

EDCTP Update | September 2025



Highlights



Burundi joins the EDCTP Association

The EDCTP Association is pleased to announce that Burundi has become its newest member country, bringing the total number of participating African countries to 31. The General Assembly of the EDCTP Association formally approved Burundi as a member on 24 September 2025, marking a significant step in strengthening regional collaboration in global health research.

By joining the Association, Burundi is now eligible for funding through the Global Health EDCTP3 programme and can contribute to the programme's strategic direction.

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EDCTP Association members and Global Health EDCTP3 commit to strengthening clinical trials ecosystems

Members of the EDCTP Association and Global Health EDCTP3 have signed a landmark joint statement to strengthen clinical trial ecosystems worldwide. Coordinated by leading global research funders, this agreement underscores a shared commitment to improving clinical trial infrastructure, transparency, and patient engagement.

The statement builds on the World Health Organization's recently launched [Guidance for Best Practices for Clinical Trials](#)—a key reference for global research standards—developed with support from the UK Department of Health via the EDCTP Association. It aims to integrate clinical trials more effectively into national health systems, ensure they better reflect target populations, and uphold rigorous standards for data sharing and reporting.

By endorsing these measures, the EDCTP Association and Global Health EDCTP3 reaffirm their dedication to advancing high-quality, ethical, and impactful medical research that benefits communities worldwide.

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1ST COORDINATED FUNDING **CALL** LAUNCHED



GloPID-R launches its first Joint Coordination Funding Call

GloPID-R has launched its first global coordinated funding call under the Global Research Improving Pandemic Preparedness (GRIPP) initiative, titled “Outbreak Ready: Accelerating Clinical Trial Site Readiness in LMICs,” focusing on strengthening the clinical trial ecosystem in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to improve good clinical practices. The call is open until 14 November 2025 and welcomes proposals aimed at building research capacity in LMICs.

An information webinar will take place on 13 October 2025, where GloPID-R will present the details of the call and address questions from applicants. You can register for either the [morning](#) or [afternoon](#) session.

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R2D2 TB Network

Rapid Research in Diagnostics Development for TB Network

Global R2D2 network accelerates breakthrough TB diagnostics

The EDCTP Association has signed an agreement with the R2D2 Network II (Rapid Research in Diagnostics Development for TB) to provide short-term bridge funding through the EDCTP2 programme. This support will help the network intensify its efforts to deliver the fast, accurate tests urgently needed to close the global tuberculosis (TB) “diagnostic gap.”

With the overarching goal of reducing the global burden of TB by enabling quicker, more accurate and simpler diagnosis and treatment monitoring, the EDCTP2 bridge funding, led by Prof. Dr Claudia Denking at Heidelberg University (Germany), allows the network to maintain the clinical trial capacity built with previous NIH funding. This capacity spans sites in four high-burden countries, including Stellenbosch University in South Africa, the World Alliance for Lung and Intensive Care Medicine in Uganda, the Centre for Promotion of Advancement of Society in Vietnam, and the Christian Medical College Vellore Association in India.

Through this project, the network will complete WHO policy-relevant evaluations of several innovative TB tests that have the potential to meet the diagnostic target product profile (TPP) and advance other tests into late-stage evaluation.

This interim EDCTP2 support safeguards essential research capacity at partner sites and keeps WHO-relevant diagnostic studies on track while longer-term funding is secured—ensuring that the most promising new TB tests can be fully evaluated in time to inform global policy.

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Recent events

WEBINAR

Clinical Trial Preparedness Compendium

Assessments for Clinical Research Centres

SPEAKERS

 Thomas Nyirenda Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office EDCTP 2	 Jacqueline Mirera Medical Director & Principal Investigator Clinical Research Health Network (CREA-N)	 Helen Fletcher Scientific Fellow, Communicable Diseases Johnson & Johnson
 Corneille Liebenberg Chief Digital Officer nuvoteQ	 Miriam Njoki Senior Programme Officer, Clinical Research & Trials Community SFA Foundation	 Kevin Onyango Clinical Research Medical Advisor, Sub-Saharan Africa Novartis

EDCTP Association at the launch of the Clinical Trial Preparedness Tool for Africa

On 10 September 2025, the Clinical Trials Community Africa Network (CTCAN), funded under the Global Health EDCTP3 programme, hosted a widely attended webinar to introduce the Compendium and demonstrate how it supports CRCs in enhancing their standards. The event drew more than 410 registrants from 100 countries, reflecting global

interest in improving ethical, safe, and high-quality clinical trial conduct in Africa and beyond. It was designed for both CRCs new to clinical research and for stakeholders committed to advancing the continent's clinical trial capacity.

Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager and Head of the Africa Office at the EDCTP Association, delivered the keynote address and closing remarks, underscoring the Association's ongoing commitment to building robust clinical research systems across Africa.

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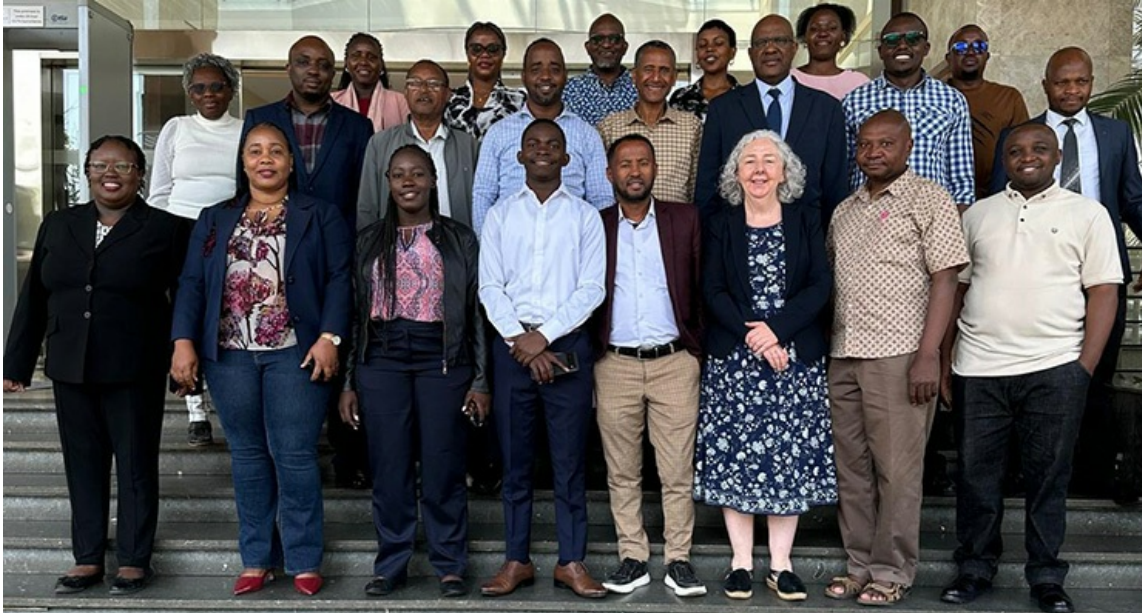


EDCTP Association at the Anticipatory Leadership Week

From 18-22 September 2025, the South African Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation, via the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa platform and in partnership with the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA), hosted Anticipatory Leadership Week (ALW) as a side event to the G20 Research and Innovation Ministerial Meetings in Pretoria, South Africa.

With artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and neurotechnology rapidly transforming society, the urgency for international collaboration and dialogue has intensified. South Africa's inaugural Anticipatory Leadership Week gathered forty participants—policymakers, scientists, diplomats, futurists, and innovators from fourteen countries—to examine the impact of emerging science and technology on Africa's future and to trial tools designed for anticipatory leadership. Dr Michelle Singh, Project Officer, represented the EDCTP Association at the event.

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Financial and Project Management training for EDCTP2 beneficiaries

The EDCTP Association conducted a two-day training on final reporting held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15-16 September 2025. Twenty participants from the East Africa region attended the training, which was led by Mr Abdoulie Barry, Executive Director and Director of Finance and Administration, and Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager and Scientific Adviser. The training supports beneficiaries in completing and submitting high-quality final and periodic reports to EDCTP.



EDCTP site visit to Strathmore University in Nairobi

Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager and Scientific Adviser, and Ms Sayma Siddiqui, Grants Finance Officer, visited the SINDOFO project in Nairobi, Kenya, on 17 September 2025. The aim of this visit was to assess the financial and technical implementation of activities at Strathmore University. The EDCTP Association visit was hosted by Dr Bernhards Ogutu, Director of the Centre for Research in Therapeutic Sciences (CREATES) at Strathmore University, and Principal Investigator in Kenya for SINDOFO.



bEto-TB achieves key milestones in advancing drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment

At the end of August 2025, BioVersys AG announced that the European Medicines Agency's Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (EMA COMP) had granted orphan designation for the combination of alpipectir and ethionamide (AlpE) for the treatment of tuberculosis (TB). This milestone reflects years of collaborative work under the bEto-TB consortium, funded by the EDCTP2 programme and led by the TASK Foundation, South Africa, with support from GSK and BioVersys SAS.

