

## EDCTP Update | June 2025



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### Twelfth EDCTP Forum: celebrating global health research



The [Twelfth EDCTP Forum](#), held from 15-20 June 2025, concluded with immense success, bringing together 1,214 participants from various parts of the world. With 71% of attendees from Africa, 26% from Europe, and 3% from the rest of the world, the Forum exemplified its commitment to fostering international collaboration in global health.

Over five energising days, the Forum facilitated:

- 8 plenary sessions featuring 45 distinguished speakers
- 15 parallel sessions showcasing 83 abstract presentations
- 18 scientific symposia and 6 sponsored satellite sessions
- 14 workshops and side sessions
- 186 posters highlighting innovative research
- 5 EDCTP Prize Ceremonies recognising outstanding leadership
- 36 Meet the Expert sessions that connected seasoned professionals with emerging talent.

A significant achievement of this Forum was the near gender parity achieved among participants, with women representing:

- 49% of plenary speakers
- 49% of Forum scholarship recipients
- 42% of total attendees.

While the discussions have concluded, the momentum continues as we look forward to the next Forum in 2027 in Madrid, Spain. We are excited to build upon the connections made and the knowledge shared during this remarkable event.

Check the [Forum highlights](#) and [watch recordings](#) of the plenary sessions.

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**A Europe–Africa collaboration to strengthen health research**

COMMENT • Online first, June 12, 2025 • Open Access

## Europe–Africa collaboration: working together to strengthen health research, implementation, and equitable systems

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**Show Outline** >> In September, 2024, representatives of EU directorates and agencies involved in health, research and innovation, and international cooperation and development met to discuss the Europe–Africa collaboration to improve health outcomes in Africa and achieve greater impact in supporting healthy lives and wellbeing across all ages. Although major health-related gains have been made in Africa in recent decades, the region still faces the double burden of high prevalence of infectious diseases and a growing challenge of non-communicable diseases. Existing challenges are exacerbated by new threats, including increasing prevalence of antimicrobial resistance, substandard or falsified medicines, the increasingly severe impact of climate change, and the ongoing risk of new

In September 2024, representatives from EU directorates and agencies involved in health, research, innovation, and international cooperation and development met to discuss the Europe–Africa collaboration to improve health outcomes across Africa. Despite progress, the continent faces challenges such as infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and antimicrobial resistance. The paper 'Europe–Africa collaboration: working together to strengthen health research, implementation, and equitable systems', published in *The Lancet Global Health* in June 2025, underscores the EU's commitment to the African region, stressing the importance of equitable partnerships that enable African stakeholders to lead in setting health priorities. Through strategic frameworks, such as the EU Global Health Strategy, and key initiatives like the EDCTP programmes, now in its third iteration (Global Health EDCTP3), and the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI), the focus remains on improving access to medical interventions and developing robust health systems.

[Read the full article »](#)

## Call for Expressions of Interest: Join the Global Health EDCTP3 Stakeholders' Group



The Global Health EDCTP3 has announced a new call for expressions of interest aimed at

renewing the membership of its Stakeholders' Group. The Stakeholders' Group complements the Scientific Committee and supports the Governing Board in their governance efforts. Over the past two years, its contributions have been significant, particularly in shaping the current programme through the update of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). Additionally, the group has been instrumental in the organisation and design of the Eleventh and Twelfth EDCTP Forums, as well as in providing invaluable strategic and policy recommendations. Ongoing and prospective members are encouraged to express their interest in joining this influential group, which is crucial for advancing global health initiatives.

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## **EDCTP Association celebrates appointment of Dr Delese Mimi Darko as Inaugural Director General of the African Medicines Agency**



The EDCTP Association extends its warm congratulations to Dr Delese Mimi Darko on her recent appointment as the inaugural Director General of the African Medicines Agency (AMA). This significant nomination was made during the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Conference of State Parties (CoSP) of the AMA, held from 2-4 June 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Dr Darko has led the EDCTP2-funded [BERC-Africa project](#), which aimed to enhance regulatory capacity in Ghana. With over 30 years of extensive experience, she has made remarkable strides in the field, notably becoming the first female Chief Executive Officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) Ghana in 2017.

