



EDCTP Update

November 2020



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- EDCTP and TGHN launched EDCTP Knowledge Hub
- Guidelines for grantees on online Progress Reports - see under **Resources**

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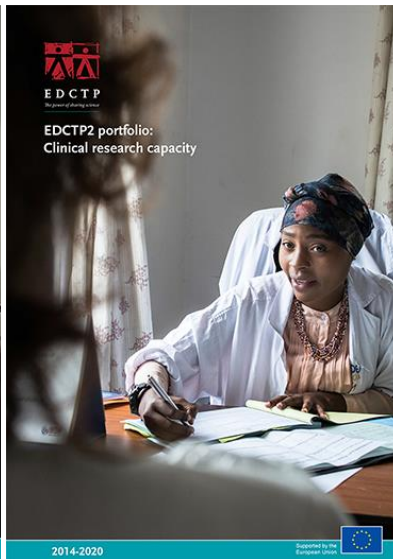
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Presentation of EDCTP2 portfolio of grants



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Largest clinical trial in Africa to treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19 patients launched in 13 countries

The largest clinical trial in mild-to-moderate COVID-19 outpatients in Africa was launched on 24 November 2020. Thirteen African countries and an international network of research institutions have joined forces in the ANTICOV consortium which aims to identify treatments for these cases and contribute thus to preventing health systems in Africa to become overwhelmed.

Dr Pauline Beattie, EDCTP Operations Manager, said that "EDCTP is proud to be a member of the [COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition](#) and a co-funder of the ANTICOV trial in Africa. By treating COVID patients at an early stage, this trial will identify promising drugs to stop the development of severe illness, reduce transmission of the infection, and safeguard hospital resources for those who need them most."

The consortium is coordinated by the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi). Major funding for the ANTICOV consortium is provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and by the global health agency Unitaid.

Early support to launch the initiative was provided by EDCTP [under its Covid-19 Emergency call](#) with additional funding from the Swedish government, and the Starr International Foundation, Switzerland.

This funding contributed to finalising the study protocol and facilitating expedited reviews by in-country regulatory and ethics authorities. It also supported the timely preparation of trial sites in selected African countries and a robust, standardised data management system.

[Read more on the EDCTP website](#)

EDCTP and TGHN launched EDCTP Knowledge Hub

EDCTP and The Global Health Network have launched the [EDCTP Knowledge Hub](#), an online platform with open-access resources for researchers conducting clinical research in low-resource settings.

With financial support from the European Union and the Swedish government, EDCTP commissioned The Global Health Network to develop this digital knowledge hub to provide researchers with tools and guidance that enable them to undertake high-quality clinical health research.

The platform gives access to the Protocol Development Toolkit, the Data Management Portal, and the Data Sharing Toolkit.

[Read more on the EDCTP website](#)

Recent events

WHO Africa | Second survey on national health research systems | Oct-Dec 2020

WHO Africa has sent out a second questionnaire on national health research systems in the countries of the African Region, addressed to the national WHO Africa focal points.

The purpose of the questionnaire is to gather information on the status of national health research systems in each WHO Africa member state or use in monitoring progress in implementation of the WHO African Region strategy on research for health (AFR/RC65/6).

A national health research system comprises "The people, institutions, and activities whose primary purpose is to generate high quality knowledge that can be used to promote, restore, and/or maintain the health of populations. It should include the mechanisms adopted to encourage the utilisation of research".

The four functions of a national health research system include:

- stewardship
- creating and sustaining resources for research for health
- producing and using research to inform health policy and practice and public opinion
- and financing of research for health.

An important element of such a system is a National Health Research Management Forum which brings together representation of all key stakeholders with the Ministry of Health as its secretariat.

