

Henning Gädeke - Chair (Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Governing Board)
c/o Michael Makanga - Executive Director (Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking)
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,

On behalf of Wits Diagnostic Innovation Hub, Faculty of Health Sciences, Wits University and Wits Health Consortium, 31 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown, Reg No: 97/15443/07 and in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 of 19th November 2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe and specifically Article 9 therein, I hereby apply to become a contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU).

Introduction to Wits DIH and Alignment with EDCTP3 JU Objectives

The Wits Diagnostic Innovation Hub (Wits DIH), operating under the Wits Health Consortium, is a leading centre for translational research, diagnostic innovation, and capacity building in Africa. Our mission aligns strongly with the Global Health EDCTP3 JU objectives of strengthening research capacity, advancing equitable access to innovation, and enhancing Africa's readiness to respond to epidemic and pandemic threats. As the Scientific Lead Institution for the EPIDEMIC Fellowship Programme, Wits DIH provides governance, scientific integration, and oversight for a multi-country consortium spanning South Africa, Zambia, Ghana, Ethiopia, and the Netherlands. Our strategic vision supports North-South and South-South partnerships, open science principles, and equitable access to cutting-edge methodologies and infrastructure.

Contribution to Global Health EDCTP3 JU

Wits DIH's contribution will be provided in-kind and directly supports the objectives of Global Health EDCTP3 JU by advancing high-quality, practice-based training and research for a new generation of African public health leaders. Specifically, Wits DIH will:

- Serve as the overall Scientific Project Lead for the EPIDEMIC Fellowship, ensuring strong governance, integration, and policy alignment.
- Lead Work Packages 2 to 5, which include:
 - WP2 – Scientific Project Leadership
 - WP3 – Fellowship Management & Coordination
 - WP4 – Outputs Related to Project Goals
 - WP5 – Communication & Knowledge Dissemination
- Contribute to open-access capacity-building resources, digital health infrastructure, and the integration of fellows into national and regional health systems.

Scope, Relevance, and Added Value

Our participation ensures:

- **Scientific Excellence:** Leveraging Wits DIH's expertise in diagnostics, epidemiology, biostatistics, ID modelling, bioinformatics, and health systems innovation.
- **Capacity Building:** Empowering 10 fellows per cycle with cross-disciplinary skills tailored to sub-Saharan Africa's needs.
- **Policy Translation:** Supporting ministries of health and national public health institutes with evidence-based tools and models.
- **Sustainability and Scale:** Establishing a replicable fellowship blueprint for adoption by other African institutions.

Financial Commitment

We estimate the total in-kind contribution to be EUR 440,810 over 24 months, which will cover:

- Personnel (Year 1: EUR 81,500; Year 2: EUR 65,000)
- Travel (Year 1: EUR 12,500; Year 2: EUR 9,880)
- Consulting Costs (Year 1: EUR 35,330; Year 2: EUR 21,000)
- Other Direct Costs (Year 1: EUR 105,400; Year 2: EUR 110,000)

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 a 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 entity save where specifically authorised by Global Health EDCTP3 JU. Internal dissemination of information within our organisation will be done based on 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.

Yours faithfully,



pp. Dr M. Pedro da Silva
Deputy Director: WDIH
27 August 2025

Professor Wendy Stevens

Strategic Director: National Priority Programs, NHLS

Executive Director: Wits Diagnostic Innovation Hub

Director: ILEAD; Regional Innovation Hub

Prior Head: Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology

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