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### **Recent events**

**EDCTP Association at HERA Industry Days**





Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager and Scientific Advisor, EDCTP Association, was a panellist at the [Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority \(HERA\) Industry Days](#) held in Brussels on 2-3 June 2025. Dr Beattie presented in the session 'Driving innovation and collaboration for global health preparedness', describing how the EDCTP Association has strengthened research capacity and international collaborations in Africa through its funding for Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Networks.

## Strengthening clinical trial capacities in Lusophone Africa: training NRAs reviewers



From 9 to 13 June 2025, WHO-AFRO, through AVAREF, in collaboration with various partners, including the EDCTP Association, ANVISA, INFARMED, and ANARME, conducted its inaugural Portuguese-language training on clinical trials in Maputo, Mozambique. This significant event saw the participation of nineteen evaluators from six different countries, all of whom enhanced their skills in harmonised clinical trial assessments.

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### ShigaPlexIM: SUNSHINE trial vaccination started in Zambia



The SUNSHINE trial, part of the ShigaPlexIM project, has commenced vaccination of participants living in Shigella endemic setting at the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ). The SUNSHINE trial aims to assess the safety and immunogenicity of the InvaplexAR-Detox/dmLT vaccine against shigellosis. If successful, this vaccine could significantly reduce shigellosis globally, especially in vulnerable populations.

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### Stool4TB consortium: final annual meeting



The Stool4TB consortium held its final meeting in Mbabane, Eswatini, at the end of May, concluding a 5-year study on a new TB diagnostic test using stool samples. Over three days, participants finalised the study's implementation and discussed result dissemination. Seven peer-reviewed articles have been published, with more results pending. PhD candidates George Kasule and Edson Mambuque presented updates, and members visited the Baylor Foundation Eswatini Tuberculosis Centre of Excellence. The meeting ended with plans for the project's legacy and a capacity-building session on R programming for junior researchers.

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### MTBVACN3: annual investigators meeting



The 3rd annual meeting of the MTBVACN3 project took place on 26-28 May 2025 in Baiona, near Biofabri headquarters, in Spain. MTBVAC is one of the promising tuberculosis (TB) vaccine candidates for newborns. The target is to vaccinate 7,120 newborns against tuberculosis during their first week of life.

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### WANECAM-2 Consortium: Completion of recruitment for KALUMA study





On 29 May 2025, the WANECAM-2 consortium announced the successful completion of recruitment for the KALUMA study. This marks a significant milestone in their research efforts, with nearly 1,700 patients enrolled in the trial.

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## **PREPARED final conference: promoting equitable science during crises**



The PREPARED consortium has developed a global code of conduct for research during pandemics. This ethical framework supports researchers and ethics committees, adhering to the Declaration of Helsinki. Launched at UNESCO in June 2025, the open-access book includes guidelines, policy briefs, and training materials, with the aim of improving research ethics and integrity during crises.

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## **EDCTP Fellows**

### **Epi Biostats Fellow from MPHEBDOER wins Poster Prize at the Twelfth EDCTP Forum**



Mr Yankuba Samateh, an Epi Biostats Fellow from the [MPHEBDOER programme](#) at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, has achieved recognition by winning a poster prize at the Twelfth EDCTP Forum. His award-winning poster, titled "Knowledge, Risk Perception, Preventive Practices, and Missed Vaccination for Under-Five Cerebrospinal Meningitis Infection Among Caregivers in The Gambia," was selected by the esteemed poster prize jury. The award ceremony occurred during the closing session of the Twelfth EDCTP Forum on 18 June 2025, and was presented by Ms Lara Pandya and Dr Jean Marie Habarugira, Co-Chairs of the Forum Organising Committee.