In this initiative EDCTP has been strongly collaborating with WHO Africa, including on the web-based platform for the survey with the questionnaire in English, French and Portuguese. For more information see the following publications:

- Rusakaniko, S., Makanga, M., Ota, M.O. *et al.* [Strengthening national health research systems in the WHO African Region – progress towards universal health coverage. Global Health 15, 50 \(2019\)](#)
- Report: [Assessing National Health Research Systems in the WHO African Region 2018](#). This report was a collective effort by the WHO African Region, the National Institute for Health Research - Global Health Research Unit Tackling Infection to Benefit Africa, and EDCTP.

EDCTP | Sponsored symposium at ASTMH |17/11 2020

On 17 November 2020, the RBM Partnership to End Malaria together with Medicines for Malaria Ventures and EDCTP, hosted a virtual sponsored symposium - [Re-starting malaria R&D in the face of COVID in Africa](#) - held alongside the American Society of Tropical Medicines & Hygiene (ASTMH) 2020 Annual Meeting.

This online event shared perspectives from research programmes on how COVID-19 has affected their operations and on planning to restart R&D in a safe and effective manner.

The moderator was Mark Chataway (Baird's CMC). Speakers were:

- Abdourahmane Diallo, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria
- Catherine Kyobutungi, Executive Director, African Population and Health Research Centre
- Bernhards Ogutu, Chief Research Officer with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and Senior Clinical Trialist with the Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance of the INDEPTH-Network
- Michael Makanga, Executive Director, European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership
- Caroline Boulton, Global Programme Head, Malaria, Novartis
- David Reddy, CEO, Medicines for Malaria Venture
- Lacina Koné, Director General, Smart Africa



“ The earlier gains in the fight against malaria have been grossly negated by the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic. EDCTP remains committed to working with its beneficiaries and like-minded partners to help to minimise the impact of this pandemic on malaria R&D, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. We will continue to support R&D for new and improved transformative tools that will contribute to achieving the WHO’s vision of a world free of malaria. ”

Dr Michael Makanga
Executive Director, European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

#TropMed20



AERAP | EU-Africa Science cooperation | 18/11 2020

On 18 November, [AERAP Science](#) organised a 'Briefing: Opportunities for enhanced STI cooperation between the EU and Africa'. Professor Marcel Tanner, the EDCTP High Representative for Europe, presented on EDCTP at the meeting, which was focused on opportunities for enhanced science, technology & innovation cooperation between the European Union and Africa. The meeting contributed to a greater understanding amongst the research community of the agenda for science between both continents. It offered an opportunity to share information and discuss science cooperation in the light of rapidly changing circumstances defined by COVID-19, the environment, climate and digital transformation.

EVIR / ESSENCE | Webinar on value in research in LMICs | 25/11 2020

On 25 November, [EVIR \(Ensuring Value in Research\)](#) and [ESSENCE on Health Research](#) organised a joint webinar on 'Good practices to ensure value in research in low- and middle-income countries. The webinar aimed to raise awareness of the activities of the organisers in the community of research & development (R&D) funders and explore common areas of interest, particularly regarding costing of research and dissemination.

The ESSENCE Good Practice Documents on [implementation science](#), and [research costing and pricing](#) were presented. EDCTP was represented by Ana Lúcia Weinberg, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships Officer.

EDCTP/TGHN | Webinar on data management and sharing |30/11 2020

On 30 November 2020, EDCTP and TGHN organised a webinar to explain and promote features of the recently launched [EDCTP Knowledge Hub](#) and to seek user feedback to guide further development and improvements that can be made.

This first webinar focused on data management and data sharing. A second webinar is planned for early 2021 to discuss tools and guidance for protocol development.

