



Corner / Somhlolo and Sigwili St.  
Kent Rock, Mbabane, Eswatini  
PO Box 110  
Mbabane  
H100  
Phone: (+268) 2409 6000  
<https://baylorfoundationeswatini.org>  
Email: [info@baylorfoundationeswatini.org](mailto:info@baylorfoundationeswatini.org)

Dr. Henning Gädeke, Chair of the EDCTP Association Board and the Global Health EDCTP3

C/O Dr. Michael Makanga, Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d'Or

1060 Brussels

Belgium

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

### **Letter of endorsement**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Eswatini, Corner/Somhlolo and Sigwili Street Kent Rock, Mbabane, VAT number 100378968, PIC number 881543276 and in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe and specifically Article 9 therein, I hereby submit an application to become a contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU).

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Eswatini (BCMCF) is registered under The Kingdom of Eswatini Companies Act No. 8 of 2009 as a not-for-profit organization. The company registration number is R7/25017. BCMCF has as a state-of-the-art pediatric TB Center of Excellence located in Mbabane which has been operational for 19 years (since 2006). We also operate additional two satellite sites in Manzini and Hlathikhulu in Eswatini. Our services delivered by over 100 experienced staff include child-focused and family-centered HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services, tuberculosis screening, clinical research and trials, control and treatment and treatment for other concurrent diseases. We care for over 5,500 patients at all BCMCF sites.



Romania • Botswana • Lesotho • Malawi • Eswatini • Uganda • Tanzania  
Papua New Guinea • Angola • Colombia • Argentina

[www.BIPAI.org](http://www.BIPAI.org)



Corner / Somhlolo and Sigwili St.  
Kent Rock, Mbabane, Eswatini  
PO Box 110  
Mbabane  
H100  
Phone: (+268) 2409 6000  
<https://baylorfoundationeswatini.org>  
Email: [info@baylorfoundationeswatini.org](mailto:info@baylorfoundationeswatini.org)

Aligned to the common objectives with Global Health EDCTP3 JU specifically to strengthen research capacity to prepare for and respond to re-emerging infectious diseases, and promote the development and uptake of new or improved health technologies, BCMCF has a fully equipped laboratory which is capable of conducting TB diagnostics, chemistry, hematology, CD4 and other complemented numerous point of care diagnostic tests. We conduct clinical research capacity building to young researchers and perform clinical and operational research at our sites. BCMCF is supported by Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital to place experienced Scientists who support the organization in performing clinical research and skills sharing. Our Scientists receive support from the United States National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, European Development Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), UNOPS Stop TB Partnership TB Reach program, and the Thrasher Fund to continue to explore novel diagnostic strategies to improve the diagnosis of HIV and TB in children and people living with HIV while grasping the immune mechanisms underlying TB disease, HIV and helminth infections. We are part of a global network for genomic diagnostics and surveillance on lung pathogens with a focus on drug resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

BCMCF has funding from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation to perform cancer screening and introduce an Artificial Intelligence gadget to accurately and quickly detect cervical cancer cells for immediate diagnosis and treatment. BCMCF served as the Medical Research partner for the EDCTP sponsored Pharmacovigilance Africa Project and works collaboratively with the National Pharmacovigilance Unit to expand uptake of pharmacovigilance systems. We currently are in a European Commission consortium for EX-DR TB.

BCMCF is continuously involved with numerous epidemiologic retrospective analyses working both with partners inside of Eswatini as well as across the Baylor Global Health Network to explore the impact of HIV programmatic interventions and evaluate influencers of TB/HIV outcomes.

BCMCF's contribution will be on strengthening ethical regulatory authorities in Eswatini; Strengthening research in Eswatini and move it toward international compliance; Participate and promote in networking and dialogue between African researchers, communities, and policymakers to increase the impact of clinical research.

