



Symposium

23 NOVEMBER 2022
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Enhancing research capacity strengthening:

lessons from EDCTP Regional Networks
of Excellence and Developing Excellence
in Leadership, Training and Science
(DELTAS) consortia



EDCTP

This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme
supported by the European Union





Contents

Symposium Overview.....	3
Agenda.....	4-5
Speakers.....	6-14



Symposium Overview

**Enhancing research capacity strengthening:
lessons from EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence
and Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training
and Science (DELTA) consortia.**

23 NOVEMBER 2022
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA


Objective

To share the experience of implementing various Theories of Change for research capacity strengthening amongst EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence (NoEs) and DELTA funded consortia.

Expected Output

- 1.** Brief paper outlining the capacity strengthening lessons learnt by the DELTA consortia and EDCTP NoEs and recommendations for future consortia.
- 2.** A joint proceeding circulated as a newsletter to all NOEs, DELTA consortia, and The Global Health Network Africa collaborators.

Agenda

07:30 - 08:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Tea/coffee break -1 • Networking 	
08:30 - 11:00	 SESSION 1: Lessons presentations by individual consortia (DELTAS/EDCTP Regional NoES)	Jean-Pierre K. N'Guessan
08:30 - 08:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks – Trudie Lang (TGHN Director) / Michelle Nderu (EDCTP Programme officer) 	Trudie & Michelle
08:45 - 11:00	EDCTP Networks of Excellence Research Capacity Strengthening Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief outline of the networks ToC and implementation framework • Examples of outputs / success stories • Key enablers and challenges • Key lessons learnt <p><i>12 minutes for each presentation followed by 3 mins Q & A</i></p>	Michelle Nderu (chairing the NoEs session)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WANETAM – Jean Pierre N (Program Manager) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TESA – Rodrigues Matcheve (Project Manager) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CANTAM – Leonard Numfor (Project Manager) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EACCR – Bernard Kikaire (Scientific Liaison Officer, WP Lead) 	
	DELTAS Africa Consortia	Nadia Tagoe (Chairing the DELTAS Session)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDeAL – Sam Kinyanjui (Director) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANTHE – Thumbi N'dungu (Director) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARTA - Jude Igumbor (Partner Lead) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSACAB – Pascalia Munyewende (Programme Manager) 	
Research Data Management/sharing Delivering equitable data sharing; a grassroots solution for EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence and beyond (HDR-A)	Michelle Nderu (chairing the IDDO session)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By - Laura Merson (IDDO Director) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bai Lamin Dondeh (Lead MRCG) - Badou Gaye (Lead data sharing platform-Gambia) 		
11:00 - 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea/coffee break • Networking 	



11:30 - 12:45	 SESSION 2: Thematic presentation and panel discussions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Framework for Managing Health Research Capacity Strengthening Consortia - By <i>Nadia Tagoe</i> (KNUST/DELTAS) 	Sam Kinyanjui (Chair for session-2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender & Geographical inclusivity in capacity building - By <i>Michelle Nderu</i> (EDCTP) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TGHN Africa, NOEs and beyond: scaling excellence in the African region - By <i>Frank Kagoro</i> (TGHN) & <i>Dennis Ssesanga</i> (UVRI/EACCR/TGHN) 	
11:30 - 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session rapporteur & organisers (wrap up) 	All

Speakers



**TRUDIE
LANG**

Trudie Lang is the Director of The Global Health Network (TGHN) and the Global Research Director for Health Data Research Global. She is a Professor of Global Health Research and a Senior Research Scientist in Tropical Medicine at the University of Oxford with over 20 years' experience in running clinical trials, including trials in the developing world, for the pharmaceutical industry, the World Health Organisation and in academia. Trudie focuses on combating diseases of poverty through the generation of high-quality evidence. She has worked in industry, academia and UN organisations. With her team and partners, she works to drive better health outcomes in vulnerable communities by enabling local leadership and ground-up implementation of high-quality health research studies.



**LEONARD
NUMFOR**

Leonard coordinated the Program on Immunization Leadership and Management Program Cohort 2. A Global Health Leadership Initiative (GHLI) in Yale, in partnership with PATH and University of Yaoundé I form the consortium sponsored by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. He is part of Central African Network on Clinical Trials (CANTAM) and oversees the management and implementation activities of PIs within each work package and assists the coordination team in Congo-Brazzaville in any other assigned technical tasks as the need arises in other related project. Leonard jointly manages the African coalition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training (ALERRT) and as The Global Health Network African Research Capacity and Knowledge Coordinator to reduce the public health and socio-economic impact of (re-)emerging and epidemic-prone infectious diseases through building a sustainable clinical and laboratory research preparedness and response network across sub-Saharan Africa. He holds a Masters' degree in Public Health (MPH) from the Catholic University of Central Africa-UCAC, and two other masters in Monitoring & Evaluation, and Sustainable Development (APDD) with the Université de Rennes 1 and University of Yaounde-2 (Soa) respectively.