The webinar was chaired by Dr Catherine Hankins, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development and Professor Jeffrey Mphahlele, South African Medical Research Council. Speakers at the event were:

- Barbara Kerstiëns, Head of Unit of Combatting diseases, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships Officer, EDCTP
- Trudie Lang, Head of The Global Health Network and Senior Research Scientist in Tropical Medicine, University of Oxford
- Samuel Driver, The Global Health Network
- Jenniffer Mabuka-Maroa, Advisor, African Academy of Sciences
- Francine Ntoumi, Founder, Chair and Executive Director of the Congolese Foundation for Medical Research / Coordinator for CANTAM and PANDORA-id-NET
- Rob Terry, Manager – Research Policy, TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases at the World Health Organization
- Michael Makanga, Executive Director, EDCTP

The capacity for participation (500) was reached within two days of publication of the event. See [the agenda of the webinar](#). This workshop will be recorded and shared here: <https://edctpknowledgehub.tghn.org/training-courses/webinar-edctp-knowledge-hub/>

Recently signed grants

Mobilisation of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa – 2020

- **AfriCover** | Coordinator Dr Marc-Alain Widdowson | Characterising transmission parameters of SARS-CoV-2 in a peri-urban setting in Mozambique using population-based surveillance and high-throughput sero-assay
- **COVAB** | Coordinator: Dr Julie Fox | Investigating COVID-19 infectiousness and antibody evolution in COVID-19 patients in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe
- **RADIATES** | Coordinator: Dr Jihal Bhiman | Development, evaluation and impact of RT-LAMP diagnostics and sequence surveillance on SARS-CoV-2 transmission in South Africa

New drugs and vaccines for priority pathogens in antimicrobial resistance – 2019

- **BETH-TB** | Coordinator: Prof. Andreas Diacon | Isoniazid resistance: Resetting the score with boosted ethionamide
- **PEDVAC-iNTS** | Coordinator: Dr Rino Rappuoli | Pediatric phase I/II age de-escalation dose-finding study of a vaccine against invasive non-typhoidal salmonellosis in sub-Saharan Africa

Strategic actions on product-related implementation research – 2019

- **CUT TB** | Coordinator: Dr Salome Charalambous | Community and universal testing for TB among contacts

Capacity development to facilitate delivery and uptake of new or improved medical interventions in African health systems – 2018

- **UPTAKE** | Coordinator: Dr Anatoli B. Kamali | Universally accessible HIV prevention technologies for African girls and young women through knowledge applied from behavioural economics: A behavioural science research to determine factors that facilitate future uptake of HIV prevention products and multi-purpose prevention technologies to prevent HIV and unwanted pregnancy in sub-Saharan Africa

Career Development Fellowships – 2019

- **ECP&FOB** | Fellow: Dr Evans Chadeka | Intestinal schistosomiasis in preschool and school children residing along shores and on islands of Lake Victoria in western Kenya: Investigation of eosinophil cationic protein and faecal occult blood as potential markers for schistosomiasis induced bowel morbidity
- **EFFICACY** | Fellow: Dr Nyanyiwe Masingi Mbeye | Efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of artemether-lumefantrine for the treatment of uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in HIV-infected Malawian children on antiretroviral treatment
- **HIVDR** | Fellow: Dr Juliann Makau | Determination of HIV-1 drug resistance among patients failing second-line treatment in Kenya using an in-house phenotypic assay
- **IRMiP** | Fellow: Dr Francis Mungathia Kobia | Targeting foetal-maternal innate response conflict for better placental malaria outcomes
- **SCEPTRES** | Fellow: Dr Musonda Simwinga | Supporting community engagement to promote tuberculosis research ethics and science

AREF/EDCTP Preparatory Fellowships – 2019

- **GM MOD Pf SEV DIS CH** | Fellow: Dr Mary Oboh | Patho-immunological modulatory effect of the human gut microbiome in children with severe *P.falciparum* infections from Cross River, Southern Nigeria

AREF/EDCTP Preparatory Fellowships - 2018

- **FA:NATAMA** | Fellow: Dr Hamtandi Magloire Natama | FA:NATAMA

Project news

STOP | Third annual meeting | 28/10 2020

The STOP project - 'Towards the interruption of transmission of soil-transmitted helminths: Clinical research development of a fixed-dose co-formulation of ivermectin and albendazole' - is coordinated by Dr José Muñoz Gutiérrez, ISGlobal. The consortium has partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. The third Annual meeting took place on-line on 28 October 2020.