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REVIVE-IPTp: Strengthening communities to prevent malaria in pregnancy in western Kenya

Malaria remains a critical threat to maternal and infant health in sub-Saharan Africa, with devastating consequences that include severe anaemia and postpartum haemorrhage in mothers, and low birth weight, preterm delivery, and stillbirth in the baby. In western Kenya, however, a new approach is showing promising results.

With support from the EDCTP2 programme and implemented by the Population Council Kenya and county-level partners, the REVIVE-IPTp project focused on innovative ways to increase pregnant women's access to malaria protection in Kisumu and Migori. Departing from top-down campaigns, the project brought malaria prevention into the centre of community life.

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West African leaders unite to accelerate Lassa fever vaccine development

Ministers of Health from 11 West African countries have pledged joint action to accelerate the development and readiness of urgently needed vaccines against Lassa fever, a deadly disease endemic to the region.

Meeting during the 2nd Lassa Fever International Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 8 September 2025, the Ministers endorsed a landmark communiqué prioritising Lassa fever vaccine readiness as a cornerstone of regional health security and pandemic preparedness.

The most advanced Lassa fever vaccine candidate – rVSVΔG-LASV-GPC – is being developed by IAVI with funding from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and EDCTP2. The candidate is currently in phase IIa trials in Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria – the most advanced study of a Lassa fever vaccine globally.

By committing to strengthen clinical trial capacity, regulatory systems and community engagement, West African governments are laying the groundwork to bring this first-ever Lassa fever vaccine to licensure and bolster preparedness for future epidemic and pandemic threats.

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Mapping silent viral threats across Africa

In 2022, Uganda faced a concerning outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MARV). Two individuals in the southwest region experienced high fever, vomiting, and bleeding—symptoms characteristic of MARV, one of the most lethal viruses in the world. Within weeks, health workers wearing protective gear traced contacts, isolated patients, and reassured anxious communities. Although the outbreak was quickly contained, it underscored how a single case can rapidly escalate into an epidemic.

Learn how ALERRT's SeroMarv Africa Study is mapping past exposure to deadly viruses in Cameroon, Guinea, and Uganda, which is helping to enhance outbreak detection and response.

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Biostatistics boost for Zimbabwe: mentorship delivers TB prediction model

Meet Zimbabwean biostatistician Mildred Pepukai, who is developing a data-driven model to predict individuals at risk of developing tuberculosis (TB), as part of the EDCTP2-funded [XACT 3 study](#).

During a two-week mentorship at the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development in the Netherlands, Mildred has refined her model, which is already revealing key risk factors such as malnutrition and smoking.

The mentorship was made possible thanks to [TESA III](#) and provided Mildred with “protected time” away from family duties to deepen her biostatistics expertise. She plans to publish her findings and present them at the World Conference on Lung Health.

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EDCTP Fellows



Tuelo's journey: building Botswana's capacity for cutting-edge health research

Dr Tuelo Mogashoa, a Botswana-born scientist and PhD Fellow in the TAGENDI programme, is part of a growing movement of women shaping the future of global health research. Her journey reflects both a deep personal commitment to solving public health challenges and the transformative impact of initiatives designed to empower female scientists in Africa.

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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](#).

- PLoS one: [Evaluation of QIArearch QuantiFERON-TB lateral-flow nanoparticle fluorescence assay for TB infection diagnosis among TB household contacts in three high-burden settings](#). Ntshiq, T, et al. 19 September 2025
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Facilitators and barriers for completion of the diagnostic process among people with presumed tuberculosis in Central Uganda](#). Nuwematsiko, R, et al. 19 September 2025
- PLoS one: [Induction of an early IFN- \$\gamma\$ cellular response and high plasma levels of SDF-1 \$\alpha\$ are inversely associated with COVID-19 severity and residence in rural areas in Kenyan patients](#). Wanjiku, P, et al. 11 September 2025
- Gates Open Research: [Mycobacterium tuberculosis growth inhibition by peripheral blood mononuclear cells from household contacts is not affected by previous SARS-CoV-2 infection](#). Shaw, JA, et al. 9 September 2025
- The Lancet. Infectious diseases: [Shaping opportunities for future clinical trials in tuberculosis](#). Noreña, I, et al. 4 September 2025
- PLoS neglected tropical diseases: [The relationship between expelled eggs, morbidity and age in a Schistosoma mansoni endemic setting in Uganda: Implications for current elimination policies](#). Lim, R, et al. 3 September 2025

