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Greetings from Gaborone!

Thank you to colleagues at all sites who have been working tirelessly on submissions these last months. We are now ready to open the Botswana site to recruitment, and the SIV will take place on Monday 8th January 2018.

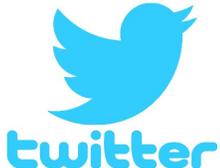
We held a very successful Health Economics Course in Blantyre from 20th—24th November. There was a great mix of delegates and we have exciting plans to develop the work that was started during the course. We are already preparing for the first face-to-face Trials Network Meeting in Lilongwe in January. The 2018 Investigators’ Meeting is likely to take place from Monday 21st—Friday 25th May 2018, with location TBC.



We also have a project Twitter account, and we are developing the AMBITION website, to include a dedicated section for the Trials Network.

After an extremely busy and exciting year, I wish you all an extremely restful and enjoyable break, and look forward with anticipation to 2018!

**Best wishes,
Joe**



@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage colleagues to ‘follow’ us!

Summary of ethical submissions and approvals:

Institutional review	Ethical Approval	Regulatory Approval
<p>Submitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Cape Town, South Africa • Institute of Infectious Diseases, Uganda • Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi • Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Malawi • University of Zimbabwe 	<p>Submitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Cape Town, South Africa Human Research Ethics Committee on 04/09, comments received and response submitted 05/12 • Mulago Hospital Institutional Review Board, Uganda, on 22/11, discussed 13/12 	<p>Submitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine Control Council, South Africa, 03/11 <p>The team is currently preparing the application forms for submissions in all other countries.</p>
<p>Approval/Letter of Support received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Cape Town, South Africa • Institute of Infectious Diseases, Uganda • Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi • Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Malawi • University of Zimbabwe 	<p>Approval Issued from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Botswana 22/09 • Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, 17/10 • National Health Sciences Research Committee, Malawi, 07/12 	<p>Approval Issued from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Regulatory Unit, Botswana, 24/11
<p>Decision pending from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nobody! 		

Health Economics Course: Blantyre, 20th—24th November 2017

The Health Economics sub-study is a key component of the AMBITION trial, and it is essential that any health and cost benefits associated with using Ambisome are accurately recorded. The expectation is that the short course treatment:

1. Will show a zero net societal cost change or that there will be societal cost savings from the short course L-AmB treatment, reducing hospitalization costs over the trial time horizon.
2. Will be cost-effective in terms of societal and service cost of life years saved within the diversity of Sub-Saharan settings when compared to historical cohorts receiving the current standard treatment regimen in each country.
3. That the economic evidence will support wide-scale implementations.

From 20th-24th November The Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Centre hosted Prof. Louis Niessen from LSTM, and David and Nabila from the AMBITION Trial Management Group.

Together the team delivered a Health Economics course at the Ryalls Hotel, Blantyre. 30 delegates attended, including a mixture of individuals from all AMBITION sites, and local professionals interested in developing their understanding of the subject.

The course provided the opportunity to learn about the fundamental principles of Health Economics. Delegates were then able to put this theory into practice with costing and cost-effectiveness exercises using examples from similar studies. As the week progressed delegates became more confident with these principles and helped develop the data collection tools and costing plans for the AMBITION study. Going forward, delegates are now able to collect meaningful data to contribute to this important study.



A huge thank you to all at MLW for hosting us for this course, particularly Dr. Henry Mwandumba and Zikani Phiri, and of course to Prof. Niessen for leading the course.



African Meningitis Trials Network (AMTNET)

We are pleased to welcome to the team **Phum'lani Gaone Machao, our new Network Administration & Communications Officer!**

I am the Administration & Communications Officer for the African Meningitis Trials Network for the AMBITION Study. I started on 1st November 2017, and my role includes providing administrative and office support to the establishment and coordination of the African Meningitis Trials Network. I am also responsible for providing communications support and knowledge for the Network.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (Malaysia) and I have three years' experience in Public Relations & Communications. I have worked in both government and NGO settings where I garnered a broad range of competencies in strategic public relations planning, media relations, image and reputation management, stakeholder relations and issues & crisis management.



The 1st AMTNET Face-to-Face Meeting

We are very excited to host the 1st AMTNET face-to-face meeting! The meeting is scheduled to take place in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 30th—31st January 2018. This meeting will be attended by site Investigators or their delegates from the AMBITION study sites, and also colleagues from the UK, who will be the point people for the Network at each site. The purpose of this meeting is to pursue further discussions on the Network deliverables, specifically focusing on the situational analysis for the current screening, diagnosis and treatment for meningitis across the current AMBITION study sites.

AMTNET was established in October 2017. A steering committee made up of at least one senior representative from each AMBITION participating centre in Africa and the UK has been established to oversee the functioning and sustenance of the Network. Specifically, the AMTNET steering committee is mandated to:

- Establish a functional African Meningitis Trials Network which is operational during and after the AMBITION trial.
- Facilitate the launch of further multi-site meningitis trials in Africa.
- Develop research capacity and experience at African sites.
- Facilitate collaboration between African investigators and external experts.
- Maintain active collaboration and share learning between AMBITION trial sites.
- Ensure that the African Meningitis Trials Network meets its milestones and deliverables in accordance with the EDCTP funding.

