

EDCTP Update | July 2024



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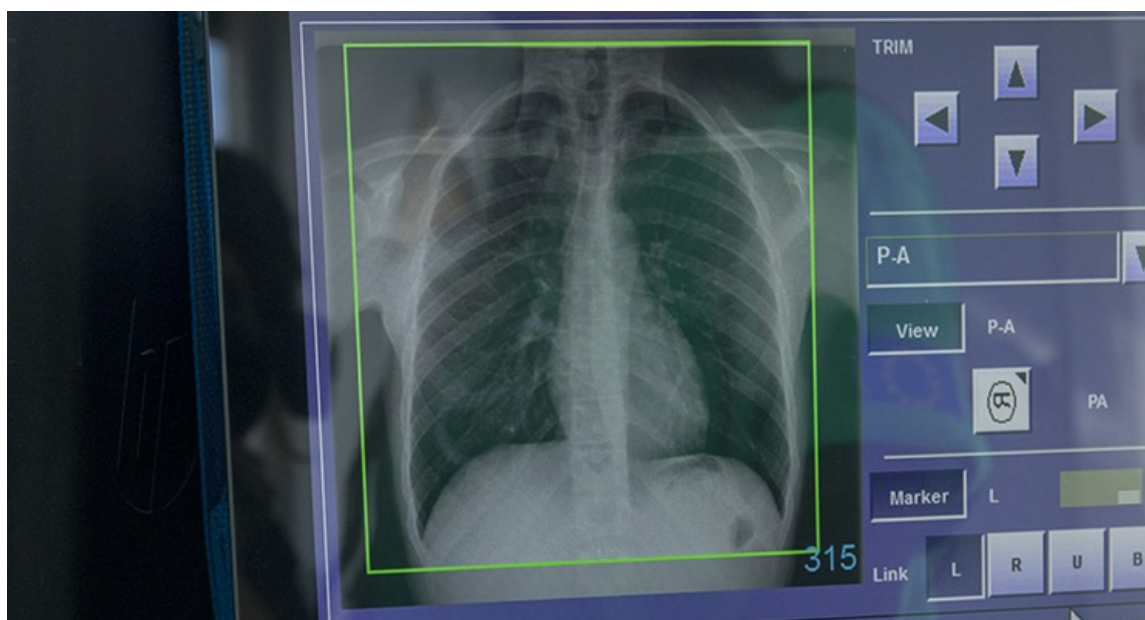
EDCTP Annual Report 2023: two decades and beyond



Twenty years since its launch, the EDCTP programmes have established a model for how equitable research partnerships should operate. This 'partnership of equals' covers both the governance of the programme – where European and African partners have equal status – and the operations of individual partnerships. EDCTP has funded partnerships that have advanced multiple interventions against poverty-related diseases affecting sub-Saharan Africa. It has also made critical contributions to the development of research capacity in the region, particularly through its comprehensive fellowship programme. The EDCTP Annual Report 2023 reflects on the major achievements and progress made during the first 20 years of the EDCTP programmes while looking towards the future. It also highlights the Eleventh EDCTP Forum and features the main highlights of last year.

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Consensus statement on the inclusion of children in TB diagnostic development and evaluation

