: [Post-tuberculosis respiratory impairment in Gambian children and adolescents: A cross-sectional analysis](#). Nkereuwem, Esin, et al. 17 April 2024
- *PLOS Global Public Health*: [Facilitators and barriers to integrated malaria prevention in Wakiso district, Uganda: A photovoice study](#). Musoke, D, et al. 16 April 2024
- *PLoS One*: [High uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among healthcare workers in urban Uganda](#). Kyakuwa, N, et al. 16 April 2024
- *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*: [Schistosome infection among pregnant women in the rural highlands of Madagascar: A cross-sectional study calling for public health](#)

- [interventions in vulnerable populations.](#) Rakotozandrindrainy, R, et al. 16 April 2024
- *Health Res Policy Syst*: [Using a priority setting exercise to identify priorities for guidelines on newborn and child health in South Africa, Malawi, and Nigeria.](#) Durão, S, et al. 16 April 2024
  - *PLOS Global Public Health*: [Safety and immunogenicity of booster vaccination and fractional dosing with Ad26.COV2.S or BNT162b2 in Ad26.COV2.S-vaccinated participants.](#) Riou, C, et al. 11 April 2024
  - *Brief Funct Genomics*: [Use of in silico approaches, synthesis and profiling of Pan-filovirus GP-1,2 preprotein specific antibodies.](#) Wiśniewski, M, et al. 11 April 2024
  - *BMC Infectious Diseases*: [Association of haemato-biochemical indices and blood composite ratios with microfilaridemia in Onchocerciasis patients.](#) Debrah, LB, et al. 8 April 2024
  - *Malaria Journal*: [Plasmodium falciparum genetic diversity and multiplicity of infection based on msp-1, msp-2, glurp and microsatellite genetic markers in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) Mwesigwa, A, et al. 8 April 2024
  - *Heliyon*: [SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance and reliability of PCR single point mutation assay \(SNPsig® SARS-CoV-2 EscapePLEX CE\) for the rapid detection of variants of concern in Cameroon.](#) Fokam, J, et al. 6 April 2024
  - *PLoS One*: [Prevalence of cardiometabolic risk factors according to urbanization level, gender and age, in apparently healthy adults living in Gabon, Central Africa.](#) Mengome, MFA, et al. 5 April 2024
  - *The Lancet. Global Health*: [Blood RNA biomarkers for tuberculosis screening in people living with HIV before antiretroviral therapy initiation: a diagnostic accuracy study.](#) Mann, T, et al. 4 April 2024
  - *The Lancet. Global Health*: [Point-of-care C-reactive protein and Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra for tuberculosis screening and diagnosis in unselected antiretroviral therapy initiators: a prospective, cross-sectional, diagnostic accuracy study.](#) Reeve, BWP, et al. 4 April 2024
  - *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*: [A randomized first-in-human phase I trial of differentially adjuvanted Pfs48/45 malaria vaccines in Burkina Faso adults.](#) Tiono, AB, et al. 1 April 2024
  - *Journal of Virus Eradication*: [Evaluation of HIV-1 DNA levels among adolescents living with perinatally acquired HIV-1 in Yaounde, Cameroon: A contribution to paediatric HIV cure research in Sub-Saharan Africa.](#) Ka'e, AC, et al. 30 March 2024
  - *Heliyon*: [Gut microbiota in vaccine naïve Gabonese children with rotavirus A gastroenteritis.](#) Manouana, G P, et al. 30 March 2024
  - *Neurological Sciences*: [Gaps in treatment of epileptic seizures in a Zambian rural area.](#) Mambo, R, et al. 28 March 2024
  - *PLOS Global Public Health*: [The socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on families affected by childhood respiratory illnesses in Cape Town, South Africa.](#) Anthony, M G, et al. 28 March 2024
  - *PLoS One*: [Copolymer mechanism in selected districts of Uganda: Availability, market share and price of quality assured artemisinin-based combination therapies in private drug outlets.](#) Ocan, M, et al. 27 March 2024
  - *Malaria Journal*: [Implementation of post-discharge malaria chemoprevention \(PDMC\) in Benin, Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda: stakeholder engagement meeting report.](#) Hill, J, et al. 27 March 2024 (Grant: GH EDCTP3 - 101103078)
  - *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*: [Experiences of young mothers with the uptake of Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy: a cross-sectional study in the Lake endemic region, Kenya.](#) Matanda, DJ, et al. 26 March 2024
  - *Vaccines (Basel)*: [Risk Factors for COVID-19 and Respiratory Tract Infections during the Coronavirus Pandemic.](#) Mockeliunas, L, et al. 19 March 2024
  - *Clinical Infectious Diseases*: [Twice-Daily Dosing of Dolutegravir in Infants on Rifampicin Treatment: A Pharmacokinetic Substudy of the EMPIRICAL Trial.](#) Jacobs, TG, et al. 1 March 2024
  - *AIDS (London, England)*: [Evaluation of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV programs at the second immunization visit in Burkina Faso and Zambia.](#) Tassemedo, S, et al. 4 January 2024
  - *International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics*: [Considerations for post-licensure group B streptococcus vaccine effectiveness studies.](#) Skirrow, H, et al. 11 May 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

