



EDCTP

# EDCTP Update

April 2019

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## Highlights

- [Ten calls for proposal to launch soon](#)
- [Ninth Forum abstracts published](#)
- [PDP position paper on next EDCTP programme](#)

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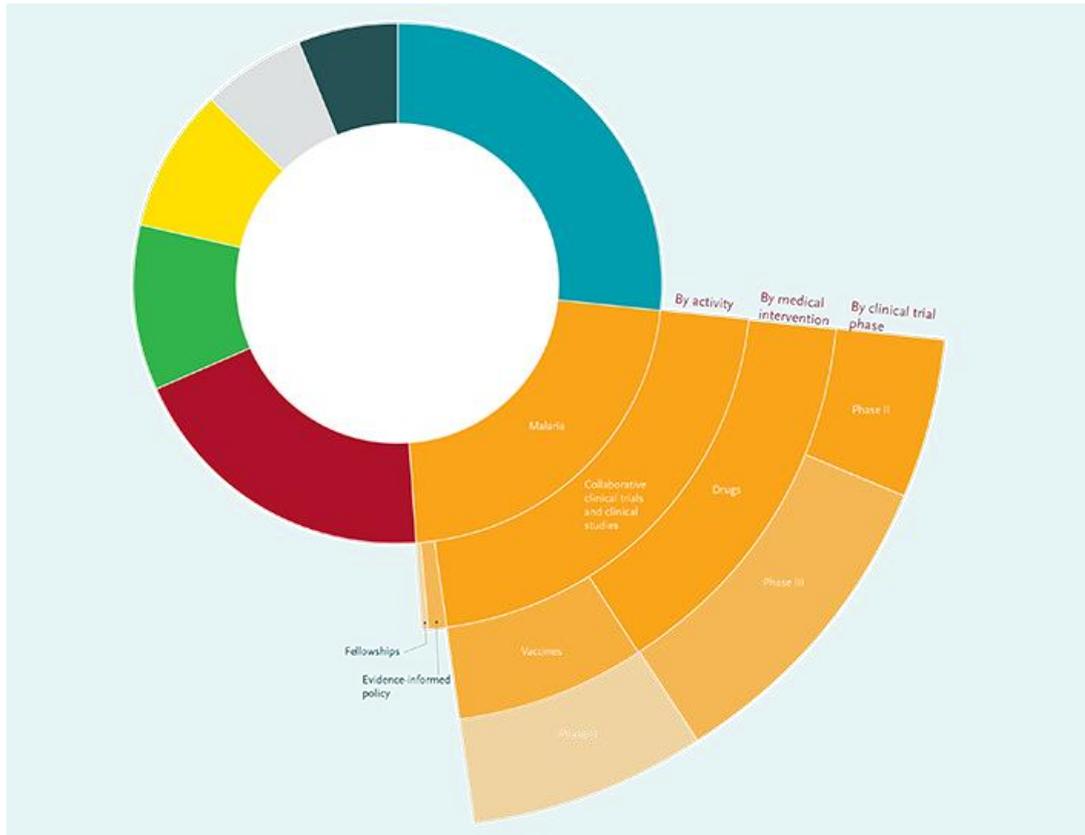
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## World Malaria Day 2019: large EDCTP investments

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, on the occasion of World Malaria Day 2019:

"The burden of malaria on the lives of the very young and their mothers, as well as HIV co-infected individuals - especially in sub-Saharan Africa - is heart breaking. EDCTP is grateful and proud to have scaled up its investment in malaria R&D by introducing a portfolio approach to support the development of the next generation of malaria treatments and vaccines."

[Read more](#) about EDCTP investments in malaria research.



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## Recently signed projects

### Treatment innovations for poverty-related diseases (2017)

- **CLICK-TB** | Coordinator: Dr David A Barros | Novel clinical candidates to kill TB

### Senior Fellowships (2017)

- **OPTIMAL** | Fellow Dr Pauline Byakika-Kibwika | Optimising malaria treatment for HIV-malaria co-infected individuals by addressing drug interactions between artemisinin-based combination therapies and anti-retroviral drugs

### EDCTP-GSK Senior Fellowships for co-morbidities between poverty-related diseases and non-communicable diseases

- **REEHAD** | Fellow: Dr George Praygod | The role of environmental enteropathy on HIV-associated diabetes

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## Projects

### **SMERT | Forum on health research ethics | 4-5 December 2018**

The SMERT project - Streamlining Health Research Ethics review process and Medicines Regulatory framework in Tanzania - held a forum in Dar es salaam, Tanzania, on 4 and 5 December 2018.

