

Case Study: South Africa's Participation in the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnerships (EDCTP) & Strategic Health Innovations Partnerships Programme (SHIP)

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14 January 2014



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Context

- EDCTP background
- South Africa support for EDCTP
- Preparations for EDCTP 2
- SHIP
- Going forward



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EDCTP

- The EDCTP is a programme funded by the European Union:
 - to accelerate the development of new clinical interventions to fight **HIV/AIDS**, **Malaria** and **Tuberculosis** in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa
 - improve the quality of research in relation to these diseases



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Participation in EDCTP

- South Africa has actively Participated in EDCTP since 2004
- The programme has committed a total of **€35 174 392** (about R420 million) to projects
- With participants from 21 South African institutions.



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DST Support to EDCTP

- To promote SA participation, the DST has established a **co-investment funding** instrument to support South African researcher's participation in the EDCTP funded projects.
 - The co-investments are made in addition to the financial assistance received from the EDCTP programme as well as the South African participants' own investment in the project.



DST Support to EDCTP

- So far DST has committed a total amount of **R3 417 369** to **6 EDCTP** funded projects implemented by South African researchers/institutions.
- The first phase of EDCTP ended in December 2013



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Participation in EDCTP Activities in preparation for EDCTP 2

- DST and European Commission (EC), organised a first high-level consultation with African and international stakeholders. The conference was held in November 2012 in Cape Town.
 - Ministers Hanekom and Motsoaledi participated in the conference and co-hosted. The event formed part of the 15-year anniversary of the European Union and South Africa Science and Technology (EU-SA S&T) agreement



Post the November Conference

- Organisation of meetings with the EDCTP and the MRC to discuss:
 - the South African health innovation programmes, the funding and possible synergy and partnership with the EDCTP2.
- Very significant was the EDCTP workshop of the Southern and Eastern African networks entitled “Strategic Agenda for partners of Eastern and Southern Africa (SAPESA)” held as a side event to the 2013 SA-EU Summit.



Post the Nov Conference

- Which led to the organisation of the second conference that was held on 21 October 2013 at the Senegal:
 - Further provide African input into the planning for EDCTP2 and to announce commitments and pledges to the programme.
 - Most critically the event focused on the governance of the partnership and the modalities for African participation.



Strategic Health Innovation Partnerships (SHIP)

- Related to the work of the EDCTP, the DST also facilitated the creation of the Strategic Health Innovation Partnerships (SHIP) unit at the Medical Research Council (MRC)
- MRC established this new initiative on health product research and development in 2012
 - Funds projects that contribute to developing new preventions, diagnostics, therapies and devices
- DST is investigating the possibility of creating a Grand Challenge Africa programme with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



ROLE OF SHIP

- Actively **manage** and **co-ordinate** health innovation in South Africa within the strategic disease and technology focus areas.
- Provide **strategy scientific leadership**, through the scientific advisory committees for each disease area.
- Act as a **funding agency** for leading multi-disciplinary projects. Where appropriate, use funds flexibility between disease focus areas based on project needs.
- Co-ordinate peer review of research proposals and feed these into the scientific advisory committee for approval/rejection.
- Ensure operational efficiencies and maximisation of research funding.



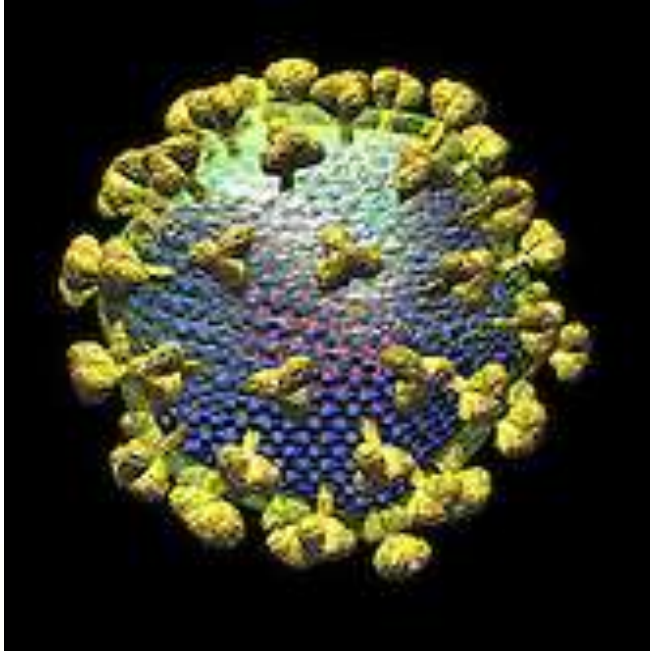
ROLE OF SHIP

- Ensure that SHIP research is globally aligned and competitive through collaboration with other Product Development Partnerships (PDPs)
- Co-ordinate disease specific research in Southern Africa and be a focal point for interactions with pan-African groups involved in health research and innovation (such as ANDI) and international collaborations (such as India/Brazil/South Africa trilateral agreements)

