



EDCTP Update | March 2024



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World TB Day 2024: Funding innovative research to end TB



EDCTP2's investments in tuberculosis research



€213.50 M

In 83 projects on tuberculosis awarded to date.



€194.83 M

to support 33 projects with collaborative clinical trials and clinical studies conducted by European-African consortia.



€6.36 M

to support 3 projects that facilitate the translation of research results of medical interventions into policies and practices for national health programmes.



€12.31 M

to support 47 fellowships that focus on the career development of individual researchers.



Supported by the European Union



This year on World TB Day 2024, EDCTP reinforced its commitment to investing in tuberculosis (TB) research and development, an important part of the jigsaw to end TB. However, ending TB depends on concerted global efforts and continued investments to accelerate the development of innovative new tools.

[Read more »](#)

An innovative and integrated intervention package delivered through the health system could protect infants from HIV



The EDCTP2-funded PROMISE consortium has evaluated an innovative strategy combining existing tools, including infant screening and maternal viral load monitoring using point-of-care tests, and extended postnatal prophylaxis. The results of this study were published in *The Lancet* on 11 March 2024.

[Read more »](#)

International Women's Day 2024: Investing in women to accelerate progress



International Women's Day 2024

Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress



37% of EDCTP2 projects are led by women.

47% of the 992 African academic trainees supported by EDCTP2 are women.

40% of EDCTP2-supported Fellows are women.

39% of Global Health EDCTP3 projects are led by a female coordinator or female scientific project leader.



This year on International Women's Day, EDCTP joined the global health community in celebrating diversity and empowerment and underscored its commitment to investing in women and accelerating progress towards achieving gender equality in science.

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Impact with equity: EDCTP and equitable research partnerships



A Comment in *The Lancet* describes how EDCTP supports equitable research partnerships and has matured from a funding instrument for collaborative sciences to an important global health movement.

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Recent events

The 35th Meeting of the African Advisory Committee for Research and Development (AACHRD)



The [AACHRD](#) was established to advise the WHO Africa Regional Director on research related to health policies and development strategies. The 35th meeting of the Committee was held in Brazzaville, Congo from 5-7 March 2024. It brought together the Committee members to discuss and share information on manufacturing, technology transfer, and R&D in the African Region. EDCTP is regarded by the Committee as an important partner in Africa and was represented at the meeting by Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Association

GloPID-R launches the Pandemic PACT



The Pandemic Preparedness Analytical Capacity and Funding Tracking Programme ([Pandemic PACT](#)), an innovative new programme to track and analyse global funding and evidence for a wide range of diseases in alignment with the WHO priority diseases, was officially launched on 20 March 2024. This initiative of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) is designed to track and analyse global data for research on diseases with pandemic potential and broader preparedness activities, ready to pivot in response to outbreaks. EDCTP is a GloPID-R observer and one of the Pandemic PACT Advisory Group members and funders, through funding from NIHR using international development funding from the UK Government. Ms Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships (North) & Communications Manager, represented the EDCTP Association at the launch event and attended the Pandemic PACT Advisory Group meeting that preceded it. Coinciding with the launch event, a correspondence piece '[Improving coherence of global research funding: Pandemic PACT](#)' authored by the Pandemic PACT team and its Advisory Group was published in *The Lancet* on 19 March 2024, providing the background on the development of this tool.

[Read more »](#)

High-level event on the EU-AU partnership on Global Health for Equitable Access



On 20 March 2024, the Belgian Presidency, together with the African Union, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the European Commission, hosted a high-level event on strengthening shared ambitions for global health between the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU), matched by joint actions. As part of the event, a session on 'Research & development responding to African health needs, fostering technology transfers to African manufacturers' took place in which EDCTP was presented as a leading example of impactful end-to-end research and innovations for Africa, which has also bolstered the continent's research capacity. Dr Michael Makanga, Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking, presented the main achievements of the EDCTP programmes and set the scene for the roundtable discussion.

EDCTP2 project news

EDCTP-funded projects highlighted in WHO's report on advanced HIV disease

The advanced HIV disease research landscape

EDCTP projects [DATURA](#) and [5-FC HIV-Crypto](#) have been featured in the recently published report '[The advanced HIV research landscape](#)' by WHO. This report aims to provide an overview of nine key focus areas in advanced HIV disease and has been used to inform a roadmap for WHO scoping and future guidelines on advanced HIV disease. The DATURA study is assessing whether an intensified initial TB treatment could improve the survival of hospitalised adults and adolescents with HIV infections. The 5FC HIV-Crypto study is evaluating a new formulation of flucytosine that could encourage its greater use to treat cryptococcal meningitis in people living with HIV.

