



Brussels, 28/09/2011

## For Your Editorial Planning

# THE EUROPEAN AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CLINICAL TRIALS PARTNERSHIP (EDCTP)

**Interview Opportunities with research and policy leaders from the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) and the EDCTP**

**WHEN?** 9-13 October 2011

**WHERE?** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
UNECA conference center

**WHAT?** The 6<sup>th</sup> biennial EDCTP forum presents recent achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Africa. At the same time, research policy leaders from the African Union and European Union will meet to prepare a political agenda for extended cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between Africa and Europe.

The EDCTP Forum will provide a unique opportunity for the media, to **meet policy makers from the AU and EU**, as well as **distinguished health researchers and clinicians from Africa and Europe**, and learn more about the prospects in the fight against poverty-related diseases and for innovation-led economic development.

The **European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) was created in 2003 by the European Union (EU)** in response to the global health crisis caused by the three main poverty-related diseases of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. It aims to accelerate the development of new or improved medical interventions against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

It is funded with **€ 400 million by the EU and 16 European partner countries**. Co-funding of currently around **€ 70 million comes from NGOs and industry**. Since 2003, EDCTP supported 188 projects with a total value of € 330 million involving researchers from **29 sub-Saharan African countries** and 14 European partner countries working in 148 research institutions in Africa and 51 in Europe. EDCTP succeeded to build an equal partnership between Europe and Africa. In this regard, it is worth noting that **62% of all EDCTP-funded projects are led by African researchers**.

## WHO?

- **Jean Ping**, Chairman of the African Union Commission
- **Jean-Pierre Ezin**, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission
- **Koen Vervaeke**, Ambassador of the European Union to the African Union
- **Robert-Jan Smits**, Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Pascoal Mocumbi**, High Representative of the EDCTP

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRESS**

### **Opening Ceremony, October 9, 17-20.30h**

The EDCTP forum will be opened by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission the Hon. Jean Ping and the Ethiopian Minister for Health the Hon Dr Tewodros Adhanom, and attended by leaders from the African Union, the European Union and the corresponding Member States. Moreover, distinguished researchers from Africa and Europe. The opening reception will allow to **mingle and interview people on the spot**.

### **Keynote Speeches , October 10, 9-11.00h**

The keynote speeches given by the AU Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, HE Jean-Pierre Ezin, and the Director-General for Research & Innovation at the European Commission, Mr Robert-Jan Smits, will provide a **perspective on the prospects of the EU-Africa partnership** in Science, Technology and Innovation, in particular with regard to global challenges and the current economic downturn.

### **EDCTP Award Ceremony, October 12, 16-17.30**

In recognition of outstanding scientific achievements, the EDCTP will **award two African scientists working on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria**. The award consists of a cash prize for a **junior scientist** (under 30 years old) and a **senior scientist**, and aims at fostering the research activities of the winners, with the ultimate aim of strengthening clinical research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Visits to Clinical Trial Sites, October 13**

EDCTP organises a visit to sites for clinical trials at research institutions funded by EDCTP, namely the **Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI, <http://ahri-alert.org>)** and the **Ethiopian Health & Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI, <http://ehnri.gov.et>)**. These visits will provide an opportunity to get first-hand information and interact with people at the forefront of clinical development and testing of medical interventions against tuberculosis and malaria, HIV/AIDS, polio, and influenza. It will also allow one to see the corresponding research laboratories and hospital facilities.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

For information on the **media opportunities at the EDCTP Forum:**

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If you would like to **attend the 6<sup>th</sup> EDCTP forum** or **participate in the site visits**, please contact:

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