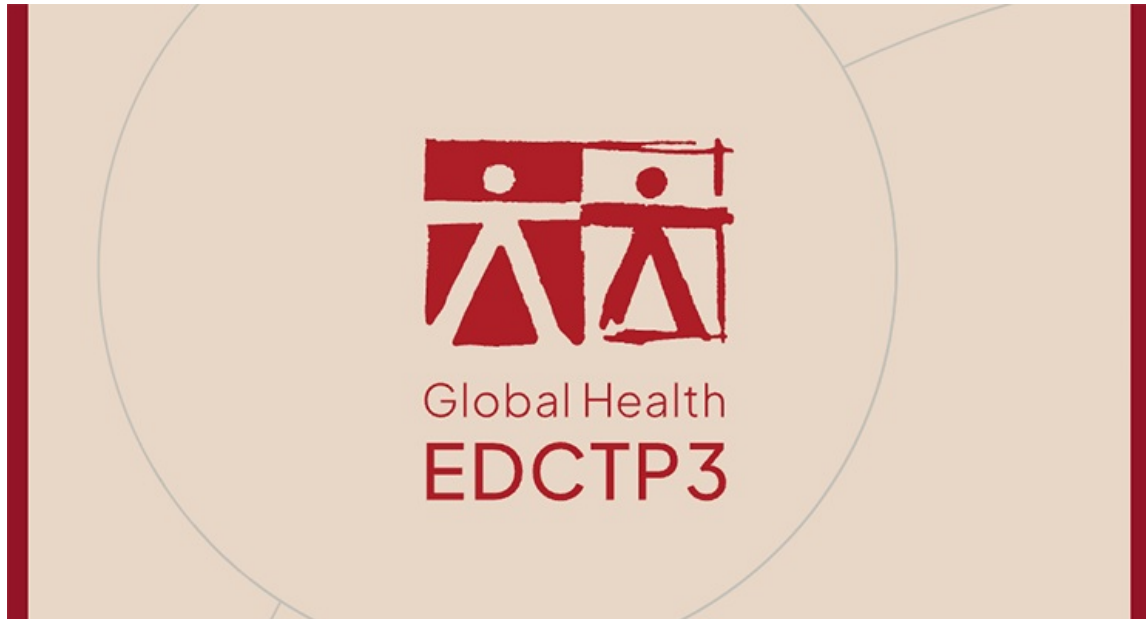


The needs of children and adolescents are insufficiently considered when designing and

evaluating TB diagnostics. As a major funder of TB research, EDCTP was invited to participate in a consensus-building initiative to agree on recommendations for how best to include children in TB diagnostic development and evaluation. The resulting recommendations were published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. Dr Debora Bade, Project Officer at the EDCTP Association, participated in the consensus-finding process.

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Global Health EDCTP3 seeks new members for its Scientific Committee



Global Health EDCTP3 is launching a call for expression of interest for the selection of members of its Scientific Committee. The [governance of Global Health EDCTP3](#) is led by a Governing Board which is advised by a Scientific Committee and a Stakeholders Group. Tasks of the Scientific Committee include assisting in the design of the strategic and scientific planning of the activities of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking, advising on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the work programmes including on the scope of calls for proposals, in line with the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and the Horizon Europe strategic planning, and providing independent advice and scientific analysis on specific issues.

The applications must be sent by **30 September 2024, 23:59 (CET)**. Further information on this call for expression of interest, can be found [here](#).

EDCTP featured in IAVI report



EDCTP has been featured in the article 'The ties that bind' published by [IAVI](#). The article highlights the first 20 years of EDCTP and how the partnership aims to move ahead in the next decade. It also highlights the Eleventh EDCTP Forum and the EDCTP-funded studies that were presented at the 25th International AIDS Conference in Munich, Germany.

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Recent events

Finance and Management Training in Maputo, Mozambique



The EDCTP Association and Global Health EDCTP3 co-organised a two-day Financial and Project Management training workshop in Maputo, Mozambique. The workshop provided guidance and practical advice on managing a Global Health EDCTP3 project under Horizon Europe. More than 40 participants from institutions across Mozambique, including Eduardo Mondlane University, Instituto Nacional de Saúde (INS), Centro de Investigação em Saúde de Manhiça (CISM), Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, and Universidade Lúrio, and participants from Eswatini took part. The training sessions were led by Mr Abdoulaye Barry, (Acting Executive Director and Director of Finance & Administration, EDCTP)

Association), Dr Pauline Beatte (Operations Manager and Scientific Adviser, EDCTP Association), and Mr Vincent Declerfayt (Head of Administration and Finance, Global Health EDCTP3) covered about Global Health EDCTP3, financial rules and reporting, technical reporting and deliverables.

Review of EDCTP2 projects at institutions in Mozambique



A team from the EDCTP Association and Global Health EDCTP3 visited Centro de Investigação em Saúde de Manhiça (CISM) in Mozambique to carry out a technical and financial review of EDCTP2 projects at the centre. The team also visited the new data centre, part of the TESA network.

Additionally, the EDCTP Association team visited projects at the headquarters of the Instituto Nacional de Saúde (INS) where they met with Dr Eduardo Samo Gudo Jr, Director-General and Dr Sofia Viegas, Deputy Director General, and at Centro de Investigação e Treino em Saúde da Polana Caniço (CISPOC) where they met Dr Edna Viegas, Head of Instituto Nacional de Saúde Office in Maputo; Dr Celso Khosa, Scientific Director, as well as colleagues working on EDCTP projects on TB and HIV.