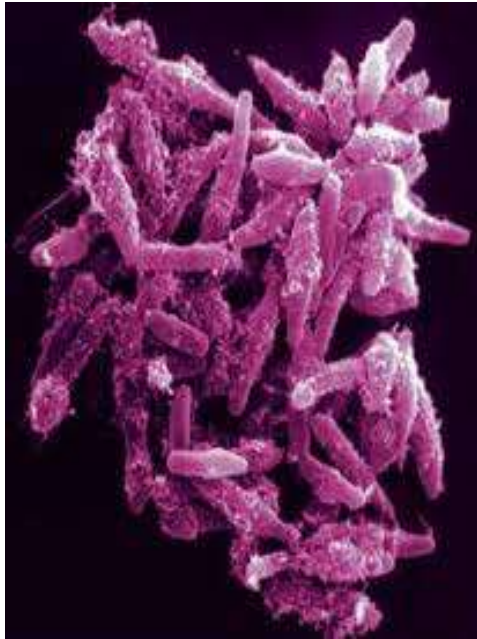


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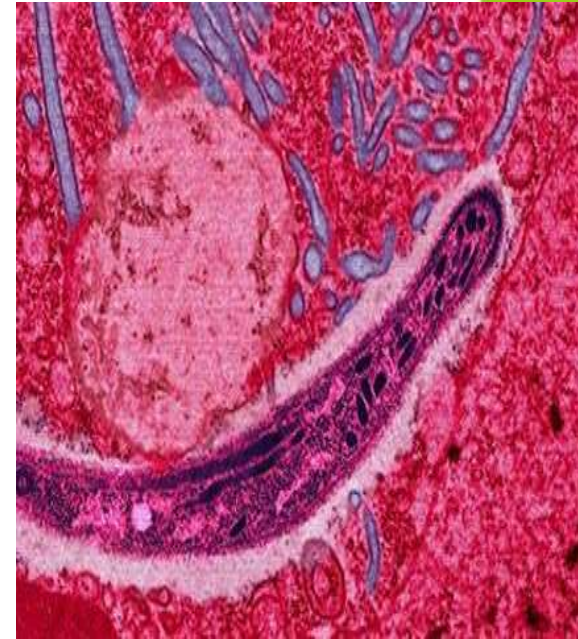
Which diseases are priority?



HIV



TB



Malaria



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Which technologies?

The four technologies that SHIP will fund are:

- diagnostic tests
- vaccines
- tablets
- devices

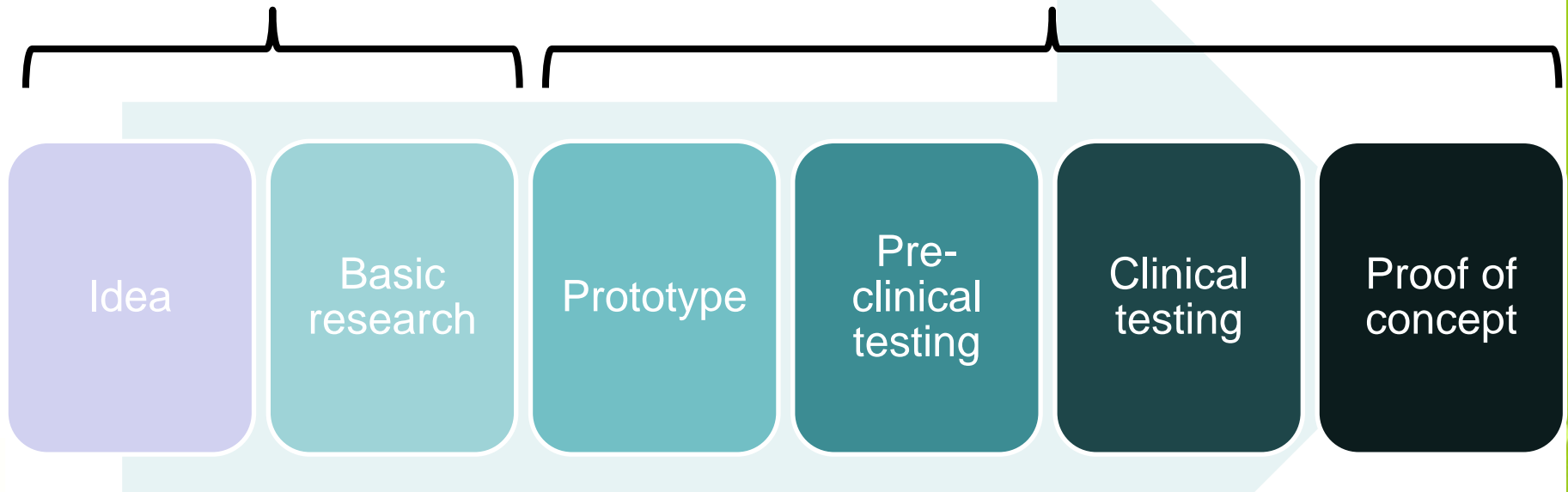


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Technology development pathway

MRC Self-initiated grants

SHIP grants



Progress to date

- The focus is now on linking various activities involving the EDCTP, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Council for Health Research for Development (COHRED) and the MRC.
- The candidate Malaria drug, **MMV390048**, discovered by Prof Kelly Chibale of the University of Cape Town, will be the first African discovered and developed drug that will utilise the EDCTP network once it reaches the Phase II clinical trial stage



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Progress to date

- The EU availed funding through the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) to assist SA Government departments in organising events to raise visibility of EU-funded cooperation projects in their portfolios.
- Together with DIRCO, DST was the first department to showcase the projects due to the successful partnership in science and technology on 21 Nov 2013 in Cape Town. The event was attended by the Deputy Minister.
- SA has expressed interest in joining the EDCTP General Assembly



Examples of EDCTP Projects

- “Preparing for adolescent HIV vaccine trials in South Africa (SASHA)” project (2008-2011)
- led by Prof Linda-Gail Bekker. The aim of the project was to identify clinical, community, ethical, legal and socio-behavioural obstacles to the conduct of adolescent HIV vaccine trials in South Africa.



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THANK YOU!



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