### **Prof. George Boateng Kyei: advancing HIV research in Africa**

In his EDCTP-GSK Senior Fellowship, Professor George Boateng Kyei of the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana, has not only



advanced the search for an HIV cure but also strengthened research capacity across Ghana and the broader African region.

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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 compliance with EDCTP grant requirements to make publications openly accessible as soon as possible. [Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#).

- Journal of Public Health in Africa: [Gestion optimisée des intrants pour une réponse efficace en contexte de pandémie au Cameroun](#). Fokam, J, et al. 30 May 2025
- Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: [School-aged Schistosoma mansoni infection levels after long-term programmatic control show failure to meet control programme targets and evidence of a persistent hotspot: evaluation of the FibroScHot trial baseline data](#). Besigye, F, et al. 30 May 2025
- Contemporary Clinical Trials: [BREATHER Plus clinical trial design: A randomised non-inferiority trial evaluating the efficacy, safety and acceptability of short cycle \(five days on, two days off\) dolutegravir/tenofovir-based triple antiretroviral therapy \(ART\) compared to daily ART in virologically suppressed adolescents living with HIV aged 12 to <20 years in sub-Saharan Africa](#). Katongole, F, et al. 29 May 2025
- EclinicalMedicine: [Diagnostic accuracy of point-of-care triage tests for pulmonary tuberculosis using host blood protein biomarkers: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Komakech, K, et al. 29 May 2025
- PloS One: [Impact of statins as immune-modulatory agents on inflammatory markers in adults with chronic diseases: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Sabeel, S, et al. 29 May 2025
- Journal of Nutrition and Metabolism: [Physical Activity and Overnutrition Among 8–11-Year-Old School Children in Thika Town, Kenya](#). Mburu, MW, et al. 29 May 2025
- Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: [Antimicrobial resistant bacteria isolated from Buruli ulcer lesions in Ghana](#). Ackam, N, et al. 27 May 2025
- Malaria Journal: [Multiplex LC-MS/MS assay for simultaneous quantification of artesunate and its active metabolite dihydroartemisinin with pyronaridine, proguanil, cycloguanil, and clindamycin in pharmacokinetic studies](#). Pfaffendorf, C, et al. 27 May 2025
- PloS One: [Optimization of dried blood spot for hepatitis B virus surface antibody quantification](#). Motshosi, P, et al. 27 May 2025
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Perceived usability, acceptability, and feasibility of stool-based qPCR TB diagnostics: perspectives from healthcare providers in Manhica District, southern Mozambique](#). Lima, A, et al. 26 May 2025
- PloS one: [Assessment of a decentralization model in improving treatment and care of visceral leishmaniasis in Turkana County, Kenya: A mixed method study](#). Mbui, J, et al. 20 May 2025
- PloS One: [Viral kinetics among persons living with HIV \(PLWH\) on Dolutegravir-based antiretroviral Regimen: A retrospective and prospective analysis from selected HIV clinics in Ghana](#). Badu Nyarko, S, et al. 20 May 2025
- BMC Nutrition: [Factors that influence the provision of enteral feeding for critically ill children: a qualitative evidence synthesis](#). Søiland, E, et al. 19 May 2025
- The Lancet. Microbe: [Safety and broad immunogenicity of HIVconsvX conserved mosaic candidate T-cell vaccines vectored by ChAdOx1 and MVA in HIV-CORE 006: a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase 1 trial in healthy adults living without HIV-1 in eastern and southern Africa](#). Chanda, C, et al. 16 May 2025