EDCTP at AIDS 2024



The 25th International AIDS Conference – AIDS 2024 – took place in Munich, Germany, and virtually from 22-26 July 2024. AIDS 2024 convened thousands of people living with, affected by, and working on HIV to share knowledge, best practices and lessons learned from the HIV response over the past 40 years, as well as from the responses to COVID-19, mpox and other public health threats.

Dr Johanna Schaefer, Project Officer, EDCTP Association, represented EDCTP at AIDS 2024. Additionally, several grantees supported by EDCTP2 and Global Health EDCTP3 presented their work. An overview of presentations from EDCTP-funded projects is available on the [EDCTP website](#).

AVAREF-EDCTP online training for clinical trial assessors within the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs)



On 15-19 July 2024, the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF) and EDCTP organised an online training for Clinical Trial Assessors. AVAREF, in collaboration with EDCTP, developed a comprehensive training series to provide the necessary training to scientific reviewers within the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to enable them to review clinical trial dossiers.

These courses are offered through the Research Ethics Committees (RECs) to optimise the selection of the right reviewers from the agencies that require the training, encourage the familiarisation of AVAREF tools, guidelines, and processes for clinical trial reviews, and adoption of AVAREF tools.

The trainings are expected to be part of the institutional development plan that would allow the countries to make operational all their regulatory functions.

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1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis



The [1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis](#) was held in Kampala, Uganda from 3-4 July 2024 and presented 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. EDCTP was a Bronze-level sponsor of the conference and was represented by Dr Debora Bade, Project Officer, EDCTP Association. Additionally, Dr Bade participated in a pre-conference session on skill building on 2 July 2024 at the Infectious Disease Institution in Mulago, where she presented on the achievements of the EDCTP programmes and the way forward under Global Health EDCTP3.

EDCTP2 project news

DATURA project Steering Committee and Data and Safety Monitoring Board meeting

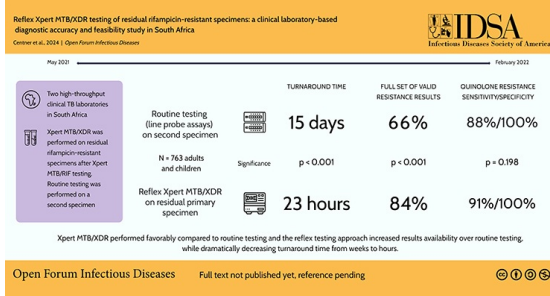


The EDCTP/ANRS-funded DATURA project organised its first face-to-face joint Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) meeting on 7-9 July 2024 in Montpellier, France. Around 40 people, including members of both committees, representatives of all participating countries (Cambodia, Cameroon, France, Guinea, Mozambique, Norway, Uganda and Zambia) and leaders of the six work packages were able to attend this meeting.

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TB-CAPT project publishes study result

A groundbreaking study led by Chad Centner and Helen Cox, as part of the TB-CAPT Consortium funded by the EDCTP,



has demonstrated the efficacy of the WHO-approved Xpert MTB/XDR test in detecting *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and resistance to crucial drugs directly from sputum specimens. The study highlights that the Xpert MTB/XDR test provided comprehensive resistance results in 84% of cases compared to 66% with routine testing, significantly reducing the median turnaround time from 15 days to just 23 hours. With high sensitivity and specificity for drug resistance detection, this innovative reflex testing approach not only increases the availability of diagnostic results but also accelerates the diagnostic process, making it a pivotal advancement in the fight against tuberculosis.

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Fourth edition of NGS training course



Members from the [TB-CAPT](#), [PanACEA](#), [Seq&Treat](#), and [PANGenS](#) projects have joined hands for the fourth time in June 2024 to implement a training series aiming at improving knowledge associated with next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies and their applications in the field of tuberculosis.

Just like the previous editions of the training, the latest series was very popular with the participants, who welcomed the opportunity to learn about salable and reproducible data analysis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) genomes.