**BAI LAMIN
DONDEH**

Bai Lamin developed his professional acumen by leading technological projects for some of the most renowned companies in The Gambia. He currently serves as the Head of Data Management & Architecture at the renowned Medical Research Council Gambia (MRCG) where he oversees a team of Clinical Data Managers, Data Analysts, and Data Support Assistants, all committed to providing the services to ensure the collection, management, and storage of high quality research data. He developed the first customized Biobank Sample Management System at the MRCG and spearheaded the development of their Electronic Medical Records Systems amongst other systems. Currently, he is the Work Package Lead for Data Management and ICT for the African CoaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training (ALERRT – <http://alerrt.global>) - a multi-disciplinary consortium of 21 partner countries from 13 institutions in African and Europe, working to build a patient-centred clinical research network to respond to epidemics across sub-Saharan Africa.



**BADOU
GAYE**

Badou is Head of Information Technology and High-Performance Computing at the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Badou is actively involved in IT and Data Management capacity building and data sharing. Currently, Badou is taking a lead role within the West African Network for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria (WANETAM), an EDCTP Network of Excellence to implement a data sharing platform for equitable sharing of health data in Africa. Badou has also worked in such capacity within the African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training (ALERRT) in building a robust ICT infrastructure and data management capabilities in poor-resource settings to respond to epidemics across sub-Saharan Africa.



**Laura
MERSON**

Laura is Head of Data at ISARIC (International Severe Acute Respiratory and emerging Infections Consortium) and Associate Director of the Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO). Based at the University of Oxford, Laura oversees ISARIC's and IDDO's strategy and operations related to the standardisation, collection, governance, and analysis of global data in epidemics and pandemics. This includes leadership of the Ebola Data Platform and the COVID-19 Data Platform. The latter hosts detailed clinical data on & 900,000 individuals hospitalised with COVID-19 from & 65 countries and has been used for dozens of analyses to accelerate a research-driven response to the pandemic.



**RODRIGUES
MATCHEVE**

Rodrigues is the Projects Coordinator based at Manhiça Health Research Centre in Mozambique. His expertise focuses on strategic administrative and financial management in corporate organizations, Grants and Projects Data Management. Rodrigues is also devoted to Capacity Building, Monitoring and Evaluation processes and stimulating networking between the project beneficiaries to further strengthen and build up collaborations between the research centres and universities. He significantly contributes to the generation and provision of key information to assist different users in making decisions. He has a special interest in Health economics and Policy, Strategic project planning and Grant Management system. Previously, he served as Head of Finance and Administrative Manager, and currently acting as a Project Manager and Coordinator officer for the multinational projects in Africa Southern Region TESA). He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance & Accounting from the University of Liverpool (UoL), United Kingdom.



**MICHELLE
NDERU**

Ms Michelle Nderu is a Project Officer of the EDCTP Association. She is a molecular biologist by training with experience in genetic engineering. She worked in the biotechnology industry as a life-science product research and development scientist and transitioned into the research management field as a research coordinator at the South African Medical Research Council (Research Management Division). In this position, she led and managed the development of the first SA-MRC online grants management system which resulted in the successful migration and digitization of the SA-MRC grants management process. In her current position at the EDCTP Association, Ms. Nderu is responsible for over € 30 million invested by the European Union into EDCTP's capacity building portfolio. The portfolio is geared towards improving health in Sub-Saharan African countries and increasing the pool of talented and resourceful researchers in Africa. She manages several multi-national consortia across Sub-Saharan Africa including the EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence and the EDCTP Fellowship Alumni platform. Ms Nderu has scientific, program and project management and strategic partnerships skills and is a Certified Professional Natural Scientist (Pr.Sci.Nat) with the South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP). She holds an MSc in Medicine from the University of Cape Town and has professional accreditations in Programme Management with a Monitoring and Evaluation Approach and Advanced Project Management.



**BERNARD
KIKAIRE**

Dr. Bernard Kikaire (MBChB, MSc Epi, PhD) is a medical epidemiologist, with a special interest in infectious diseases research. He is currently a lecturer on infectious diseases and research methods at the College of Health Sciences at Makerere University. He has more than 15 years of coordinating research projects and close to five years of coordinating EDCTP projects. He is the Scientific Liaison Officer and leader of HIV work Package of the Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR), a network of excellence funded by EDCTP. Bernard also coordinates activities of other EDCTP-funded projects including ALERRT and Pandora. He is also the leader of WP4 of the AccessAfrica project. He has almost 20 years of clinical research experience, especially in HIV research. He was one of the lead investigators in the recently concluded performance evaluation of the m-PIMA point of care viral load (PoC-VL) monitoring platform, which led to the adoption of the technology for use as PoCVL monitoring platform among pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers with HIV. He is currently the coordinating Principal investigator of the East African Point of Care Viral Load Monitoring study, which seeks to evaluate the effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability of Point of Care Viral Load monitoring in children and Adolescents in East Africa. Bernard has good experience in research ethics having been a member of the UVRI research and ethics Committee



**DR. FRANK
KAGORO**

Frank is a Senior Regional Manager at The Global Health Network, University of Oxford, UK. He is the Data Science and Pathfinder Projects Lead and also the Regional Manager for Africa. Frank is a research physician and a spatial epidemiologist with experience in public health research, clinical trials, surveillance, visualisation for policymaking and antimalarial drug resistance surveillance. Frank is also a part of the Epidemiology Department of the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Bangkok and a research fellow at the Centre for Optimising Antimalarial Therapy (CCOAT) of the University of Cape Town, South Africa.