In order to achieve the above objectives, there is a need for active and regular communication, collaboration and experience sharing between sites and relevant stakeholders. The steering committee will continue to hold regular teleconference meetings and meet physically at least twice per year—hence this planned meeting in January 2018.

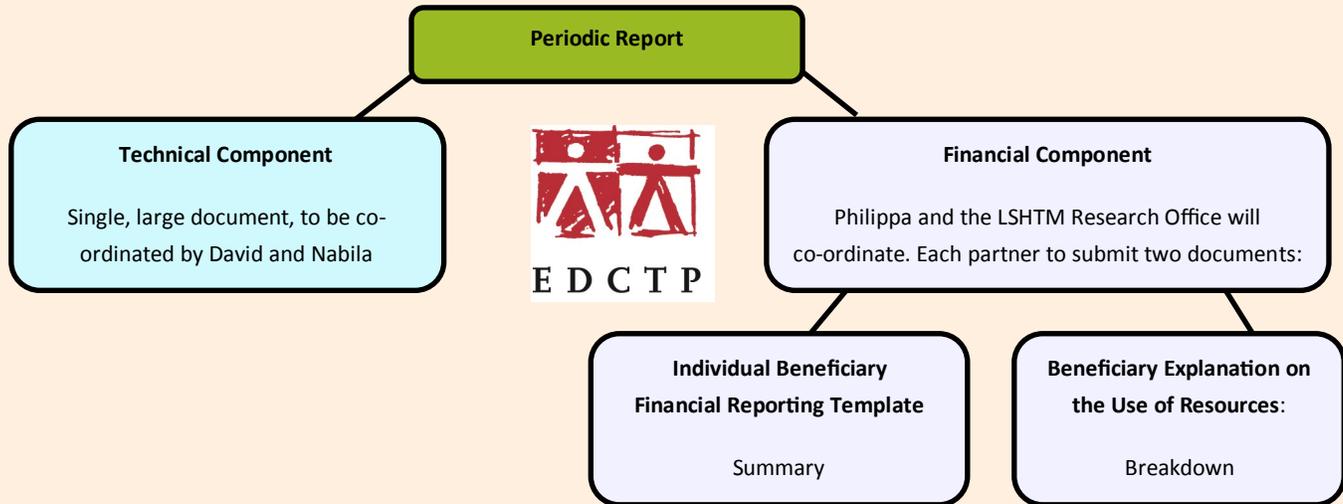
We are looking forward to a very fruitful and exciting meeting.

Happy Holidays,

Dr Mosepele Mosepele & Team

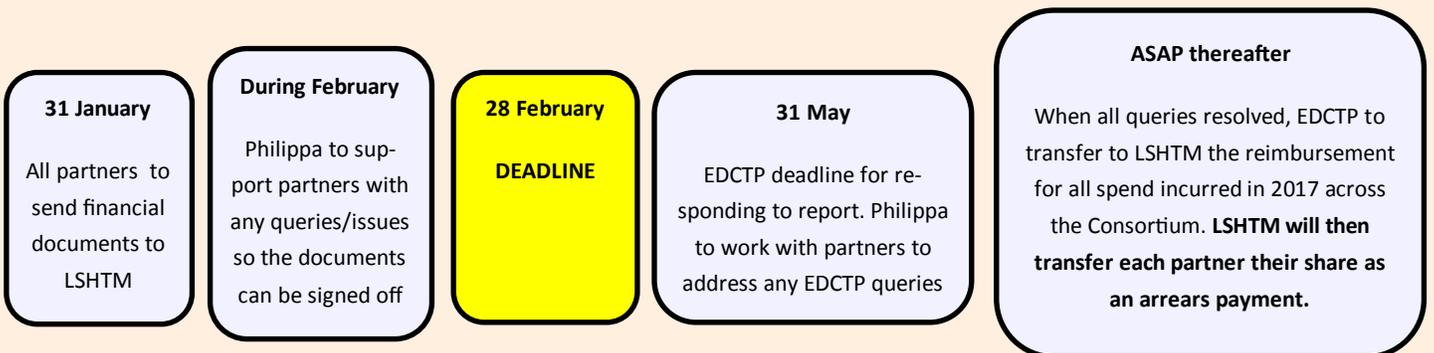
EDCTP Periodic Reporting

Our first EDCTP Periodic (Annual) Report is due on **28 February 2018, for the reporting period 1 January—31 December 2017**. Philippa (Financial & Administrative Project Manager) discussed the financial reporting schedule and templates with partners during her visits to Africa in October and November. There are two components:



Philippa has developed a comprehensive Excel tool to assist partners with their reporting of personnel costs under H2020 rules. She will provide full support to partners during January and February.

The timeline for 2018 will be as follows:



Thank you for your co-operation with this important part of the project.

Seasons Greetings!