Capacity building through the IDEA Fellowship: efforts towards affiliated research centre



The Mbale Clinical Research Institute (MCRI) in Eastern Uganda conducts impactful research in collaboration with local and international partners. Through the [IDEA Fellowship Programme](#), one of the deliverables is establishing an affiliated research centre to provide a platform for further training in emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The team visited the Open University in the UK to discuss the possibility of establishing an affiliated research centre in Eastern Uganda. The aim is to improve capacity building through the training of scientists at PhD level, which will boost the much-needed skilled workforce to tackle the health conditions in the region and country at large. In addition, this establishment will foster further collaborations with national and international research institutions.

[Read more »](#)

Gift project: Speculating on the speculum – could a redesign help to save lives?



The design of the cervical speculum, a duck-billed diagnostic tool, has been a challenge for women for over 150 years. In commemoration of World Human Papilloma Virus Day on 4 March 2024, the Gift project team organised a 'design-athon' event to garner an understanding of women's experiences of the speculum and to begin re-thinking alternatives.

Photo credit: IDM/UCT

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PfTBV: Statens Serum Institut Initiates phase II efficacy trial for standalone multi-stage malaria vaccine candidate



On 20 March 2024, the Statens Serum Institut (SSI) announced the start of a phase II clinical trial for its investigational malaria vaccine, which contains SSI's ProC6C antigen and Novavax's Matrix-M™ adjuvant, supported by EDCTP through the PfTBV study. This vaccine candidate was previously evaluated for safety and immunogenicity in healthy human adult volunteers in Burkina Faso and Mali. SSI will now measure the efficacy of the ability of ProC6C/Matrix-M vaccine to prevent infection through a phase II challenge study conducted in adults aged 18-50 years.

[Read more »](#)

THECA study investigators meeting



The THECA study held its investigators' meeting on 22 March 2024 in Madagascar. The meeting, attended by consortium partners from Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), France, Ghana, Korea, Madagascar, Nigeria and the UK, focused on presenting study updates. These covered the TYVEGHA cluster-randomised trial in Ghana, the TYVECO and TyMA effectiveness studies in the DRC and Madagascar as well as lessons-learned from the Burkina Faso team about the recent decision to introduce typhoid conjugate vaccines into the national immunisation program.

ERASE-TB study newsletter



The ERASE-TB study published its sixth newsletter edition, which provides updates and the progress of the study, capacity building activities, as well as the study participation at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum and the Union Conference on Lung Health 2023 in Paris. The ERASE-TB study aims to explore the potential of new molecular approaches to detect early signs of active TB disease.

[Read more »](#)

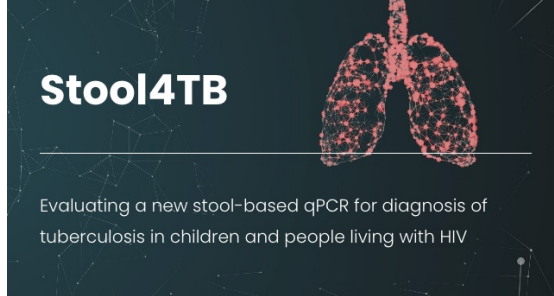
MTBVAC consortium starts clinical trials in adults in India



The MTBVAC vaccine candidate, the first live attenuated vaccine of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolated from a human, has reached a new milestone by starting clinical trials in India, the most populated country in the world and the one with the highest number of cases of TB infections. The adult trials are carried out by the Indian company Bharat Biotech in close collaboration with Biofabri. The EDCTP-funded MTBVAC-Newborns project has evaluated the MTBVAC vaccine candidate in a phase IIa trial in South African newborns. Additionally, EDCTP is currently investing €19.4 million to support a phase III trial of the same vaccine in newborns under the MTBVACN3 project.

[Read more »](#)

Stool4TB study completes adult recruitment



The Stool4TB study announced on 22 February 2024 the completion of the recruitment of its trial on adults. The study aims to test an innovative new method for identifying TB infections in children and adults living with HIV. More details about the study are available in the recently published [study protocol](#).