From the STOP news item:

Jose Muñoz: "We have had a series of challenges linked to requirements by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the COVID-19 crisis, but the project is on a good track. ... The trial is now well aligned with EMA's scientific advice, the fixed-dose combination

(ivermectin plus albendazole) is being improved, and new data suggest a good safety profile and efficacy when ivermectin and albendazole are given at the same time."

Nana Aba Williams, scientific coordinator of the project: "Furthermore, EDCTP has granted us a parallel project (STOP2*) that will allow us to expand activities and develop new research studies, mainly in the field of drug resistance studies".

[See also the STOP website.](#)

See other projects funded under the 2017 call for proposals: [Targeting control and elimination of NIDs through clinical trials – 2017.](#)

* This project is funded by the United Kingdom as an independent contribution to the EDCTP2 programme, a so-called Participating States' Initiated Activity. The study follows up on the EDCTP-funded STOP study.



PfTBV | Annual meeting | 29-30/10 2020

The PfTBV study - 'Rapid evaluation of *Plasmodium falciparum* transmission-blocking vaccine (PfTBV) candidates through enhanced African resource centres for integration into malaria control and elimination' – is coordinated by Prof. Issaka Sagara (University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako, Mali). EDCTP funded this clinical trial under its 2018 call for proposals [Strategic action for the comparison, selection and development of malaria vaccine candidates](#) with a grant of €18 million.

For the meeting, most team members of the different institutions gathered by country in the same place, and then joined the international virtual meeting.

The first day consisted of updates regarding all sites and work packages. The projects has eight work packages: 1) Project Coordination and Dissemination of Project Results; 2) Capacity Building; 3) TBV Mini Community Trial; 4) Adjuvant Comparison Trial; 5) Antigen Comparison Trial; 6) Multisite PftBV Field Trials; 7) Community Transmission Studies in Guinea, Liberia and Burkina Faso, and 8) Vaccine Manufacturing.

Prof. Issaka Sagara and Dr Sara Healy (from NIH, USA) presented on the study of 'Safety, Immunogenicity and Efficacy of Pfs230D1M-EPA/AS01 Vaccine, a Transmission Blocking Vaccine against Plasmodium falciparum, in an Age De-Escalation Trial of Children and a Family Compound Trial in Mali'.

In summary, it was stated that the booster community vaccination (4th vaccination) performed successfully in August 2020 and that the follow-up is going well including the direct skin feed (DSF) procedure in 9-18 years old which is the study's primary objective. This part will end by January/February 2021. The immunology and parasitology follow-up will finish by July 2021.

Other presentations discussed community transmission protocols and vaccine manufacturing activities. The participants were also updated on the impact of COVID-19 on the study in the various research sites in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Mali. Fortunately, the study is not delayed or restricted due to disease incidence or anti-epidemic measures. Mahamadou S. Sissoko reported that the research team informs the Mali Ministry of Health of the COVID-19 spread in the community.

For the second day, four work groups were created focused on: 1) Governance and planning for future consortium transmission blocking vaccine (TBV) studies outcomes and a perspective of combining TBV with potential anti-infection malaria vaccines; 2) Clinical trials (transmission and CHMI); 3) Capacity building and data management; 4) List of essential SOPs for the PftBV consortium.

MAMAH | Trial reaches 50% enrolment | 28/10 2020

The MAMAH study reached the milestone of 50% enrolment on 28 October 2020. The project studies 'Improving maternal and infant health by reducing malaria risks in African women: evaluation of the safety and efficacy of dihydroartemisinin-piperazine for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in HIV-infected pregnant women'.

The study is coordinated by Prof. Clara Menendez of the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Barcelona, Spain. Partners in the consortium are from Austria, Gabon, Germany, and Mozambique. Recruitment sites are in Manhiça, Palmeira, Libreville and Lambarene.