- BMC Public Health: [Assessing immunization coverage in Southern togo: implications for perennial malaria chemoprevention delivery](#). Arikawa, S, et al. 2 September 2025
- Nature Communications: [Hyaluronidase-enhanced subcutaneous delivery of bNAbs: a phase 1 randomized controlled clinical trial in HIV-uninfected women](#). Mahomed, S, et al. 1 September 2025
- International Health: [Malawi newborn and child health national clinical practice guidelines: a landscape analysis](#). Chipojola, R, et al. 1 September 2025
- AIDS Research and Therapy: [Drug-drug interaction between dolutegravir and artemether-lumefantrine in HIV and malaria mono- and co-infections: a pharmacogenetic analysis from Ghana](#). Thomford, NE, et al. 30 August 2025
- Malaria Journal: [Genetic polymorphism of circumsporozoite protein of Plasmodium falciparum isolates in children in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo](#). Baina, MT, et al. 29 August 2025
- International Journal for parasitology. Drugs and Drug Resistance: [A novel intron variant is associated with emerging pfdhps mutant haplotypes in West and Central African Plasmodium falciparum](#). Hocke, EF, et al. 26 August 2025
- Tropical Medicine and Health: [Physiologically based pharmacokinetic modelling to predict artemether and lumefantrine exposure in neonates weighing less than 5 kg treated with artemether-lumefantrine to supplement the clinical data from the CALINA study](#). Gu, H, et al. 25 August 2025
- PloS One: [Environmental sources of Cryptococcus neoformans species complex in Kampala, Uganda: A preliminary study](#). Achan, B, et al. 18 August 2025
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Gaps in TB-related knowledge and practices: An assessment of health care seeking behavior among adults with HIV and caregivers of paediatric patients with presumptive TB symptoms in Manhica district, southern Mozambique](#). Lima, AV, et al. 18 August 2025
- IJTLD Open: [Caregiver perspectives on TB-related stigma experienced by young children](#). Johnson, LS, et al. 13 August 2025
- IJTLD Open: [Lung function trajectories in children with pulmonary TB and non-TB lower respiratory tract infections](#). Courtney, IJ, et al. 13 August 2025
- British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology: [Model-based evaluation of the interaction between ritonavir-boosted atazanavir and rifampicin in Ugandan adults with HIV](#). Kengo, A, et al. 12 August 2025
- Cell Surface: [Innate immune recognition of Mycobacterium tuberculosis: receptor engagement and inflammatory outcomes at the site of infection](#). Mvubu, NE. 12 August 2025
- Trials: [Community and Universal Testing for TB among close contacts of microbiologically confirmed pulmonary TB patients in two high TB burden countries: a protocol for a pragmatic cluster-randomised control trial](#). Moyo, M, et al. 11 August 2025
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Next-generation sequencing reveals viral aetiologies of encephalitis in Ghana: a prospective cross-sectional study](#). Yeboah, R, et al. 8 August 2025
- Medicine: [The association between systemic inflammation and albuminuria among people living with HIV: A cross-sectional study from Botswana](#). Mosepele, M, et al. 8 August 2025
- Malaria journal: [Refining malaria diagnosis in high-transmission areas: a dual-approach with rapid diagnostic tests \(RDTs\) and dbPCR-NALFIA](#). Some, DY, et al. 7 August 2025
- Malaria Journal: [Diversity of anopheline species and malaria transmission dynamics in high-altitude areas of western Cameroon](#). Kiam, BC, et al. 6 August 2025
- The Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy: [Cardiac safety of bedaquiline, delamanid and moxifloxacin co-administered with or without varying doses of sutezolid or delpazolid for the treatment of drug-susceptible TB](#). Koele, SE, et al. 1 August 2025
- PloS One: [CYP2B6*6 single nucleotide polymorphism among patients with uncomplicated malaria in Adjumani district, Uganda: Implications on efficacy of artemether-lumefantrine](#). Angwe, MK, et al. 1 August 2025
- Clinical Infectious Diseases: an Official Publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America: [Diagnostic Accuracy of LiquidArray MTB-XDR VER 1.0 for the Detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex, Fluoroquinolone, Amikacin, Ethambutol, and Linezolid Susceptibility](#). Auma, E, et al. 1 August 2025
- Journal of the International AIDS Society: [Impact of point-of-care maternal viral load testing at delivery on vertical HIV transmission risk assessment and neonatal](#)