The forum brought together all institutional ethics review boards and the national research and medicines regulators including the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NatHREC), Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and Tanzania Food and Drug Authority (TFDA).

The theme of the Forum was, "The role of ethics in developing research and innovation industry". For a short description of the project [see here](#).



SMERT meeting

### **CHAPAS-4 | Investigator meeting in Harare | 24-25 January 2019**

The University of Zimbabwe, College of Health Sciences, hosted an Investigator meeting followed by the first meeting of the Trial Steering Committee and Data Monitoring Committee for CHAPAS-4.

The study enrolled its first participant, in Zimbabwe, on 17 December 2019 and currently has 4 centres open to recruitment (2 in Uganda, 1 in Zambia and 1 in Zimbabwe). The coordinator of the consortium is Mutsa Bwakura-Dangarembizi (University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences, Zimbabwe).

### **PAVIA | 2nd Annual Consortium Meeting | 1-5 April 2019**

The Pharmacovigilance Africa (PAVIA) project, a consortium of nine partners coordinated by Prof. Frank Cobelens (AIGHD, the Netherlands), aims at strengthening the capacity of health systems to effectively deliver new medicines for poverty-related diseases and monitor their post-market safety in sub-Saharan Africa. It does so by focusing on the

linkage between National Medicines Regulatory Authorities (in particular their Pharmacovigilance Agencies) and public health programmes, starting with reporting and processing of adverse drug reactions due to treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. The second consortium meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and opened by the State Minister of Health of Ethiopia, Dr Liva Tadesse. The meeting discussed among other things, the country-specific roadmaps for strengthening pharmacovigilance and the collaboration with the African Union Development Agency NEPAD. Project website [here](#)

### **PANDORA-ID-NET | EVD molecular diagnostics | 05 April 2019**

Members of the PANDORA-ID-NET team published an overview on molecular diagnostics for Ebola virus diseases in *Expert Review of Molecular Diagnostics*: John Tembo, et al., PANDORA-ID-NET consortium (2019): [Recent advances in the development and evaluation of molecular diagnostics for Ebola virus disease](#),

Pandora\_ID-NET also published a short video on the deployment of a mobile laboratory in Nigeria to help tackle Lassa fever.



### **PEP4LEP | first newsletter | April 2019**

The project - a clinical implementation study - has a page on the website of the [NLR, a international NGO of Dutch origin](#) to combat leprosy. The first project newsletter [can be read here](#).

PEP4LEP is a study co-funded by EDCTP on the 'Chemoprophylaxis for leprosy: comparing the effectiveness and feasibility of a skin camp intervention to a health centre-based intervention. An implementation trial in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Tanzania'  
Project coordinator: Ms. Liesbeth Mieras (NLR), the Netherlands

### **PrEPVAcc | publication of story | IAS website**

Very nice story by Dr Eugene Ruzagira (IAS member and senior scientist, Uganda), 'The search for an effective HIV Vaccine', [IAS website April 2019](#)

PrEPVacc | Project coordinator: Prof. Jonathan Weber, Imperial College, United Kingdom | A combination effect study in Africa of two DNA-MVA- or DNA- Env protein HIV-1 vaccine regimens with pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

### **SELeCT | publication in *Malaria Journal* | April 2019**

Alfredo Mayor et al.: Training through malaria research: building capacity in good clinical and laboratory practice in Liberia. [Malaria Journal \(2019\) 18:136](#)

SELeCT: Project coordinator: Dr Alfredo Mayor Aparicio, ISGlobal, Barcelona, Spain  
Strengthening laboratory capacities in the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital (Monrovia) for clinical trials on infectious diseases. Project website [here](#)

### **TRUST | adoption of Global code by UCT in South Africa | 24 April 2019**

The University of Cape Town (UCT) is the first university in Africa to adopt the TRUST Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings. Read more in Polity: [UCT adopts global ethics code, a first in Africa](#). The TRUST website is [here](#) and the Code is [here](#).

### **WISH | publication in *The Lancet* / 25 April 2019**

Marijn C Verwijs, et al.: Targeted point-of-care testing compared with syndromic management of urogenital infections in women (WISH): a cross-sectional screening and diagnostic accuracy study, [The Lancet, 25 April 2019](#)

WISH | Project coordinator: Prof. Janneke van de Wijgert, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom | Improving HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health care in high-risk women in Rwanda using lessons learnt from previous Rinda Ubuzima projects (Rwanda).