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PedMab Third Annual Meeting



The [PedMab Consortium](#)'s aims to ensure the development of a promising HIV-prevention strategy with broad anti-HIV-1 neutralizing antibodies (bNabs) to reduce postnatal transmission of HIV *via* breast milk, which continues to contribute to residual HIV pediatric infection in low-middle income, high HIV prevalence settings. In 2024, the PedMab consortium achieved three important targets: it completed safety of the first five arms of the PedMab1 trial administering the bNabs CAP256.V2LS or VRC07-523.LS at escalating doses to neonates close to birth, administered the two bNabs simultaneously to HIV at-risk neonates for the first time ever worldwide, and delivered a course on "Introduction to Clinical Trials and

Biostatistics". The third annual meeting in Durban, South Africa on 3-5 June 2024, brought together the entire PedMAb Consortium, from Italy, France, Norway and South Africa. Partners reviewed trial progress, including the 2024 achievements, and further developed technical approaches.

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TESA: Call for Applications for the TAGENDI PhD and MPhil Fellowship programme



Trials of Excellence in Southern Africa (TESA) Addressing Gender and Diversity Regional Gaps in Clinical Research Capacity (TAGENDI) is inviting applications for Doctoral and MPhil Fellowships funded by EDCTP with support from the UK Department of Health and Social Care. The purpose of this fellowship programme is to contribute to the reduction of the gender and diversity gaps by training female PhD and MPhil candidates from participating TESA member African countries or institutions, which include South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe in collaboration with European country partner institutions from the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and France.

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PediCAP trial findings disseminated to Mozambican healthcare community



The PediCAP trial team announced the successful completion of a series of dissemination meetings aimed at sharing trial results with key stakeholders in Mozambique. These meetings targeted a diverse audience, including healthcare professionals, paediatricians, collaborators, policymakers and representatives from the National Bioethics Committee (CNBS) and the National Regulatory Authority for Medicines and Pharmacovigilance (ANARME).

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Dr Clifford Banda awarded the 2024 CIPHER Grant Programme



EDCTP Career Development Fellow, Dr Clifford Banda was announced as one of two awardees of the 2024 Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research ([CIPHER](#)) Grant Programme at the 25th International AIDS Conference – AIDS 2024. The programme awards early-stage investigators up to USD 150,000 over two years to address research gaps in paediatric and adolescent HIV in countries with limited resources for HIV research. It is designed to provide investigators with the experience they need to compete for larger funding. Applications open on 2 September 2024 for the Call for letters of intent to the 2025 CIPHER Research Grant Programme.

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](#).

- British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology: [CYP2B6 and ABCB1 genotypes predict methadone plasma exposure among patients on maintenance therapy against opioid addictions in Tanzania](#). Mugusi, S, et al. 11 July 2024
- BMC Immunology: [Neutralizing antibody responses assessment after vaccination in people living with HIV using a surrogate neutralization assay](#). Batchi-Bouyou, A L, et al. 10 July 2024
- Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health: [Neurocysticercosis Prevalence and Characteristics in Communities of Sinda District in Zambia: A Cross-Sectional Study](#). Zulu, G, et al. 9 July 2024
- Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes: [The Effect of Real-Time Medication Monitoring-Based Digital Adherence Tools on Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy and Viral Suppression in People Living With HIV: A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis](#). Msosa, T C, et al. 9 July 2024
- The Lancet. Microbe: [Need for high-resolution observational cohort studies to understand the natural history of tuberculosis](#). Larsson, L, et al. 3 July 2024
- Open Forum Infectious Diseases: [Low Prevalence of Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir Resistance-Associated Mutations in SARS-CoV-2 Lineages From Botswana](#). Choga, W T, et al. 2 July 2024
- BMC Public Health: [SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence among Beninese pregnant women in the third year of the pandemic](#). Figueroa-Romero, A, et al. 2 July 2024
- JMIR Pediatrics and Parenting: [Chest X-Ray-Based Telemedicine Platform for Pediatric Tuberculosis Diagnosis in Low-Resource Settings: Development and Validation Study](#). Gómez-Valverde, J J, et al. 1 July 2024
- BMC Public Health: [Prevalence and factors associated with illicit drug and high-risk alcohol use among adolescents living in urban slums of Kampala, Uganda](#). Kalungi, H, et al. 26 June 2024
- BMC Women's Health: [Understanding the contexts in which female sex workers sell sex in Kampala, Uganda: a qualitative study](#). Katumba, K R, et al. 26 June 2024

