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Prof Sharon Prince
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Dr. Henning Gädeke
c/o Dr. Michael Makanga.
Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d’Or
1060 Brussels
Belgium

25 September 2025

Re: Institutional Support for A/Prof Paolo Denti’s application to the Strengthening Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia Programme

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the University of Cape Town (UCT), I write to express our full support for the application, by A/Prof Paolo Denti, to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking’s Global collaborative action for strengthening the Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia. In my capacity as Deputy Dean: Research, I confirm our strong support for the application entitled, “The Research Alliance for Pandemic Innovation & Drug Development (RAPID)”.

UCT, through its Vision 2030, is committed to "unleashing human potential to create a fair and just society." This strategic vision is anchored in three core pillars: Excellence, Transformation, and Sustainability. UCT aims to foster inclusive, socially responsive education and research that addresses complex global challenges, particularly those relevant to Africa. The university emphasises innovation in teaching, the development of globally engaged graduates, and the production of knowledge that contributes to a sustainable future. In alignment with these objectives, UCT leads the MARC SE-Africa consortium, a 48-month project funded by the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. This initiative focuses on tackling malaria drug resistance in Southeast Africa and exemplifies UCT’s commitment to impactful, collaborative research that strengthens health systems and scientific capacity across the continent. The project reflects UCT’s broader goal of leveraging international partnerships to advance health equity and scientific excellence in Africa.

UCT will serve as a core African partner in The Research Alliance for Pandemic Innovation & Drug Development (RAPID), a 60-month Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action. UCT’s contribution is primarily in-kind (IKOP), leveraging its accredited clinical research sites, laboratories, and expert teams in clinical pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacometric modelling. UCT’s involvement directly supports the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking objectives by strengthening epidemic

preparedness, expanding African clinical trial capacity, and including under-represented populations such as pregnant and breastfeeding women, children, and people living with HIV/TB. UCT adds value through its research excellence, robust South–South and North–South collaborations, and commitment to training African scientists and building sustainable capacity.

UCT's contribution aligns with HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-03-NETWORKS-01-two-stage: Strengthening Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia. Through RAPID, UCT will enhance regional research networks, outbreak-ready clinical trial capacity, and sustainable partnerships, positioning Africa as a leader in epidemic preparedness.

UCT will lead work in clinical pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacometric modelling, and early-phase clinical trials at its accredited sites. It will provide clinical sample analysis and capacity building and training (transfer of methodology) to other African scientist, mentor trainees, and support community engagement and ethics. Deliverables include clinical trial data, assay method development, modelling outputs, training workshops, and community engagement reports, all strengthening Africa's rapid response capacity for future epidemics.

We look forward to a successful outcome from this application and thank you for your support of our research endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Prince', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sharon Prince
Deputy Dean: Research