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## **Recent events**

### **Gates Foundation | Global Health Regulatory Team | 4-5 April 2019**

The 2019 Global Health Regulatory Team Convening (New York, US, 5 April 2019) is an annual meeting organised by the Gates Foundation and involves all Product Development Partnerships (and some industry representatives) that receive funding from or collaborate with the foundation. EDCTP was invited to inform the participants - mostly experts on R&D and regulatory matters - on the EDCTP contribution to this area. On 5 April, Dr Michael Makanga presented the EDCTP programme. The agenda featured also presentations on the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation ([AMRH](#)) and African Medicines Agency (AMA), and the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum ([AVAREF](#)).

### **Leprosy Research Initiative | Spring meeting | 04 April 2019**

The [Leprosy Research Initiative](#) - a partnership of several organisations addressing leprosy - held its annual Spring meeting on 04 April 2019 to discuss the developments in the various research projects it is involved in. [For an overview of its policy see this document](#). EDCTP and LRI [agreed to a partnership](#) and have a Memorandum of Understanding. LRI contributed to the EDCTP call [Targeting control and elimination of NIDs through product-focused implementation research \(2017\)](#).

The meeting heard about the development and recommendations for research priorities in the leprosy field, as outlined in the developing [research agenda of the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy](#) (GPZL).

EDCTP currently funds two studies in the leprosy field:

- **PEP4LEP:** Chemoprophylaxis for leprosy: comparing the effectiveness and feasibility of a skin camp intervention to a health centre-based intervention. An implementation trial in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Tanzania. The study is coordinated by Ms. Liesbeth Mieras of the Dutch Leprosy Foundation (Amsterdam, the Netherlands);
- **PEOPLE:** Post exposure prophylaxis for leprosy in the Comoros and Madagascar, coordinated by Prof. Bouke de Jong (Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp, Belgium).

EDCTP was represented by Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager, and Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships Officer.

### **ARESA | 8th Annual Research Ethics Seminar | 4-5 April 2019**

ARESA - [Advancing Research Ethics Training in Southern Africa](#) - is a collaborative programme of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law at Stellenbosch University, South Africa and the US Centre for Bioethics at the University of North Carolina. The programme is led by Prof Keymanthri Moodley. At the Eighth Annual Seminar on Research Ethics, EDCTP project Officer Dr Michelle Singh presented the results of the [TRUST project](#) in the session on Community Engagement Strategies.

### **WHO AFRO | Second WHO Africa Health Forum | 26-28 March 2019**

The second WHO Africa Health Forum was held in Praia, Cabo Verde, 26-28 March 2019. The theme of the conference was 'Achieving Universal Health Coverage and Health Security in Africa: The Africa We Want to See.' EDCTP was represented by Dr Leonardo Simão, High Representative for Africa, who was one of the speakers, Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, and Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager.

[More on the website](#)

### **Recent publications**

- **WHO** launches [global consultations for a new Roadmap on neglected tropical diseases](#)
- **ecdpm** | Discussion paper by the [European Centre for Development Policy Management](#) with African reflections on EU research and innovation collaboration: [Assertive, appreciative and aloof: South Africa, Cabo Verde and Ghana reflect on EU research and innovation collaboration.](#)
- **ISGLOBAL:** [April Newsletter](#)
- **AllAfrica:** [Africa: Innovators Working to Meet Africa's Unmet Health Needs](#)

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**Funding: pre-announcement of EDCTP 2109 Calls for proposals**

The EDCTP 2019 work plan has been approved by the European Commission and the EDCTP Board. After final approval of the work plan by the General Assembly of the EDCTP Association, which will be held on 23 May 2019, the final workplan 2019 and its calls for proposals will be published on the EDCTP website.

The EDCTP calls for proposals are supported through three distinct types of Horizon 2020 'actions':

\* **Research & Innovation Actions (RIA)** are multicentre clinical trials conducted by research consortia involving both European and African research teams, with integrated capacity development and networking elements.

\* **Coordination & Support Actions (CSA)** support activities that strengthen the enabling environment for conducting clinical trials and clinical research, including ethical review and regulatory capacity.

\* **Training & Mobility Actions (TMA)** are fellowships that focus on the career development of individual researchers or research team members.

