

Update is a monthly newsletter from the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.



EDCTP Update

August-September 2018

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E D C T P

Highlights

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- [**Côte d'Ivoire: Francophone information event on EDCTP**](#)

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Scientific Advisory Committee: our call for experts closes 21 OCT

EDCTP | Scientific Advisory Committee | Call for experts |

EDCTP is calling on high-level experts from across multiple fields and sectors to apply for membership of its Scientific Advisory Committee from January 2019. EDCTP is looking for up to seven new members. The Scientific Advisory Committee is the principal scientific and strategic advisory group to EDCTP. [Applications are requested by 21 October 2018.](#)

Ninth EDCTP Forum concluded

The Ninth EDCTP Forum took place in Lisbon, Portugal at the Gulbenkian Foundation from 17 to 21 September 2018. For an impression go to the [Forum blog](#) and browse [tweets with #edctforum](#).

The Forum also included site visits and a one-day EDCTP fellows (or alumni) meeting discussing aspects of career paths and possible collaborative projects (see also [blog post](#)).



Alumni meeting at the Forum.

Many thanks to our Forum rapporteurs Ayola Akim Adegnika, Abdoul Habib Beavogui, Paul Chinnock, Photini Kiepiela, and Tony Man.

For more information on the programme see the [Forum website](#). Most abstracts will be published in an online supplement of the [British Medical Journal Global Health](#). A brief Forum report will be published in November 2018.

An important topic of discussion was a future third EDCTP programme under Horizon Europe. A [High-Level meeting preceding the Forum](#) on 17 September and the third plenary session ([three blog posts](#)) were dedicated to exploring the desired character and scope of the third programme. A brief meeting report will be published end of October.



Left to right: Simon Kay (Wellcome Trust), Flavia Namuwaya (HIV advocate, Uganda), Alexandra Fullem (global health consultant PDPs), Wim Parys (Janssen), Lisa Goerlitz (DSW), Khadija Yahya-Malima (COSTECH,

EDCTP 2018 Prizes

EDCTP awarded its 2018 prizes for research excellence and the Pascoal Mocumbi Prize at the opening ceremony of the Ninth Forum on Monday 17 September. Dr Leonardo Simão and Prof. Marcel Tanner, the EDCTP High Representatives for Africa and Europe, presented the prizes.

- The Pascoal Mocumbi Prize was awarded to **Professor Souleymane Mboup** (Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, University of Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal; Institut de Recherche en Santé, de Surveillance Epidémiologique et de Formation [Institute for Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training], Diamniadio, Senegal).
- The Outstanding Research Team prize was awarded to the **CHAPAS studies team** (Children with HIV in Africa - Pharmacokinetics and Acceptability of Simple antiretroviral regimens).
- The Outstanding Female Scientist prize was awarded to **Professor Gita Ramjee** (Chief Specialist Scientist and Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council, Durban, South Africa).
- The Scientific Leadership prize was awarded to **Professor Keertan Dheda** (Head of the Centre for Lung Infection and Immunity and Head of the Division of Pulmonology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town, South Africa).

[Read more](#)



Dr Simão, Prof. Gita Ramjee, Prof. Tanner

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Recently signed projects

[Targeting control and elimination of Neglected Infectious Diseases \(NIDs\) through product-focused implementation research \(2017\)](#)

- **PEOPLE:** Project coordinator Prof. Bouke de Jong (ITM, Belgium)
Post exposure prophylaxis for leprosy in the Comoros and Madagascar

[Senior fellowships \(2016\)](#)

- **CaTCH-22:** Fellow: Dr Wendy Burgers (UCT, South Africa) Characterising the spectrum of TB and co-infection with HIV - the role of Th22 cells

[Career Development Fellowships \(2017\)](#)

- **FAST:** Fellow: Dr Grace McHugh
Feasibility and acceptability of HIV self-testing in adolescents and young people

[Targeting control and elimination of Neglected Infectious Diseases through clinical trials \(2017\)](#)

- **HAT-r-ACC:** Project coordinator: Dr Olaf Valverde Mordt (DNDi, Switzerland)
Towards an arsenic-free oral treatment for human African trypanosomiasis due to Tb rhodesiense as a tool for disease elimination

[Ethics and regulatory capacities \(2017\)](#)

- **BUCARERZ:** Project coordinator: Dr Godfrey Biemba (NHRA, Zambia)
Building capacity for research ethics and regulation in Zambia

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Dakar: Assessing African national health research systems II

On 31 August 2018, EDCTP held a high-level event in the context of the [68th session of the WHO-AFRO Regional Committee meeting in Dakar, Senegal](#). The event is part of a long-term project to strengthen the health research system capabilities of governments in sub-Saharan Africa.