PDMC-II study achieved the 25% recruitment



In March 2024, the [PDMC-II study](#) reached the 25% recruitment milestone of the sample size (n=958). The first participant was recruited on 3 October 2023 in Jinja, Uganda and it was followed by other sites in Uganda (Kitgum), Kenya (Kisumu and Busia) and Malawi (Zomba and Lilongwe). The PDMC-II study aims to determine if monthly post-discharge malaria chemoprevention (PDMC) with the combination of dihydroartemisinin-piperazine and azithromycin (DP+AZ) over 4 months is superior to PDMC with DP-alone in reducing all-cause sick-child clinic visits (SCCV) by 6 months post-discharge management of children aged <5 years with severe anaemia (Hb<5g/dl) who are ready to be discharged, clinically stable and able to switch to oral medication.

PYRAPREG study holds annual meeting to update on progress



Photo credit: CISM

The [PYRAPREG study](#) organised its annual meeting in Maputo, Mozambique from 1-3 February 2024. The study is carrying out a large-scale evaluation of pyronaridine–artesunate (PA) use in pregnant women in five African countries (Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Mali and Mozambique). During the meeting, representatives of the study sites presented updates on the activities and the results achieved so far. Regarding the clinical trial component, all sites are in the same phase of monitoring the children’s 12-month visits, updating databases, and monitoring adverse events.

[Read more \(in Portuguese\) »](#)

BRECOR project: development of the draft law to protect research participants in Rwanda

The BRECOR project brought together a range of international partners from Europe



and sub-Saharan Africa to enhance the human and infrastructural capacity for regulation and ethical review of clinical research proposals in Rwanda. The project participated in the development of the draft law to address the issue of having no robust legal framework in the country that recognised ethical standards and protected the rights of participants in health research activities.

[Read more »](#)

Meet Dr Tigist Dires Gebreyesus, a former PhD student in the PROFORMA project



Dr Tigist Dires Gebreyesus is an Ethiopian public health specialist with a master's in public health from the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. She has been working within the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority, the former Ethiopian Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority. In December 2023, Dr Gebreyesus defended her doctoral thesis that was part of the EDCTP-funded PROFORMA project at Karolinska Institutet, Department of Global Public Health.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP Fellows

Fellow profile: Professor Novel Chegou (South Africa)



Through his EDCTP Fellowship, Prof. Novel Chegou aimed to develop a simple test that could be used for the rapid diagnosis of TB meningitis in children. On the occasion of World TB Day 2024, we asked Prof. Chegou about his research and how his fellowship has helped him to establish himself as a research leader through additional technical training, mentoring, and leadership skills development.

[Read the interview »](#)

Q&A with EDCTP Alumni Fellow Dr Esperança Sevene

EDCTP Alumni Fellow Dr Esperança Sevene, of the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Mozambique, participated in a Q&A for the Safety Platform for Emergency Vaccines (SPEAC), a project of the Coalition for



Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and Brighton Collaboration. SPEAC provides vaccine safety tools, resources, and expertise throughout the vaccine development process to enhance safety and build confidence in vaccines. Dr Sevene supports the SPEAC project's Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) training course and active safety surveillance work.

[Read more »](#)

In Conversation: Uchenna Uzoamaka Ebenezer



In the first edition of the conversation series with WANETAM's [TALENT PhD fellows](#), they talked with Uchenna Ebenezer, a fellow from Nigeria whose PhD explores health financing in the context of epidemics and pandemics in low- and middle-income countries through the lens of social health insurance scheme functions and coverage. In this conversation, she responds to critical questions about women's development and leadership in science and scientific research, delving into the challenges women in science are faced with, the significance of their participation in science, and its broader impact on advancing gender equality.

[Read more »](#)

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 that they will satisfy the requirements for EDCTP-funded research projects: making publications openly accessible as soon as possible. [Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#).

- *The Lancet. Global Health: [Impact with equity: EDCTP and equitable research partnerships](#). Makanga, M, et al. 1 April 2024*
- *PLoS One: [Aetiological agents of pneumonia among HIV and non-HIV infected children in Ghana: A case-control study](#). Owusu, M, et al. 22 March 2024.*
- *The Lancet: [Improving coherence of global research funding: Pandemic PACT](#). Norton, A, et al. 19 March 2024.*
- *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics (JERHRE): [Evaluation of a Training Program on Gender Mainstreaming in Health Research Evaluation at the Senegalese National Research Ethics Committee](#). Martínez-Pérez, GZ, et al. 18 March 2024.*
- *Wellcome Open Res: [Mortality among non-severely under nourished children with pneumonia globally: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Nalwanga, D, et al. 14 March 2024.*
- *Emerging Microbes & Infections: [Spatio-temporal spread of Lassa virus and a new rodent host in the Mano River Union area, West Africa](#). Bangura, U, et al. 6 March 2024*