- Scientific Reports: [High prevalence of albuminuria among adult males living with HIV in Botswana](#). Mosepele, M, et al. 23 June 2024
- Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases: [Systematic review: Global host range, case fatality and detection rates of Mycobacterium ulcerans in humans and potential environmental sources](#). Tchatchouang, S, et al. 21 June 2024
- BMC Public Health: [A prospective randomised controlled trial investigating household SARS-CoV-2 transmission in a densely populated community in Cape Town, South Africa - the transmission of COVID-19 in crowded environments \(TRACE\) study](#). Smith, P, et al. 17 June 2024
- HIV/AIDS (Auckland, N.Z.): [Forgetting to Take Medication, Treatment Adherence and Their Relationship with Viral Load Suppression Among People Living with HIV in the Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania](#). Masika, L V, et al. 17 June 2024
- Malaria Journal: [Livestock keeping, mosquitoes and community viewpoints: a mixed methods assessment of relationships between livestock management, malaria vector biting risk and community perspectives in rural Tanzania](#). Mwalugelo, Y A, et al. 17 June 2026
- Microorganisms: [Hepatitis B Virus Prevalence among HIV-Uninfected People Living in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas in Botswana](#). Anderson, M, et al. 1 June 2024
- Antibiotics (Basel, Switzerland): [Emergence of High-Level Gentamicin Resistance in Streptococcus agalactiae Hypervirulent Serotype IV ST1010 \(CC452\) Strains by Acquisition of a Novel Integrative and Conjugative Element](#). Creti, R, et al. 26 May 2024
- International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health: [Community Perceptions of Blackfly Nuisance and Acceptability of the "Slash and Clear" Vector Control Approach in the Ntui Health District of Cameroon: A Qualitative Study](#). Siewe Fodjo, J N, et al. 22 May 2024
- Microorganisms: [Latent Tuberculosis Infection Is Associated with an Enrichment of Short-Chain Fatty Acid-Producing Bacteria in the Stool of Women Living with HIV](#). Moodley, S, et al. 22 May 2022
- IJTLD Open: [A pilot cross-sectional study of non-communicable diseases in TB household contacts](#). Hamada, Y, et al. 1 April 2024
- IJTLD Open: [Clinical spectrum of disease and outcomes in children with Omicron SARS-COV-2 infection in Cape Town, South Africa](#). Bekker, C, et al. 1 January 2024

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

Medicines for Malaria Venture's 7th African call for proposals | Deadline for applications: 30 August 2024

MMV's 7th African call for proposals is now open to African scientists. The focus is on three priority areas: compounds with confirmed activity on any antimalarial lifecycle stage; assay development and screening to support the discovery or development of novel antimalarials; and computer-aided drug discovery. The deadline to submit applications is 30 August 2024.

[More information »](#)

ICGEB DSI WE-STAR Cape Town Postdoctoral Fellowships | Deadline for applications: 13 September 2024

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the South African Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) have partnered to offer early-career women scientists from the African Continent, with the exception of South Africa, mobility fellowships for 12 months (non-renewable) at the ICGEB laboratories in Cape Town (South Africa), to perform research work on biotechnology and related fields, including Health (Infectious Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases), Sustainable and Effective Agriculture as well as Bioinformatics.

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Basics of Clinical Trial Management | 9 July-18 September 2024

BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) will host an 11-session digital lecture series focused on clinical trial management basics. This course is designed for professionals in low- and middle-income countries (such as physicians, nurses, research coordinators, research pharmacists, and data managers) who are interested in conducting clinical trials for any disease or condition but have limited experience in doing so.

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ODA Research Management Capacity Strengthening | Deadline for applications: 30 October 2024

The British Academy is inviting proposals which seek to embed and enhance working practices and systems within and between institutions to support equitable partnerships in international research through support for skills collaboration between research offices and research management functions. Awards of 18-24 months in duration and up to £50,000 are available. The deadline for submissions and UK institutional approval is 30 October 2024 (17.00 UK time).

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

8th Global One Health Congress | 20-23 September 2024

The 8th Global One Health Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 20-23 September 2024 and will bring together One Health stakeholders, from science researchers, policymakers, representatives of international institutions, civil society to the private sector from around the world. The agenda includes parallel tracks addressing one

health science, antimicrobial agents and resistance, and science policy interface, amongst others. It will enable discussing major One Health challenges, as well as sharing research data and policy developments. The congress will provide a great opportunity to look at global One Health science and policy through an African lens. The final deadline to submit late breaker abstracts is 4 August 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).

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EDCTP | Anna van Saksenlaan 51 | Den Haag, 2593 HW NL

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