EDCTP works closely with African government entities and WHO AFRO to develop a conceptual framework for the development and strengthening of national health research systems (NHRS) in sub-Saharan Africa. This framework is expected to facilitate greater involvement of the governments of African EDCTP member countries in health research and EDCTP at various levels.

See also the entry in [WHO-AFRO's e-Journal RC68, nr 5](#) : 'African Member States of WHO Urged to Increase Political Commitment and Investments to Strengthen Health Research Systems'.

The Dakar high-level meeting brought together representatives from governments, including policy makers (African ministers and their technical team representatives), regional bodies that deal with health and research, regulators, and strategic partners committed to strengthening national health research systems in Africa. At the meeting, the results of the pilot survey and the conceptual framework for assessing the national health research systems in Africa will be discussed.

The first high-level meeting was organised in Accra, Ghana, on 9-10 July 2018. ([Report here](#)) The main objective of the meeting was to prepare for a survey of the national health research capacities of the 17 African countries that are members of EDCTP. The results of the survey are expected to be presented at a high-level event on 31 August, in the context of the 68th session of the WHO-AFRO Regional Committee meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 27-31 August 2018.

See also the WHO-AFRO report on [The state of health in the WHO African Region: An analysis of the status of health, health services and health systems in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

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Projects

IFTY | Kick-off meeting | Kilifi, Kenya, 2-3 August 2018 |

The EDCTP-funded NIFTY study (Non-inferiority of fractional-doses trial for #yellowfever vaccine), led by Prof. Philip Bejon (Univ. of Oxford, UK, and KEMRI-Wellcome, Kenya), had its kick-off meeting in Kilifi, Kenya on 02-03 August 2018.

Prof. Philip Bejon: "The partnership of KEMRI-Wellcome, Uganda Virus Research Institute, Epicentre in Mbarara and the Institut Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal brings together the skills in

vaccine manufacture, antibody testing and clinical trials work from across the continent to deal with the yellow fever vaccine supply problem through fractional doses."

[More](#)

HAT-r-ACC | Kick-off meeting | Lisbon, Portugal, 21-22 September 2018

The HAT-r-ACC consortium held its kick-off meeting on 21-22 September in Lisbon, Portugal. The project, coordinated by [Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative](#) (DNDi) with partners from France, Malawi, Portugal, Switzerland, and Uganda aims to address an urgent need to contribute to *Tb rhodesiense* human African trypanosomiasis (r-HAT) control in East Africa by providing evidence for a new treatment to replace the highly toxic melarsoprol, and suramin.

Based on clinical trial evidence showing the efficacy of fexinidazole in treating HAT caused by *Tb gambiense*, this project will extend to r-HAT patients, as well as enhance knowledge and address implementation gaps in r-HAT case detection and treatment.

One phase II/III clinical trial will be conducted in Uganda and Malawi to assess efficacy and facilitate access to fexinidazole: a potential new, safe, oral treatment for r-HAT patients in both stages of the disease.

The project started on 1 September 2018 and the EDCTP investment is 3.8 million euro. The meeting was attended by EDCTP Project Officer Michelle Helinski and Grants Financial Officer Jane Coloma-Egelink.



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Recent events

Global Perspectives | Health Innovation in Africa | 28 June 2018 |

As part of the 2018 Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, The German organisation Global Perspectives Initiative organised a side event on 'Health Innovation in Africa'. Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, contributed to the discussions. Among other things, he stressed the importance of capacity development in Africa for patient-centred health systems. The future of health in sub-Saharan Africa will depend on the development of people-centred health systems delivering care to all those in need, rooted in African capacity and taking into account the specific circumstances of individual nations.

[More on website of Global Perspectives Initiative](#)

AMHR | EDCTP joins Partnership platform | 30 July 2018 |

EDCTP expressed interest to become a member of the Partnership platform of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) programme. It was welcomed to join on 30 July

2018. AMRH is a programme of the African Union NEPAD agency to ensure harmonisation of medicines regulation in Africa. The African Ministers of Health adopted the African Medicines Agency Establishment Treaty on 19 May 2018. It is expected to be endorsed by the African Heads of State early 2019.

The [rationale for the platform](#)? "The partnership platform is intended to serve as a robust coordination mechanism to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the medical products regulatory systems strengthening and harmonization agenda in Africa, through optimal coordination of the different partners and stakeholders providing regulatory support on the continent." Follow AMRH via [@NEPAD_AMRH](#)

Research Council of Norway | CEPI and Information day on EDCTP | 05 September 2018

On 05 September, Dr Ole Olesen (EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Europe) participated in an information session on EDCTP organised by the Research Council of Norway. The meeting was well attended, attracting about 50 scientists from the global health research community around Oslo, with video streaming to allow researchers in other parts of Norway to participate. Dr Olesen gave a presentation about background and mission of EDCTP and specifically the calls and funding opportunities in 2018. This was followed by an overview by the Research Council of Norway about Norway's engagement in global health research, mainly through the GlobVac programme.

