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EDCTP: preannouncement of 2015 calls for proposals

January 2015 – The Hague: the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) has announced a series of calls for proposals which are expected to be launched in 2015:

- Improved treatment and clinical management of poverty-related diseases
- Strategic projects with major co-funding
- Ethics and Regulatory capacities
- EDCTP-TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships

(see: www.edctp.org/news/preannouncement-2015-calls-proposals-2/)

EDCTP seeks new Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for overall management of the programme and for the leadership of its administrative organisation, which is based in The Hague (NL) and in Cape Town (SA). For more, see www.edctp.org. For additional information or to apply, please contact EDCTP's search consultant: Dr Craig Smith at Opus Partners (craig.smith@opuspartners.net). Expressions of interest and formal applications are due by 31 March 2015. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

IMI launches 8 Ebola research projects with a total budget of €215 million

16 January 2015 – Brussels: the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is launching its first 8 projects on Ebola, covering vaccine development and manufacture, vaccine uptake, and diagnostics. The projects are part of the wider IMI Ebola+ programme, which is designed to contribute to efforts to tackle a broad range of challenges in Ebola research while complementing work supported by other funding bodies. Support for these comes from the EU's Horizon 2020 and the EFPIA partners in the projects.

(see: www.imi.europa.eu/content/ebola-project-launch – contact: catherine.brett@imi.europa.eu)

Pan African University – last elements fall into place

30 January 2015 – Addis Ababa: at the African Union Summit, the decision was taken to host the rectorate of the Pan African University (PAU) in Cameroon and to appoint Prof. Tolly Mbvette (Tanzania) as its President and Prof. Paulo Horácio de Sequeira e Carvalho (Angola) as its Vice President.

This follows the recent decision to establish the PAU's 5th hub – for Space Sciences – in South Africa.

The PAU also published a call for applications for students for the 2015/16 academic year, which closed on 28 February 2015, for candidates from African countries and the Diaspora to join Masters or PhD programmes in the 4 existing PAU institutes.

(see: <http://hrst.au.int/en/content/pan-african-university-call-applications-20152016-academic-year>)

ANDi consults experts on future orientations

20-22 January 2015 – Addis Ababa: ANDi, the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation, which supports the development of promising African-based healthcare solutions, convened a meeting to review ANDi's role, approach and funding possibilities. The meeting addressed a number of health issues, as well as cross-cutting issues (capacity-building, priority-setting, financing & regulatory facilitation).

(see: www.andi-africa.org – contact: Solomon Nwaka, Executive Director, ANDi - SolomonN@unops.org)

Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards

31 January 2015 - Addis Ababa: at the AU Summit, the 2014 Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards were presented to Prof. Salim Abdool Karim, CAPRISA, South Africa, for his work on microbicides for HIV/AIDS prevention; and Prof. Timoléon Crépin Kofané, University of Yaoundé, Cameroon, for his work in physics. The EU has sponsored these scientific awards since 2012 (2015 contribution US\$400,000) and is a member of the advisory panel which advises the AUC on policy issues and operational modalities.

(http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/press_corner/all_news/news/2015/20150210_en.htm)

EU-SA Space week

23-27 February 2015 – Pretoria & Cape Town: EU representatives met their South African colleagues during a series of events surrounding the 6th EU-South African Space Dialogue, including an ESASTAP Plus workshop to share information on South African and EU policies, strategies, experiences and support instruments to guide & support cooperation and a workshop on the co-location of research infrastructures.

(ESASTAP Plus workshop programme: www.esastap.org.za/download/invite_26february2015.pdf)

INSERM-led EU-funded clinical trial shows promising results in treating Ebola

24 February 2015 – Paris: the first results of a clinical trial in Guinea to test the efficacy of favipiravir in reducing mortality in those infected by the Ebola virus has given encouraging signs of efficacy. The trial is sponsored by INSERM and funded the EU's Horizon 2020 programme as the REACTION project.

(<http://presse-insERM.fr/en/preliminary-results-of-the-jiki-clinical-trial-to-test-the-efficacy-of-favipiravir-in-reducing-mortality-in-individuals-infected-by-ebola-virus-in-guinea/18076/>)

Renewable Energy R&I needs: validation workshop

24 February 2015 – Brussels: a validation workshop on research cooperation in Renewable Energy (RE) was held to consolidate and fine tune the findings of a study on RE and research & innovation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), which is intended to make recommendations on how to launch research and innovation programmes that would be beneficial to both the EU and SSA. (www.ecorys.com/news/ecorys-contributes-identifying-potential-research-and-innovation-cooperation-between-eu-and-sub)

Horizon 2020 workshop on ICT and Security Research in South Africa

27 February 2015 – Pretoria: the Department of Science & Technology (DST) organised an information dissemination workshop on Horizon 2020 support for the ICT and Secure Societies themes.

(contact: Barend Taute, CSIR - BTaute@csir.co.za)

Upcoming events:

- 5-6 March 2015 (NEW DATES) – London: **3rd meeting of EU-Africa HLPD Expert Working Group**
- 9-11 April (NEW DATES) – Equatorial Guinea: **CARIMA Annual Conference & training workshops** on "Promoting Intra-Regional Collaboration in Research and Innovation: Stakes and Challenges" that will include a **Horizon 2020 information session** by the CAAST-Net Plus project (www.caast-net-plus.org) (www.carima-net.org/en/Annual-Conference) - contact: Josepha Foba Tendo (jnfoba@gmail.com).
- 14-16 April – Addis Ababa: **WSIS+10 and Beyond: Outcomes & Perspectives for Africa** (www.uneca.org/WSIS10)
- 28-30 April – Cape Town: **Africa Gender Summit "for quality R&I"** (<http://gender-summit.com>)
- 5-8 May – Lilongwe, Malawi: **IST-Africa 2015** (www.ist-africa.org/conference2015)
- 10-11 May – Johannesburg: **CAAST-Net Plus annual meeting** in conjunction with ACU-SARIMA conference (www.caast-net-plus.org/object/event/1049), incl. joint session on DRUSSA (www.drussa.net).
- 10-14 May – Johannesburg: **ACU-SARIMA conference** (www.acusarima.com)
- 20-22 May – Addis Ababa: **eLearning Africa** conf. on ICT for Development, Education and Training (www.elearning-africa.com)
- 27-28 May – Accra: **Horizon 2020 training course for National Contact Points** (TBC)
- 24-26 June – Addis Ababa: **PopPov Research Conference** on Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Development (<http://poppov.org/Events/2015/Ninth-Annual-PopPov-Conference.aspx>)

Website of EU Delegation to the African Union (AU): http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union
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