[prophylaxis: a cluster randomized trial.](#) Lwilla, AF, et al. 1 August 2025

- PloS One: [Mapping strategies, components, and theories used in health education and physical activity interventions to prevent cardiovascular diseases in adults living with HIV: A scoping review protocol.](#) Simpamba, MM, et al. 1 August 2025
- Clinical Infectious Diseases: an Official Publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America: [Recent Antiretroviral Therapy Initiation Is Associated With Increased Mortality Risk in HIV-associated Cryptococcal Meningitis: An Analysis of Clinical Trial Data From Africa.](#) Moyo, M, et al. 1 August 2025
- Vaccines: [Counterfactual Groups to Assess Vaccine or Treatment Efficacy in HIV Prevention Trials in High-Risk Populations in Uganda.](#) Abaasa, A, et al. 1 August 2025
- Vaccine: [Humoral, T cell and immune gene expression responses to SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in a small group of children with previous MIS-C.](#) Spracklen, TF, et al. 6 July 2025
- Eclinicalmedicine: [PEARLES challenges and solutions to the implementation of clinical research responses to epidemics and pandemics: a scoping review.](#) Crealock-Ashurst, B, et al. 27 June 2025
- The Lancet. HIV: [Safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of an annual tenofovir alafenamide silicone subdermal implant in South African women: a two-part, randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind, first-in-human, phase 1 trial.](#) Gengiah, TN, et al. 27 June 2025

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](#)
- PREPARED | [Free training materials on research ethics](#)

Training and funding opportunities

TBVI Awards 2026 | Deadline for applications: 13 October 2025

TBVI invites researchers to apply for its Awards 2026, which allows them to present their work in a 15-minute session during the TBVI Annual Symposium. This event will take place in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, from 27-28 January 2026. The symposium serves as a platform for researchers, policymakers, and funders to exchange knowledge and develop new initiatives. TBVI will arrange travel and hotel accommodations for the winners. The application deadline is 13 October 2025.

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26th Advanced course of vaccinology | Deadline for applications: 15 November 2025

Applications are now open for the Master of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE) training ADVAC is a two-week training programme for decision-makers, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies. The course aims to facilitate critical decision-making in vaccinology by providing participants with a comprehensive overview of the various aspects of vaccinology. The next edition will take place from 11-26 May 2026 in Les Pensières, France. Registrations are open until 15 November 2025.

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UK-LMIC Research Partnership for the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST) | Deadline for applications: 27 November 2025

This is a new funding opportunity to contract a high-quality research partnership to collaborate with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to deliver the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST). The UK-LMIC Research Partnership will deliver an ambitious, interdisciplinary programme of research aimed at improving public health responses to infectious disease outbreaks in LMICs.

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Research Communication course

A free, online training course is now available to help researchers bridge the gap between evidence generation and real-world impact. Developed by TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, the new massive open online course provides researchers with practical skills to increase the uptake of their findings for policy and practice changes.

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Mark your calendar

SACRA Conference 2025 | 1-2 October 2025

The South African Clinical Research Association (SACRA) Conference 2025 will be held in Pretoria on 1-2 October 2025 under the theme “Partnering for Impact.” Ms Michelle Nderu, Project Officer of the EDCTP Association, will represent EDCTP at the conference. Through its participation, EDCTP will highlight its commitment to strengthening clinical research capacity, advancing regulatory harmonisation, and fostering partnerships across Africa. The conference offers a unique opportunity to connect with investigators, regulators, ethics committees, and research institutions, ensuring EDCTP remains aligned with local and continental priorities in health research.

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9th World Conference on Research Integrity | 3-6 May 2026

The 9th World Conference on Research Integrity will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 3-6 May 2026. Open to all disciplines and career stages, the WCRI engages universities, research institutes, funders, publishers, and governments in lively discussions. The programme features a mix of research findings, reflections, and policy development. Abstract submissions are invited on all areas of research integrity, with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, Research Security, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. The submission deadline is 15 October 2025.

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18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) of the International Association of Bioethics | 8-10 July 2026

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics will host the 18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) from 8-10 July 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa. This marks the first time the Congress is held in Africa, supported by leaders from various African countries through the Congress Africa Committee. The theme is "Comforting and Disturbing Bioethics," and will include full and short oral presentations, posters, workshops, and panel sessions.

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