The day before the Meeting Dr Olesen met with representatives of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation ([CEPI](#)) to discuss possible future collaboration. CEPI focuses on development of vaccines for pathogens with epidemic potential, and is currently focusing on MERS, Nipah, and Lassa virus. Obvious areas in common are Lassa virus vaccines and clinical capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa for testing new vaccines.

Following the information meeting there was a meeting with Kristin Andersson, the Norwegian national contact point (NCP) for health research. Later there was a meeting with key policy makers in global health, including representatives from Globvac and the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health. Norway is a strong supporter of an EDCTP successor programme and it was a very positive meeting with a country that has a keen interest in supporting global health research.

Vaccine Project management Days | Hannover, Germany | 6-7 September 2018

The international Vaccine Project Management days are an annual event, organised by the organisation Vakzine Projekt Management, that gathers a broad range of stakeholders engaged in translational vaccine development, particularly for vaccines with little commercial value.

The topic of the conference for 2018 was "From Innovation to Application". The conference addressed critical factors for successful translational research and development, not just from the scientific angle, but also covering aspects such as licensing & finance, clinical product development and legal & IP topics. Dr Ole Olesen was invited to give a presentation at the event, and seized the opportunity to give an update on EDCTP and the implementation of the EDCTP2 programme, particularly stressing the mission of EDCTP on bringing different research teams together in collaborative research projects for better and more efficient product development.

Science management course | Lusophone African countries | 10-14 September

[ISGLOBAL reported](#) the "second phase of the 'Science Management' course, aimed at researchers and managers from Portuguese-speaking countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and organised by the [Calouste Gulbenkian](#) and the "[la Caixa](#)" Foundations in collaboration with ISGlobal and the Manhiça Health Research Center ([CISM](#)), took place at the CaixaForum in Barcelona from September 10-14. The first phase of the course took place last February in Lisbon. The overall goal of the course was to strengthen leadership and science management capacities in internationally competitive research centers. Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP) was among the speakers.

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Côte d'Ivoire: Francophone information event on EDCTP

On 17 July 2018, an information meeting in French was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to provide information on EDCTP funding mechanisms and opportunities. It was co-organised by the Pasteur Institute of Côte d'Ivoire (IPCI) and the Swiss Centre for Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS). It was hosted at the Faculty of pharmaceutical and biological sciences (UFR SPB) of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny University in Cocody, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. More than 150 researchers based in

Abidjan and participants of the EDCTP grant writing workshop from 14 different francophone African countries attended.

After the opening address by Prof. Aboudramane Bamba, Director General for Research at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, a lecture on the 'Power of collaborations in clinical research and capacity strengthening' was delivered by the EDCTP High Representative for Europe, Professor Marcel Tanner.

In presentations followed by a Q&A session, Ole Olesen (EDCTP) and Jean Marie Vianney Habarugira (EDCTP Project Officer), provided detailed information on the mission of EDCTP and elucidated the currently available funding opportunities.

The participants had also the opportunity to learn more about the research and capacity building activities being carried out by ICPCI and CSRS, in presentations by Prof Mireille Dosso (Director IPCI) and Prof. Bassirou Bonfoh (Director CSRS), respectively.

To share practical experience on applying for EDCTP funding, Prof. Louis Penali talked about the EDCTP-funded AFREENET project which aims to strengthen National Ethics Committees in Francophone Africa.

Prof. Dosso used this opportunity to introduce the [Biobank of the Institut Pasteur de Cote d' Ivoire](#) which is has been designated as the ECOWAS regional biobank.

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Funding and training opportunities

EDCTP | Eight Calls for proposals open |

- [Diagnostic tools for poverty-related diseases](#) closes 11 October
- [Capacity development to facilitate delivery and uptake of new or improved medical interventions in African health systems](#) closes 11 October
- [Advances in product development for effective prevention, treatment and management of co-infections and co-morbidities](#) closes 18 October
- [Strategic action for overcoming drug resistance in malaria](#) closes 30 October
- [Vaccines for diarrhoeal diseases or lower respiratory tract infections](#) closes 30 October
- [Ethics and regulatory capacities](#) closes 22 November
- [Career Development Fellowships](#) closes 27 November

NIH Fogarty International Centre | Open Calls for proposals |

[Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award](#) | For LUMIC researchers; see eligibility rules.

Deadline for Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to Deadline for application: 07 November 2018

MRC UK | Joint Global Health Trials scheme - call 9 | Development Grants

The UK Department for International Development (DFID), the UK Medical Research Council (MRC), the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Wellcome are pleased to announce the launch of the [ninth call for proposals under this initiative](#) to fund global health trials. Call opens 14 November 2018 and closes 05 February 2019

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Resources

New EDCTP resources:

On the occasion of its 15th anniversary and at a crucial moment in the discussions on a future third EDCTP programme under Horizon Europe (2021-2027), EDCTP published a selection of successful EDCTP-funded projects from the first and second programme.