See [the project website](#)

PEP4LEP | Annual meeting | 3-4/11 2020

[PEP4LEP](#) is an implementation trial in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Tanzania. The project aims to identify the most effective and feasible method for screening people at risk of developing leprosy and administering a single dose of the antibiotic rifampicin as post-exposure prophylaxis.

The project consortium consists of nine partners from five countries: two leprosy non-governmental organisations (NLR, the Netherlands; DAHW, Germany), four knowledge institutes (Erasmus MC, the Netherlands; AHRI, Ethiopia; Universidade Lúrio, Mozambique; CUHAS, Tanzania) and the ministries of health in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Tanzania.

Two interventions are compared: a community-based intervention using skin camps and a household-based intervention using health centres. NLR's SkinApp (a mobile health tool) is used to support health workers when skin screening contacts of leprosy patients. During this project, health workers will not only diagnose leprosy, but also other skin diseases.

The PEP4LEP Annual meeting was organised on 3-4 November 2020; because of COVID-19 the meeting was virtual. Thirty-one people participated to discuss the project's progress. Taking extra precautions, some project activities could recently restart. Health worker trainings were organised in smaller groups and participants in Ethiopia and Mozambique wore face masks.



priME | First vaccination in trial | 09/11 2020

The EDCTP-funded (€12.5 million) priMe project - A multicentre phase III double-blind, randomised, controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of VPM1002 in comparison to BCG - coordinated by Dr Leander Grode (Vakzine Projekt Management GmbH), announced that the first participant/vaccinee was enrolled in Kenya on 9

November 2020. The clinical trial is conducted across clinical sites in Kenya, Uganda Tanzania, South Africa and Gabon.

The vaccine candidate, VPM1002, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. (SIPL), which is also the sponsor of the clinical trial, is a recombinant vaccine against tuberculosis with an improved immunogenicity and safety profile compared to the currently used BCG. Participants enrolled will be randomised 1:1 to VPM1002 or BCG. The primary endpoint is to prove that VPM1002 prevents *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection at least as well as BCG.

BABYGEL | Annual meeting | 18/11 2020

The EDCTP-funded (€5.9 million) Babygel study is led by Prof. Andrew Weeks, Professor of International Maternal Health and Director of the Sanyu Research Unit at the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.

The main objective of the study is to determine whether providing alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) for women to use when caring for their newborns, prevents severe illness or death during the first three months of life. This open, 2-arm cluster randomised trial will recruit over 60 months pregnant women from 72 villages in the Mbale district in Eastern Uganda. Recruitment will start in December 2020.

The study has nine partner organisations: the University of Exeter, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) and the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom, the University of Bergen in Norway, and in Uganda, the Sanyu Africa Research Institute, the Busitema University, the Makerere University, the Ministry of Health and the Mbale Regional Referral Hospital.

The work programme includes research capacity development (three PhD trainees), health economics and health inequalities analysis, clinical care management of very sick neonates and a programme to involve participants and the public. The clinical trial is coordinated by the Sanyu Africa Research Institute and the Global Health Trials Unit at LSTM.

James Ditai, Chief Executive of the Sanyu Africa Research Institute: "New-borns continue to die from microscopic sources of infections. If ABHR is found to be effective, the greatest enemies of new-borns may be killed instantly by a simple hand-rub we are investigating in the BabyGel trial".

TREATS | Third annual meeting | 19-20/11 2020

People living with HIV are 15-20 times more likely to develop active TB than people without HIV. For people living with HIV, TB is the most frequent co-infection and the major cause of HIV-related deaths. In 2019, 86% of TB patients in Africa had a documented HIV test result. The TREATS project - 'Tuberculosis reduction through expanded antiretroviral treatment and screening' - was developed in response to this.

The consortium held its third Annual Meeting virtually on 19-20 November 2020. It was attended by 45 investigators, including members of the Scientific Advisory Group and representatives from the Ministry of Health in Zambia, the Department of Health in South Africa and the WHO Global TB Programme. The investigators presented updates for both the TB prevalence and the TB infection cohort studies conducted in 14 communities in Zambia and South Africa in young people. Dr Montserrat Blázquez-Domingo, EDCTP Senior Project Officer, took part in the meeting.