In 2019, EDCTP intends to launch 10 calls for proposals to support clinical research and related activities on poverty-related diseases. Details of the call texts are planned to be published on the website in May 2019, conditional on approval by the EDCTP General Assembly. **All dates below are therefore indicative.**

#### **Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials (RIA)**

Open to application: 03 June 2019

Deadline for application: 07 November 2019

#### **New drugs and vaccines for priority pathogens in antimicrobial resistance (RIA)**

Open to application: 03 June 2019

Deadline for application: 07 November 2019

#### **Paediatric drugs formulations for poverty-related diseases (RIA)**

Open to application: 10 June 2019

Deadline for application: 10 October 2019

#### **Strategic actions on product-related implementation research (RIA)**

Open to application: 10 June 2019

Deadline for application: 21 December 2019

#### **Vaccines against Lassa virus - joint call with CEPI (RIA)**

Open to application: 02 November 2019

Deadline for application: 07 April 2020

#### **Ethics and regulatory capacities (CSA)**

Open to application: 02 August 2019

Deadline for application: 22 November 2019

#### **Career development fellowships (TMA)**

Open to application: 06 August 2019

Deadline for application: 27 November 2019

#### **EDCTP-AREF Preparatory fellowships (TMA)**

Open to application: 06 August 2019

Deadline for application: 27 November 2019

#### **EDCTP-TDR Clinical research & product development fellowships (TMA)**

Open to application: 01 October 2019

Deadline for application: 28 February 2020

#### **Senior fellowships Plus (TMA)**

Open to application: 02 November 2019

Deadline for application: 01 February 2020

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## Resources

- Path and other global health product development partnerships (PDPs) organisations published a position paper on a successor programme for EDCTP2:  
['PDP position paper on a successor to EDCTP: Enhanced opportunities, partnerships, and flexibility for greater impact'](#)

### New EDCTP resources

- [Ninth EDCTP Forum abstracts published in supplement of BMJ Global Health \(Vol. 4, April 2019, Suppl. 3\)](#)

BMJ Journals

## BMJ Global Health

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#### ABSTRACTS OF THE NINTH EDCTP FORUM, 17–21 SEPTEMBER 2018 INTF

The ninth forum of the european & developing countries clinical trials partnership (24 April, 2019)  
Pauline Beattie, Moses Bockarie, *co-chairs of the Forum committee*

#### ABSTRACTS OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS

OC 8173 Rapid detection of *mycobacterium ulcerans* by recombinase polymerase amplification  
Michael Frimpong, Hubert Ahor, Francisca Sarpong, Ken Laing, Mark Wansbrough-Jones, Richard Phillips

OC 8215 Diagnostic accuracy of Xpert MTB/RIF ultra for pulmonary tuberculosis in children: a mu  
Issa Sabi, Andrea Rachow, Daniel Mapamba, Petra Clowes, Nyanda E Ntinginya, Mohamed Sasamalo, Lujeko Kamwela, Frederick Hari

### Other EDCTP resources

- [The added value of EDCTP to Europe](#)
- [The added value of EDCTP to Africa](#)
- [Tackling infectious disease in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP-funded clinical studies for medical interventions 2003-2018](#)
- [EDCTP Corporate brochure 2018](#)
- [EDCTP Annual Report 2017 - Maintaining momentum](#)
- [Short animated video on EDCTP](#)
  
- [Moving forward and consolidating gains for an EDCTP successor programme](#) (Report on EDCTP High-Level meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, 17 September 2018)
- [Engaging African governments to strengthen national health research systems with complementary international cooperation](#) (Report on Dakar High-Level Meeting, 30 August 2018)
- [Development and strengthening of the national health research systems in sub-Saharan Africa](#) (Report on the EDCTP-WHO meeting in Accra, Ghana, 9-10 July 2018)
  
- [Strategic Research Agenda \(2017 update\)](#)

- [Strategic Business Plan 2014-2024](#)
- [EDCTP2 policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing](#)
- [Acknowledging EDCTP: A guide for grantees](#)
- [Guide financier à l'intention des bénéficiaires](#)
- [Guidance for applicants on preparing full proposals and annex 1 of the grant agreement](#) (available with all 2018 calls)

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## Upcoming events

### **ECRIN - FCRIN | Clinical trials conference | Paris, 20 May 2019**

In celebration of International Clinical Trials Day, the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN) and its French scientific partner F-CRIN will hold a conference on patient stratification studies in Paris on 20 May 2019. [Registration here](#) (before 3 May 2019).