### **TDR Postgraduate Scholarship in Implementation Research Academic Year 2024/2025 | Deadline for application: 3 May 2024**

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Ghana, invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for a place in a full-time postgraduate programme, with a focus on Implementation Research for the 2024-2025 academic year. Funding for these full scholarships is from TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, based at the World Health Organization in Geneva. Only applicants from low- and middle-income countries of the WHO African Region are eligible to apply.

[More information »](#)

### **GFBR 2024: Call for case studies presenters and participants | Deadline for applications: 6 May 2024**

The Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) will hold a two-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 19-20 November 2024 on the topic "Ethical issues arising in research into health and climate change" (dates tentative). As part of the upcoming meeting, the GFBR is seeking case studies on the ethical issues that have emerged in the conduct of research into health and climate change, or on governance issues in this field. The GFBR is also seeking participants to attend the meeting, with places awarded on a competitive

basis. Awards are available for successful applicants from low- and middle-income countries to cover the cost of their travel, accommodation and single-entry visa.

[More information »](#)

### **Call for abstracts: 7th Global Forum on TB Vaccines | Deadline for application: 17 May 2024**

The 7th Global Forum on TB Vaccines will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 8-10 October 2024. Researchers, product developers, advocates, community representatives, and others interested and engaged in new TB vaccines are encouraged to submit abstracts to share innovations and new approaches, data, and results during the conference.

Submissions will be accepted across five broad thematic tracks: diversifying the TB vaccine pipeline, accelerating clinical trials, ensuring public health impact, preparing for implementation, and enabling factors for TB vaccine R&D.

[More information »](#)

### **AGHRB: Malaria vaccine implementation studies in Africa | Deadline for application: 3 June 2024**

The UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) are providing funding for studies to undertake implementation research to understand the optimal strategies for roll-out and scale-up of the malaria vaccines RTS,S and R21 to ensure that they are deployed most effectively and equitably for population health benefit. Research should be conducted in at least two sub-Saharan African countries, one of which should have a high malaria burden.

[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 »](#)

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## **Mark your calendar**

### **Conference on Pandemic Preparedness | 14-15 May 2024**

On 14-15 May 2024, the conference *'Europe united against old and new pandemics'* will take place in Antwerp, Belgium. This two-day event will provide an overview of lessons learnt from the COVID pandemic and provide options to be globally prepared for future health threats in a forward-looking scene. The role of the European partnerships in pandemic preparedness will be discussed. Experts from across the globe will also give insightful keynotes and presentations on the topic of pandemic preparedness. This Belgian presidency conference is coordinated by the Department for Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish government, in collaboration with the Research Department of the Public Service of Wallonia, the Department for Care of the Flemish government and the Federal Public Service on Public Health and is co-financed by DG RTD of the European Commission. Registration is free and closes on 30 April 2024.

[More information »](#)

### **18th International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) | 14-17 May 2024**

The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) will take place on 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 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.

[More information »](#)

### **1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis | 3-5 July 2024**

The 1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 3-5 July 2024 and will present a high-quality programme on innovations in Tuberculosis with an emphasis on region-specific needs. The meeting aims to provide a platform for scientific interchange, education, and fostering collaborations to advance the field. EDCTP is sponsoring the conference as a Bronze-level supporter.

[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 »](#)

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*EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.*



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