The clinical study evaluates whether the PopART intervention (a universal test and treat strategy) is similarly successful in reducing the prevalence and incidence of TB in the same communities, while also raising awareness of TB and HIV through community engagement and linking anyone who tested positive for TB or HIV to immediate treatment.

In 2020, the consortium was following up the participants and collecting data. These activities were suspended from March to July 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic. In the TB infection cohort, the overall retention rate was 75% in Zambia and 73% in South Africa at 12-month follow-up visits. During the period of country lockdown due to COVID-19, the retention rate was 68.7% in Zambia and 52.1% in South Africa (second follow-up visit). If no additional interruptions occur, the consortium expects to complete the last follow-up visits by January 2021.

The consortium also contributed to the COVID-19 response as it started testing in the Bwacha–Ngungu community of Kabwe in Zambia, using its mobile TB testing facilities. This was made possible by a grant under the [EDCTP COVID-19 Emergency call](#).

The project is led and coordinated by Prof. Helen Ayles of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (London, UK) and Zambart (Lusaka, Zambia). It is conducted in collaboration with partners in France, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom, and Zambia.

The €26.3 million project is funded by an EDCTP grant of €12.9 million and co-funded by the President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief, the National Institutes of Health (NIAID and NIMH), the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), the Evidence for HIV Prevention in Southern Africa / Department for International Development / Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (EHP/DFID/SIDA), the Medical Research Council (United Kingdom), Qiagen GMBH, and Delft Imaging Systems BV.

ASCEND | Launch of regulatory capacity project | 26/11 2020

The ASCEND project - 'Moving Tanzania's clinical research medicines regulatory capacity to the next level: Fostering medicine quality, safety and GCP clinical trials' - has been launched in a hybrid (virtual and face-to-face) meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 26 November 2020. The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children inaugurated the start of the project.

New project websites

LiberHetica | Increasing the ethics capacity of oversight for clinical trials in Liberia by establishing European-African collaborations that facilitate the implementation of efficient processes, harmonised procedures, standardised guidelines and educative training programs. [Visit website](#)

MiMVAC-Africa | A multilateral initiative to foster the clinical development of effective malaria vaccine candidates in Africa
[Visit website](#)

Publications

IMPACT | Publication | 12/11 2020

Jayne Webster, et al.: [Adoption of evidence-based global policies at the national level: intermittent preventive treatment for malaria in pregnancy and first trimester treatment in Kenya, Malawi, Mali and The Gambia](#)

CHAPS | Publication | 30 October 2020

The CHAPS study (Combined HIV Adolescent Prevention Study) coordinated by Dr Julie Fox (KCL, UK) produced the cited publication: [Combined HIV Adolescent Prevention Study \(CHAPS\): comparison of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis regimens for adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa-study protocol for a mixed-methods study including a randomised controlled trial](#) *Trials*. 2020 Oct 30;21(1):900

PROFORMA | Upsala reports article | Nov 2020

Article on Upsalareports.org on the project 'Pharmacovigilance infrastructure and post-marketing surveillance system capacity building for regional medicine regulatory harmonization in East Africa' coordinated by Prof. Eleni Aklillu (Karolinska Institute, Sweden). EDCTP co-funded the €6 million project a grant of with €3 million.

[PROFORMA project promoting medicines safety in Africa](#)

EDCTP1-funded PhD scholarship completed

Dr Thuli Mthiyane (South Africa) has completed her PhD study, titled 'Diagnostic and therapeutic biomarker responses in HIV and tuberculosis co-infected patients'. Her PhD grant was funded under the first EDCTP programme.

Resources

EDCTP | Guidelines for grantees - Progress report | 23/11 2020

EDCTP published new Guidelines for grantees on how to best use the online progress reporting facility in EDCTPgrants, EDCTP's grant management system.

Go to the publication [Online Progress Report in EDCTPgrants – Guidelines for beneficiaries](#).