**DENNIS
SSESANGA**

Dennis is a public health technologist, and science communicator who strives to use information communication technology (ICT) to improve the health of his community. He is a global health corps alumni previously attached to Intrahealth International where he spearheaded the activation and adoption of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) under the USAID-funded Strengthening Human Resources for Health (SHRH) Project. The EMIS is an ICT management tool that “integrates people, technology and practices in the process of collecting, capturing and processing data from different sources to generate information to aid informed decision making for operation and managerial functions of the education and sports sector. He holds a master’s degree in Public Health from Clarke International University. He currently works at Uganda Virus Research Institute(UVRI) as the Knowledge Management Officer supporting the EACCR/EDCTP program.



**JEAN
PIERRE K.
N’GUESSAN**

Jean Pierre K. N’Guessan is Programme Manager at the Institute of Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training (IRESSEF) in Dakar, Senegal. He is the Project Manager of the West African Network for TB, AIDS and Malaria (WANETAM) headquartered at IRESSEF. His career spans more than 21 years of experience in the management of development projects. Jean Pierre is a recognized Research Management Professional (RMP) by the International Professional Recognition Council (IPRC) and member of the IPRC STARS Programme. He is keen on promoting Research Management as a profession. He joined the West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA) of which he is the Public Relation Officer.



**DR. NADIA
TAGOE**

Nadia is a Researcher, Research Manager, and Adjunct Lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. As a Researcher, Nadia focuses on strengthening health research systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Her research interest is in global health policy and practice, with a current focus on capacity development and health research systems and practice. She is a DELTAS Fellow and a member of the DELTAS Learning Research Programme team led by the Centre for Capacity Research at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine which has been examining key components of Africa-led health research capacity strengthening including consortium management, knowledge translation and gender issues in research careers. As a Research Manager, Nadia is a distinguished professional with over 12 years' experience in research and grant management. She is currently the Grants and Research Manager at the Office of Grants and Research (OGR) at KNUST. an Adjunct Lecturer at the Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, KNUST, where she teaches and mentors postgraduate students. She holds a PhD in Development Policy and Practice (Global Health) from Open University in collaboration with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK, an MSc in Management and Implementation of Development Projects from University of Manchester, UK, and a BSc from KNUST, Ghana. She is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).



**PROFESSOR
SAM
KINYANJUI**

Sam is the Head of Training and Capacity Building at the KWTRP and Associate Professor at the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford. Prior to the current position at KWTRP, he spent 16 years doing research on the immunology of malaria. Subsequently, he developed a strong interest in building health research capacity in Africa. As the Director for the Initiative to Develop African Research Leaders (IDeAL) he has also overseen over 240 graduate interns, 150 Masters and over 80 PhD training since 2008.



**PROFESSOR
THUMBI
NDUNG'U**

Thumbi is the SANTHE Programme Director, based at the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) in Durban, South Africa, and Director of the University of KwaZulu-Natal's HIV Pathogenesis Programme (UKZN HPP), is interested in understanding antiviral immune mechanisms and viral adaptation in HIV-1 subtype C infection as a pathway to vaccine development. The development of a safe, affordable, and efficacious HIV-1 vaccine is perhaps the defining scientific challenge of our time. Rational vaccine design will require a better understanding of immune correlates of HIV-1 protection or control. His laboratory focuses on individuals who remain HIV negative despite possible repeated exposure to the virus and those infected who achieve durable viral control without the help of antiretroviral therapies. These individuals may hold the key to vaccine development or novel therapies.



**PROFESSOR
JUDE
IGUMBOR**

Jude is an Associate Professor and the Academic Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary PhD Programme in Public and Population Health in the School of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is also the Wits University Focal Person for the Consortium of Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA). He previously served as a Project Manager at Northwest University, South Africa in multi-million-dollar donor funded project on staff capacity building for teaching, research, and infrastructure development. He is the Curator of the CARTA Evidence platform (<https://carta-evidence.org/>), a website designed to showcase some impact of the CARTA network.



**DR. PASCALIA
MUNYEWENDE**

Pascalia has a rich and colourful academic background – She started off with a BSc. Hons. in Media and Society Studies from the Midlands State University in Gweru, Zimbabwe. Her quest for change found her at the Wits African Centre for Migration Studies where she obtained an MA in Forced Migration Studies. Needing additional change, she then studied for a Doctorate Degree in Public Health. Along the way she has managed projects as a student, a lecturer and as a researcher, and now as a Project Manager for the DELTAS Africa Sub-Saharan African Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics (SSACAB) training programme. SSACAB has provided her personal and professional growth and the opportunity to work with prominent biostatisticians and fellows. Pascalia believes it is important to support the development and growth of a strong biostatistical network through project management.



EDCTP

This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union