### **World Health Assembly | EDCTP reception | 27 May 2019**

In the setting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the annual governance meeting of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20-28 May 2019, EDCTP will host a reception for members of the WHA delegations from EDCTP Member Countries and other interested parties on 27 May 2019.

- Dr Francis Kateh, the Deputy Minister for Health Services and Chief Medical Officer of the Republic of Liberia
- Dr Leonardo Simão, former Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique
- Prof. Marcel Tanner, President of the Swiss Academy of Sciences and Director Emeritus and President of the R. Geigy Foundation, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.;

Parties interested to attend are requested to RSVP [via the EDCTP website](#)



**EDCTP**

*The power of sharing science*

**72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly  
EDCTP reception**

## **Primed for action: ensuring epidemic preparedness in sub-Saharan Africa**



Photo: Medical staff at the Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone part of the CLINICAL CAPACITY led by Mr Andy Leather.

Many low- and middle-income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, have weak health systems. This makes them very vulnerable to the devastating effects of infectious disease epidemics and their negative impact on national health programmes. Population movement, immigration and global warming serve to increase the geographical impact of these epidemics. Therefore, it is a global political priority to galvanise the emergency preparedness of health systems and services, including their capacity to conduct necessary clinical research in response to these health emergencies.

The event will focus on the importance of international collaboration in combating epidemic outbreaks. EDCTP will be presented as an example partnership model in international health research collaboration, by demonstrating how such partnerships can pave the way for long-term strengthening of epidemic preparedness in sub-Saharan Africa and other resource-limited settings.

**Date:** Monday, 27 May 2019

**Time:** 17:00

**Venue:** Dunant Room, Restaurant Vieux Bois, Avenue de la Paix 12,  
CH 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

**R.S.V.P by 15 May 2019 through registering online at**

**[www.edctp.org/event/72nd-world-health-assembly-edctp-reception](http://www.edctp.org/event/72nd-world-health-assembly-edctp-reception)**

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### **EDCTP | Training on management of EDCTP2 grants | 5 July 2018**

EDCTP will organise a one-day workshop on financial and project management of EDCTP2 grants. The workshop will be held in the Mercure Hotel, The Hague, the Netherlands, on 5 July 2019. Participation in the workshop is open to all but priority will be given to financial or project/technical managers of EDCTP2 projects. BOOK EARLY! There are 70 places in the training; placement will be in order of application. EDCTP cannot provide support for travel or accommodation. Participants have to arrange their own travel and accommodation but please wait for confirmation of participation. Event page will open soon on EDCTP website.

### **European Commission | European Development Days 2019 | 18-19 June 2019**

Europe's leading forum on development since 2006 is organised by the European Commission. The EDD bring the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions. EDD 2019's title is "Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind".

[See the EDD website](#)

### **IAS2019 | Mexico City | 21-24 July 2019**

The 10th IAS conference on HIV science will take place in Mexico City, Mexico, from 21 to 24 July 2019.

- Registration information [here](#)
- Join the IAS2019 conversation: [@IAS2019](#) #IAS2019 [Facebook mailinglist](#)

### **ECTMIH2019 | Liverpool United Kingdom | 16-20 September 2019**

The [11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health](#) will take place in Liverpool, United Kingdom, from 16-20 September 2019. Every two years, communities of health professionals, researchers, scientists and students come together from academic, clinical, NGO and industry settings across the world to attend ECTMIH, which is an initiative of the Federation of European Societies of Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH). The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) will host the ECTMIH 2019.

### **EC Research and Innovation | European R&I Days | 24-26 September 2019**

The European research & innovation days will take place in Brussels, Belgium, from 24-26 September 2019. Besides a science and invention fest, the event will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to suggest ideas pertaining to the strategy for Horizon Europe, the European Commission's proposal for the next EU research and innovation programme (2021-2027) with a budget of €100 billion.

More on [the EC web pages for the event](#)

### **ICASA 2019 | Intern. Conf. on AIDS and STIs in Africa | 2-7 December 2019**

The 20th ICASA conference is the biggest HIV/AIDS conference in Africa. ICASA2019 will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 2-7 December 2019. The conference theme "AIDS Free Africa - Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership". "It engages all stakeholders in the Post-SDG Framework, where sustainability of the response in reaching 90, 90, 90 will not be possible if human rights are not a key priority". Abstract submission closes on 30 July 2019.

[More on the website.](#)

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