AAS | Archive of webinars in Africa on COVID-19 | March-August 2020

On its website, the African Academy of Sciences has made available webinars on COVID-19 that took place in Africa. Currently, webinars from March through August 2020 [can be accessed here](#).

PERC | Responding to COVID-19 in Africa II | 06/10 2020

This second report of the Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19's (PERC): "Responding to COVID-19 in Africa: Using Data to Find a Balance" analyses multiple data sources to help governments to navigate the pandemic.

The report is published by the African Union – Africa CDC and [available in English and French](#)

AAS | Clinical Trials Community | Nov 2020

[Africa's First Online Clinical Trial Community launched](#). The Clinical Trial Community is a platform that will provide quick and real-time visibility of African clinical trials sites, capacity, and capability. CTC has been developed by the Coalition for African Research and Innovation (CARI), and is supported through a global partnership led by Johnson & Johnson, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), Wellcome Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Economic Forum (WEF). [Read more in Africa Science](#).

EDCTP / Jean Marie Habarugira | AMR and pharmacovigilance | 16/11 2020

Habarugira, J.M.V., Figueras, A.: [Antimicrobial stewardship: can we add pharmacovigilance networks to the toolbox?](#) *Eur J Clin Pharmacol* (2020). Publication by Jean Marie Vianney Habarugira, EDCTP Project Officer.

WHO | Antimalarial drug efficacy, resistance and response | 19/11 2020

"Antimalarial drug resistance has emerged as a threat to global malaria control efforts ... A new WHO report, [Report on antimalarial drug efficacy, resistance and response: 10 years of surveillance \(2010-2019\)](#) presents a decade's worth of data on drug efficacy and surveillance, as well as recommendations to monitor and protect the efficacy of malaria treatment in the decades to come."

See also [brochure with main findings](#).

Nature | World view | 17/11 2020

Prof. Francine Ntoumi, [What if tropical diseases had as much attention as COVID?](#)

TDR/WHO GTB | Implementation research - digital toolkit | 23/11 2020

TDR, in partnership with the WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme (GTB), has developed an [interactive web-based toolkit that supports national TB programmes](#) and other partners to conduct implementation research designed to evaluate digital technologies for TB care. [See the factsheet](#) or [go directly to the toolkit platform](#).

WHO | World malaria report 2020 | 30/11 2020

"The 2020 edition of the World malaria report takes a historical look at key milestones that helped shape the global response to the disease over the last two decades – a period of unprecedented success in malaria control. The report features a detailed analysis on progress towards the 2020 milestones of WHO's [global malaria strategy](#) and a special section on malaria and the COVID-19 pandemic."

Go to [World malaria report - 20 years of global progress & challenges](#)

Funding opportunities

UKRI GCRF/Newton Fund | Agile response call to address COVID-19 deadline 14/12 2020

Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in countries identified on the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients¹.

The agile rolling call for COVID-19 projects comes to an end on 15 December 2020. After this date, all proposals for COVID-19 related projects will be embraced back into UKRI normal funding streams.

[More information](#)

Swiss Government | Excellence Scholarships for foreign scholars & artists | Apply in December 2020

Each year the Swiss Confederation awards Government Excellence Scholarships to promote international exchange and research cooperation between Switzerland and over 180 countries. Recipients are selected by the awarding body, the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS).

The Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships are aimed at young researchers from abroad who have completed a master's degree or PhD and at foreign artists holding a Bachelor's degree.

[More information](#)

NIH | Translational research in maternal and paediatric pharmacology and therapeutics | Deadline: 10/12/2020

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to encourage applications that will perform basic, translational and clinical research to (1) advance the understanding of underlying mechanisms of drug action; (2) discover and develop novel therapeutics; (3) enhance the usage of existing drugs or drug repurposing for a safer and more effective treatment for pregnant women, lactating women, neonates and children. The overall goal is to improve drug safety and efficacy for maternal and paediatric precision therapeutics.