- *The Lancet. Microbe*: [Accuracy of the tuberculosis molecular bacterial load assay to diagnose and monitor response to anti-tuberculosis therapy: a longitudinal comparative study with standard-of-care smear microscopy, Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra, and culture in Uganda.](#) Musisi, E, et al. 5 March 2024.
- *Parasites & Vectors*: [Contribution of Anopheles gambiae sensu lato mosquitoes to malaria transmission during the dry season in Djoumouna and Ntoula villages in the Republic of the Congo.](#) Mbama Ntabi, JD, et al. 2 March 2024.
- *PLoS One*: [Seroepidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in a cohort of pregnant women and their infants in Uganda and Malawi.](#) Hookham, L, et al. 1 March 2024.
- *PLoS One*: [The effectiveness of albendazole against hookworm infections and the impact of bi-annual treatment on anaemia and body mass index of school children in the Kpandai district of northern Ghana.](#) Hamidu, BA, et al. 1 March 2024.
- *PLoS One*: [Evaluation of COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic tests for self-testing in Lesotho and Zambia.](#) Bresser, M, et al. 29 February 2024.
- *International Journal of Infectious Diseases (IJID) Official Publication of the International Society for Infectious Diseases*: [Perspectives on development and advancement of new tuberculosis vaccines.](#) da Costa, C, et al. 26 February 2024.
- *Vaccine X*: [Defining and reporting adverse events of special interest in comparative maternal vaccine studies: a systematic review.](#) Davies, HG, et al. 23 February 2024.
- *Vaccine*: [Clinical formulation development of Plasmodium falciparum malaria vaccine candidates based on Pfs48/45, Pfs230, and PfCSP.](#) Plieskatt, J, et al. 21 February 2024
- *Frontiers in Microbiology*: [High prevalence of pre-treatment and acquired HIV-1 drug resistance mutations among non-citizens living with HIV in Botswana.](#) Mokgethi, PT, et al. 20 February 2024.
- *Frontiers in Immunology*: [The subdued post-boost spike-directed secondary IgG antibody response in Ugandan recipients of the Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 vaccine has implications for local vaccination policies.](#) Ankunda, V, et al. 16 February 2024.
- *Pathogens (Basel, Switzerland)*: [Culicoides Species of the Rain Forest Belt of the Littoral Region of Cameroon: Their Incrimination in the Transmission of Mansonella perstans.](#) Ebai, R, et al. 6 February 2024
- *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*: [Effects of Neonatal BCG-Japan Versus BCG-Russia Vaccination on Overall Mortality and Morbidity: Randomized Controlled Trial From Guinea-Bissau \(BCGSTRAIN II\).](#) Schaltz-Buchholzer, F, et al. 1 February 2024
- *Cell Host & Microbe*: [Post-pandemic memory T cell response to SARS-CoV-2 is durable, broadly targeted, and cross-reactive to the hypermutated BA.2.86 variant.](#) Nesamari, R, et al. 10 January 2024.
- *BMC Genomics*: [Generalizability of machine learning in predicting antimicrobial resistance in E. coli: a multi-country case study in Africa.](#) Nsubuga, M, et al. 1 January 2024.
- *Expert Review of Vaccines*: [Sporozoite immunization: innovative translational science to support the fight against malaria.](#) Richie, TL, et al. 1 January 2023.
- *Wellcome Open Res*: [Pharmacokinetics of antitubercular drugs in patients hospitalized with HIV-associated tuberculosis: a population modeling analysis.](#) Abdelgawad, N, et al. 1 January 2022.

Resources



[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)
online

[Clinical research capacity](#)
PDF

[Fellowships](#)
online

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
- ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)
- Europe PMC webinar | [Watch the recording](#) and [download the slides](#)
- TRUST project | [Video introducing the Global Code of Conduct](#)
- PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
- PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)

Training and funding opportunities

Caroline Miles Visiting Scholarship | Deadline for application: 21 April 2024

The Caroline Miles Visiting Scholarships are awarded to post-doctoral or early-career researchers to enable them to spend up to a month at the Ethox Centre working on a topic relating to one of the Centre's four main research areas: global health ethics; clinical ethics; public health ethics; and research ethics.