We shall leverage on our experience in implementation of previous TESA activities. BCMCF has been able to support TB sequencing research in Eswatini and accelerated translation of results to policy. BCMCF also strengthens research capacities, and we

do this by offering young researchers training platforms through funding from NIH. One female BCMCF employee is also pursuing her PhD supported by the TAGENDI



Romania • Botswana • Lesotho • Malawi • Eswatini • Uganda • Tanzania  
Papua New Guinea • Angola • Colombia • Argentina

[www.BIPAI.org](http://www.BIPAI.org)

fellowship program under TESA III. Two female Baylor employees have also successfully fulfilled their Masters in Science through EDCPT support under TESA III. To increase health security, BCMCF works in collaboration with the National Public Health Laboratory, Ethical regulation and National Research office to strengthen research and capacity for preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics.

Specific proposed involvement under this proposal is as follows:

Work Package 1 – The site Principal Investigator will provide overall leadership and oversight of the project in Eswatini. She will ensure that all TESA IV deliverables are met timely and communicate with work package leaders and node leaders for support of the site. Financial management will be done at site level for delivery and accountability of funds received.

Work Package 2 – Our responsibility will be to promote the TESA network activities across the region and to expand the network by on-boarding to involve other countries that are not yet part of the network. We shall also promote the network within Ministry of Health in Eswatini and act as a direct link between the government and the TESA network. BCMCF shall participate in annual general assembly and scientific meetings as scheduled.

Work Package 3 – To strengthen epidemiological capacity for surveillance, detection, response and research in complex health emergencies, BCMCF will participate in mapping exercise to identify existing epidemic preparedness and response capacity across the consortium including with NPHIs and MOHs. This will enable Eswatini and the consortium to understand available human resources, laboratory and clinical research infrastructure, and data collection and data use capacity that can be leveraged during health emergencies. Identified gaps will be translated into an action plan to be implemented by Eswatini with support from the TESA Network. BCMCF will make available the fully functional laboratory for validation of novel diagnostic tests already in the market to prepare for outbreaks. The organization will participate in joint clinical trials for on-the-job training in malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Work Package 4 – To improve technology development and innovation within the Network, BCMCF will adopt the already developed next-generation diagnostic tools, integrating mobile health (mHealth) solutions, and rollout digital data collection platforms in Eswatini. We shall promote capacity built from TESA III, including data management, data analysis and data sharing across the network and participate in Data Trainings for sustainable work in Eswatini.

Work Package 5 – To build capacity & Mentorship Programme in clinical research and clinical trials, BCMCF shall continue to support training for PhD fellow as it relates to clinical research in Eswatini.

Work Package 6 – For community empowerment and partnership building, BCMCF will create plain-language materials (digital leaflets, video narratives) to communicate clinical and behavioural research to local communities. We shall ensure that education materials and videos on research findings are produced in plain and simple language.

We estimate the total value of this contribution to be **396,269.99 EUR** over 60 months. This has been derived from in-kind and financial contributions with staff level of effort who will work on the project but will not be paid, training effort and a portion of the laboratory facilities to be used in Eswatini for clinical research under this project.

**We confirm the following:**

1. We will comply with the Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) No 2021/695; Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe; the Model Grant Agreement for Horizon Europe and applicable Global Health EDCTP3 JU rules, including the relevant work programmes and in particular the call conditions therein.
2. We will keep all information received in the context of our involvement as contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 JU confidential. This confidentiality obligation applies in particular but is not limited to the areas of Global Health EDCTP3 JU call topic preparation and publication, proposal submission and evaluation, and consortium formation. We further understand that this obligation strictly prohibits the release of confidential information to any legal entities save where specifically authorised by Global Health EDCTP3 JU. Internal dissemination of information within our organisation will be done on the basis of the “need-to-know” principle.
3. We are confident of our ability to fulfil the above commitments and further confirm our understanding that the Global Health EDCTP3 JU will allocate resources to the above topic based on these commitments.
4. The value of our contribution will be based on costs calculated in accordance with Article 6 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.



Corner / Somhlolo and Sigwili St.  
Kent Rock, Mbabane, Eswatini  
PO Box 110  
Mbabane  
H100  
Phone: (+268) 2409 6000  
<https://baylorfoundationeswatini.org>  
Email: [info@baylorfoundationeswatini.org](mailto:info@baylorfoundationeswatini.org)

5. We accept that additional modalities regarding the provision of our contribution may be defined in subsequent agreements or documents, such as a funding agreement and topic text.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Makhosazana Dlamini".

Makhosazana Dlamini  
Executive Director

---