[More information](#)

The Sanger Prize competition 2021 | Deadline: 11/12 2020

The Sanger Prize is an outreach competition aimed at undergraduate students who live and study in low- or middle-income countries.

The prize was set up in 2002 after John Sulston, Sydney Brenner and Robert Horvitz won a Nobel Prize. The winner of the Sanger Institute Prize will be offered a three-month internship with a research group at the Wellcome Sanger Institute. Travel, living and research expenses are all covered by the award.

[More information](#)

NRF South Africa | Postdoctoral fellowships | Deadline 31/12 2020

The objectives for these postdoctoral fellowships supported by the NRF are listed below.

NRF Freestanding Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Increase the number and quality of Postdoctoral Research Fellows in South Africa
- Enable South African Postdoctoral Fellows to obtain international exposure
- Encourage outstanding international Postdoctoral Research Fellows to do research work in South Africa.

Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowships

Leverage innovation in universities and the implementation of science and related skills development

- Expand transformation initiatives through equity and career growth opportunities for designated groups
- Enable young scientists and professionals to access world-class strategic and applied research opportunities in a university environment and thereby strengthen their research profiles and consequently improve their prospects of permanent employment in the national system of innovation
- Attract young scientists and professionals of the highest calibre, to complement senior researchers' influence on innovation through research
- Support young scientists and professionals in strategic, basic and applied research to promote innovation.

[More information](#)

Africa Oxford initiative | AfOx Travel grants, 2019+ | Ongoing call

AfOx Travel Grants support the establishment of new collaborations between researchers in African countries and their collaborators at the University of Oxford. Travel Grants are open to all disciplines and open all year round. So far, we have awarded over 100 travel grants to researchers from the African continent and the University of Oxford.

[More information](#)

NTD/USAID | Request for proposal: Optimising NTD diagnostics and sampling strategies for low-prevalence settings | Deadline: 31/01 2021

The Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Support Centre, a program of The Task Force for Global Health, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the COR-NTD grant, is soliciting proposals for:

1. Research targeting the near-term development of highly specific diagnostic markers, tools and technologies to monitor and evaluate programs aimed at lymphatic filariasis (LF) and onchocerciasis in low-prevalence settings.
2. Research on the application of epidemiological and statistical methods that maximize the programmatic effectiveness of survey sampling strategies to detect specific LF and onchocerciasis signals in low-prevalence settings.

[More information](#)

UPCOMING

MRC UK | Improving health in LMIC countries | Deadline: 08/04 2021

This call will open on 01 February 2021. Apply for funding for research that will benefit the health of people living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Particularly welcome are proposals that combine expertise from more than one sector to meet a global health challenge. There is no limit to the amount of funding you can apply for. You can submit a proposal of any size, from a small seed-funding proposal to a large-scale programme grant.

You can apply if you are:

- an LMIC-based principal investigator
- a UK-based principal investigator working in partnership with LMIC investigators.

[More information](#)

COURSES

Institut Pasteur | Second edition of the MOOC Malaria | Register before 07/12 2020
Malaria

Classes start 19/10 and end 15/12 2020. For Pasteur courses follow @PasteurEdu

[More information](#)

East African Pharmacovigilance Initiative (EAPI) | online short courses

East African Pharmacovigilance Initiative (EAPI) is a partnership between the Pharmacy and Poisons Board and the University of Nairobi funded through the EDCTP-funded EAPI project.

The courses have interactive features like journaling for participants to document their experiences, interactive video content and interactive text materials. Future content will be expanded to level 3 interactivity, which includes online simulations and practice sessions. The platform also has a forum section for participants.

- The pharmacovigilance (PV) course has three variations: 1) Advanced PV, which is focused on pharmacy professionals working in the PV space; 2) Basic PV course - five modules and tailored to non-pharmacy medical professionals; 3) This course can also be taken by the general public.
- The snakebite course has seven modules that enable the participant to learn more about the prevention and clinical management of snake bites.

[More information](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks the colleagues who provided information for this Update.