[More information »](#)

MRC/FCDO African Research Leaders call for proposals | Deadline for application: 24 April 2024

The Medical Research Council (MRC) UK has launched a further call to support 'rising star' African Research Leaders. This is a prestigious award, jointly funded by the MRC and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The scheme aims to strengthen research leadership across sub-Saharan Africa by attracting and retaining exceptionally talented individuals who will lead high-quality programmes of research on key global health issues pertinent to the region and beyond. As part of the scheme, the African Research Leader should be supported by a strong linkage with a UK partner.

[More information »](#)

TDR Postgraduate Scholarship in Implementation Research Academic Year 2024/2025 | Deadline for application: 3 May 2024

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Ghana, invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for a place in a full-time postgraduate programme, with a focus on Implementation Research for the 2024-2025 academic year. Funding for these full scholarships is from TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, based at the World Health Organization in Geneva. Only applicants from low- and middle-income countries of the WHO African Region are eligible

to apply.

[More information »](#)

AGHRB: Malaria vaccine implementation studies in Africa | Deadline for application: 3 June 2024

The UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) are providing funding for studies to undertake implementation research to understand the optimal strategies for roll-out and scale-up of the malaria vaccines RTS,S and R21 to ensure that they are deployed most effectively and equitably for population health benefit. Research should be conducted in at least two sub-Saharan African countries, one of which should have a high malaria burden.

[More information »](#)

NIH International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award | Deadline for application: 6 June 2024

The International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award supports curriculum development for master's level courses at institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) including courses for skill development, including practicum experiences; and mentoring activities.

[More information »](#)

NIH International Bioethics Research Training Program | Deadline for application: 6 June 2024

The International Bioethics Research Training Program supports LMIC-U.S. collaborative institutional bioethics doctoral and postdoctoral research training programs that incorporate didactic, mentored research and career development components to prepare trainees for positions of scholarship and leadership at health research institutions in LMICs.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

8th MIM Society Conference | 21-27 April 2024

The 8th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) Society Conference will take place on 21-27 April 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda under the theme 'Grassroots mobilization to end malaria: invest, innovate and integrate'. The conference will bring together leading researchers, policymakers, and innovators to deliberate on the status of malaria in Africa, share research findings, and discuss the challenges and efforts of controlling malaria in the continent. It will also provide a platform to share perspectives that strengthen efforts towards locally driven R&D and grassroots mobilization to end malaria through innovations, collaborations, and synergy among stakeholders.

[More information »](#)

UKCDR and AFD side event to the OECD Science and Technology Policy Ministerial | 22 April 2024

Join UKCDR and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) on 22 April 2024 in Paris, France for a side event at the OECD Science and Technology Policy Ministerial (OECD CSTP). The side event is a gathering of international public funders of research for development and a range of wider stakeholders, with the aim to highlight research as a force for development. Bringing key actors together around a collective agenda, two sessions will explore the topics of 'Promoting principle and good practices in funding research for development' and 'Informed decision-making and donor coordination'.

[More information »](#)

18th International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) | 14-17 May 2024

The 18th International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) will take place on 14-17 May 2024 in Cotonou, Benin. The annual INTEREST Conference is the premier scientific conference for HIV in Africa and brings together scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research from

around the world. The conference will showcase cutting-edge knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and the prevention of HIV-1 infection. Additionally, it will continue to foster the building of a community of African physicians and scientists to facilitate the implementation of local solutions for the management of patients living with HIV-1 infection and for the prevention of HIV transmission.

[More information »](#)

1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis | 3-5 July 2024

The 1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 3-5 July 2024 and will present a high-quality programme on innovations in Tuberculosis with an emphasis on region-specific needs. The meeting aims to provide a platform for scientific interchange, education, and fostering collaborations to advance the field.

Abstract submission is open until 12 April 2024.

[More information »](#)

World Congress of Epidemiology | 24-27 September 2024

The World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE2024) will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24-27 September 2024. The theme of WCE2024 is "Epidemiology and complexity: challenges and responses" which will engage the full depth and breadth of methods and practice in contemporary epidemiology. The meeting will feature invited speakers presenting plenary lectures, workshops and interactive sessions. The conference invites submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations showcasing novel research in epidemiology and public health (general abstract submission deadline: 16 February 2023).

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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