- [Tackling infectious disease in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP-funded clinical studies for medical interventions 2003-2018](#)

EDCTP also published its Annual Report 2018, presenting the growing portfolio and interesting data on the four regional Networks of Excellence:

- [EDCTP Annual Report 2017 - Maintaining momentum](#)

Other EDCTP resources:

- [Acknowledging EDCTP: A guide for grantees](#)
- [Strategic Research Agenda \(2017 update\)](#)
- [Strategic Business Plan 2014-2024](#)
- [EDCTP Corporate brochure 2018](#)
- [EDCTP2 policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing \(PDF\)](#)

IDRC | Measuring Research Quality | RQ+

[SciDev Africa desk interviewed Jean Lebel](#), president of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on a new approach to evaluate research for development. The method Research Quality Plus, developed by Jean Lebel and Robert McLean, "emphasises the crucial importance of context, local knowledge and the views of the populations whose lives the research aims to improve." More in Scidev and in [Nature article](#) (5 July 2018).

EDCTP | Accra meeting on assessing national health research systems | Report

On 22 August 2018, EDCTP published the report of the meeting in ACCRA, Ghana, from 09-10 July 2018 on .

EDCTP | Comment on *The Lancet Global Health* editorial | 10 August 2018 |

The Lancet Global Health explored in [a June editorial](#) the different views expressed by its international advisory board regarding publication of analyses of data generated in low- and middle income countries but without involving researchers from those countries as co-authors. "The issue is clearly not straightforward, especially in this era of open data, and that an outright "ban" on submissions without author representation from the country of study may have unintended consequences. However, we strongly encourage those embarking on secondary analyses to recruit, and involve at all stages of the research and publication process, suitably qualified local researchers. We invite readers who have successfully negotiated this process to share their experiences and to help us develop future policies and expectations."

This call for reactions prompted several contributions, one from EDCTP: Moses Bockarie, Shingai Machingaidze, Thomas Nyirenda, Ole F Olesen, Michael Makanga, '[Parasitic and parachute research in global health](#)'. *The Lancet Global Health*, Correspondence, Vol. 6, issue 9, 01 September 2018 (10 August 2018 online).

WHO | Rapid Communication | MDR-TB

WHO published a Rapid Communication [Key changes to treatment of multidrug- and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis \(MDR/RR-TB\)](#) based on the recommendations of the WHO Guideline Development Group.

STOP TB commented in its announcement of 22 August: "The new rapid communication marks the first time in history that WHO recommends injection-free regimens for the treatment of MDR-TB. This new WHO announcement follows shortly after a bold move by the government of South Africa to adopt a nation-wide transition to the injectable-free treatment of DR-TB."

[TB Alliance](#) commented ahead of the new guidance: "There remains, however, an urgent need to build out a solid base of evidence for new treatment recommendations. New guidelines should be based on high grade data which clearly define the advantages and side effects of novel regimens."

ERA-LEARN | Public-Public Partnerships | September 2018

ERA-LEARN renewed its [twitter account](#) and its [website](#). Public-to-Public Partnerships (P2Ps) are research and innovation networks of public organisations like ministries or funding agencies. P2Ps align national strategies and help to overcome fragmentation of public research effort. They include networks supported by the European Commission such as ERA-NETs and Art 185s as well as member state-led Joint Programming Initiatives.

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Upcoming events

World Health Summit | 14-16 October 2018 | Berlin, Germany

On 14 October (11:00-12:30) EDCTP - together with FIND and the Max Planck Society - will host the session 'Bridging the valley of death: Keeping the pipeline alive for novel intervention measures against poverty-related diseases'. The [session](#) is chaired by Prof Stephan Kaufmann and Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP).

Union | TB Science 2018 | 23 October 2018

EDCTP sponsors the [pre-conference scientific meeting on TB interventions](#) with a long plenary session in the morning and three parallel sessions in the afternoon. Registration was closed as maximum capacity was reached; 350 participants are expected.

Union | 49th World Conference on Lung Health | 24-27 October 2018

The [49th Union meeting on lung health](#) will take place in The Hague, The Netherlands. EDCTP will be represented at its exhibition booth. See also the [Union's Annual Report 2017](#).

ASTMH | 67th Annual meeting | 28 October - 1 November 2018

Jointly with the Wellcome Trust, EDCTP will contribute a symposium to the programme (session 169). It will focus on the conduct of Controlled Human Infection Studies in low- and middle-income countries. Challenge studies (CHIS) can play a key role in research to address important public health needs. [Read more](#)

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