



University of Cape Town Lung Institute (Pty) Ltd

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**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
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d’Or
1060 Brussels
Belgium**

27 August 2025

Letter of endorsement

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of the University of Cape Town Lung Institute, George Street, Mowbray, Cape Town, South Africa, registration number: 2006/000209/07 (UCTLI), to express our full support for the above-named application to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU). In my capacity as Managing Director of the UCTLI, a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Cape Town, I confirm our Institutional commitment to the proposed research program led by Professor Keertan Dheda.

Professor Dheda is a highly cited South African investigator, and a global research and key opinion leader in the field of TB. He is a clinician scientist who has dedicated his work life to the study and management of infectious diseases in low-income TB-endemic areas including South Africa, India, and several countries in Africa. He is Head of the Respiratory Service at Groote Schuur Hospital, and Director of the Centre for Lung Infection and Immunity, a fully UCT accredited research centre. He also co-holds a faculty appointment as Professor of Mycobacteriology and Global Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

TB continues to be the most common infectious disease killer globally. Professor Dheda’s earlier body of work has focused on the evaluation of new tools to improve the diagnosis of TB and the application of these tools to maximise patient benefit, which embodies the Institute’s strategy to pursue research innovation and impact health equity. Through this work he published a series of original seminal papers, shaped guidelines and impacted global policy including that of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The UCT LI and site PI, Prof Keertan Dheda, will lead WP5, which aims to build clinical trials capacity in response to emerging pandemics. Prof Dheda and his team will achieve this through coordinating a variety of training workshops and mentorship programs. This will enable participants to gain expertise in trial design, regulatory compliance, data management, and other related areas.

The initiative, led by Prof Dheda, will strengthen infrastructure and institutional partnerships, upgrade clinical trial units and data centres, and establish national epidemic research readiness. By integrating behavioural sciences into research, we can create a sustainable, skilled, and inclusive workforce to advance clinical research and enhance epidemic response in sub-Saharan Africa, which aligns with the EDCTP3 objectives.



These outputs in WP5 led by Prof Dheda and the UCTLI will reinforce the EDCTP3 mission to improve the health of people in Africa through effective and sustainable clinical research initiatives.

We estimate the total value of this contribution to be EUR 808, 582.

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.
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.

Professor Dheda is on a permanent/ tenured UCT post. We will continue to provide him with the appropriate space, core infrastructure and resources from the start date to the end date of the award (including bronchoscopy and clinical profiling infrastructure). In alignment with UCT/ UCTLI’s commitment to staff development and training, Professor Dheda as well as the staff employed through this grant will have 10 days a year to undertake training and continuing professional development as required. A system of onboarding, embedding and planning will also be implemented.

In summary, this application is strongly supported by the UCTLI and is closely aligned with our vision of undertaking research that is relevant to the needs of Africa and beyond. I have no hesitation in unreservedly supporting Keertan Dheda for this application.

Yours sincerely,



28/08/2025 11:25:04(UTC+02:00) 

Honorary Professor Rod Dawson
Managing Director
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