- International Journal of Infectious Diseases : IJID : Official Publication of the International Society for Infectious Diseases: [Impact of malaria in pregnancy on infant neurodevelopment and malaria susceptibility during the first year of life in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#). Tshiongo, JK, et al. 15 May 2025
- Journal of Public Health in Africa: [COVID-19 knowledge, attitude, and practice in combating TB and COVID-19 in Cameroon](#). Andoseh, G, et al. 14 May 2025
- The Journal of Nutrition, Health & Aging: [Enhancing the methodology of clinical trials in older people: A scoping review with global perspective](#). Cesari, M, et al. 14 May 2025
- African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine: [Iron supplementation in children to prevent deficiency and anaemia: A qualitative synthesis](#). Mabetha, D, et al. 14 May 2025
- Tropical Medicine and Health: [Development of monoclonal antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein for COVID-19 antigen detection](#). Mutua, M, et al. 13 May 2025
- Frontiers in Public Health: [Weight changes among antiretroviral therapy-naïve people living with human immunodeficiency virus in Lagos, Nigeria](#). Odubela, O, et al. 13 May 2025
- Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: [Detection of Haemophilus ducreyi from environmental and animal samples in Cameroon](#). Ndzomo, P, et al. 8 May 2025
- The New England Journal of Medicine: [Second-Line Antiretroviral Therapy for Children Living with HIV in Africa](#). Musiime, V, et al. 1 May 2025
- Southern African Journal of Infectious Diseases: [Clinico-radiological characteristics and lethality of HIV-tuberculosis coinfection in the Infectiology ward of the Libreville University Hospital, Gabon](#). Ntsame Owono, M, et al. 24 April 2025
- Diagnostics (Basel, Switzerland): [Molecular Detection of Urogenital Schistosomiasis in Community Level in Semi-Rural Areas in South-East Gabon](#). Kouna, LC, et al. 22 April 2025
- Breathe (Sheffield, England): [The use of forced oscillation technique in children with restrictive physiology](#). Gie, A, et al. 1 April 2025
- PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases: [Changes in circulating filarial antigen status in previously positive individuals: Lessons for treatment monitoring and pre-transmission assessment surveys](#). Mensah, DA, et al. 4 February 2025
- The Lancet. Microbe: [Performance of stool-based molecular tests and processing methods for paediatric tuberculosis diagnosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Carratalà-Castro, L, et al. 11 November 2024
- Journal of Global Health: [Water, sanitation, and intimate partner violence: Insights from Kibra Slums, Nairobi](#). Ombija, S, et al. 28 June 2024

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## Resources

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
  - EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
  - ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)
  - TRUST project | [A Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships](#)
  - PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
  - PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)
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## Training and funding opportunities

### 2025-26 EDCTP COMPASS Fellowship Scheme | Deadline for applications: 15 August 2025

The 2025-26 EDCTP COMPASS Fellowship Scheme, a collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the EDCTP Association, offers opportunities for Master's programmes in Africa. It includes a two-year training component

leading to an LSHTM Master's degree in Clinical Trials or Epidemiology via Distance Learning and a policy or research-focused internship lasting 6 to 12 months. Candidates can apply for a full fellowship covering both components or a part-fellowship for either component. Host institutions for the internships must be in sub-Saharan Africa and involved in ongoing research with LSHTM. The deadline to submit applications is on 15 August 2025. LSHTM manages the selection and administration of the fellowship.

[More information »](#)

### **MOHRE training programme | Deadline for applications: 31 August 2025**

Applications are now open for the Master of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE) training programme at Universiti Malaya (UM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, set to commence in October 2025. This one-year, blended-learning Master's program is a collaborative effort between Universiti Malaya and the Berman Institute of Bioethics at Johns Hopkins University, with support from the Fogarty International Center, NIH.

The MOHRE programme is designed for professionals engaged in Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and Research Ethics Committees (RECs), as well as researchers and academics with a keen interest in the field of bioethics. This unique opportunity aims to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the ethical challenges in health research.

For exceptional candidates from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in Southeast Asia, scholarships may be available to facilitate their participation in this programme, with a deadline for scholarship applications on 31 July 2025. The general application deadline is on 31 August 2025.

[More information »](#)

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## **Mark your calendar**

### **Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International Conference | 8-9 July 2025**

The Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International Conference will take place on 8 and 9 July 2025, at the Mathematics Institute, University of Oxford, with selected sessions available online. The conference brings together the global health bioethics community, and provides a platform for sharing research, exchanging ideas, and building collaborations. The Call for Abstracts is now open.

[More information »](#)

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



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