

DNDi

Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS TO THE **2ND LEAP** **SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE** 9th – 11th December 2019 Nairobi Kenya

Abstract Submission
Deadline: **30th April 2019**

Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi) and the Leishmaniasis East African Platform (LEAP) invites individuals and institutions from the African continent and other parts of the world to submit abstracts to the **2nd LEAP Scientific Conference**. The Conference will take place from **9th - 11th December 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya**.

Leishmaniasis is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) that affects an estimated over one billion people worldwide. It is a complex disease that presents in several forms – visceral, cutaneous, mucocutaneous, and post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis – and is caused by 20 different *Leishmania* parasite species.

The disease is strongly associated with poverty and remains endemic in 88 countries across Latin America, Africa, and other regions. About 700,000 to 1 million new cases of the disease in its various forms occur annually, with an estimated number of 20,000 to 30,000 associated deaths. Treatment of leishmaniasis is difficult, as it depends on several factors, including the form of the disease, other co-existing infections, the species of parasite and nutritional and immunological status of the host. Treatment effectiveness also differs from region to region.



ABOUT THE LEAP SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE



THE LEAP CONFERENCE WILL BRING TOGETHER OVER 150 STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING SCIENTISTS, RESEARCHERS, POLICY MAKERS, PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS AND ADVOCATES TO DISCUSS THE STATE-OF-THE-ART IN DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF LEISHMANIASIS.

The LEAP Conference will bring together over 150 stakeholders including scientists, researchers, policy makers, public health practitioners and advocates to discuss the state-of-the-art in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and elimination of leishmaniasis. The conference is organized by DNDi (a not for profit organization that is developing new treatments for neglected diseases) and LEAP (a clinical research network that brings together experts from leishmaniasis endemic countries in eastern Africa to facilitate clinical testing and improved access to better treatments for leishmaniasis patients).

Conference Theme:

THE THEME FOR THE
2ND LEAP SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE IS

**“FAST-TRACKING
SCIENTIFIC
INNOVATION
AND ACCESS FOR
LEISHMANIASIS
CONTROL IN AFRICA.”**

We welcome the submission of abstracts in the following scientific tracks:

- **Track A:** Leishmaniasis: Basic science and translational research
- **Track B:** Diagnosis and treatment of leishmaniasis
- **Track C:** Epidemiology and control of leishmaniasis
- **Track D:** Advances in ethics, regulatory affairs and access to leishmaniasis treatment in Africa
- **Track E:** Leishmaniasis; prevention, vector control and elimination
- **Track F:** Current advances in leishmaniasis vaccine development

The tracks shall cover cutaneous, mucocutaneous, visceral and post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis as well as HIV/VL co-infection.

Submission

Abstract submission deadline is on **30th April 2019 at 11:30pm East Africa Time (EAT)**

All abstracts must be received through the online abstract submission form before the deadline.

Participants can register and submit abstracts via the following link <https://leapconf.dndi.org/leapconf/openconf.php>.

Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted. You may also send the abstract via email to (leap@dndi.org).

Notification regarding acceptance will be emailed to authors. All presenters will receive communication by **31ST JULY 2019.**

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi)

DNDi is a patients' needs-driven, non-profit drug research and development (R&D) organization that develops safe, effective, and affordable medicines for neglected diseases that afflict millions of the world's poorest people. DNDi works to deliver new treatments for neglected diseases, in particular leishmaniasis, human African trypanosomiasis, Chagas disease, specific filarial infections, mycetoma, paediatric HIV, and hepatitis C. Since its inception in 2003, DNDi has delivered eight treatments: two fixed-dose antimalarials (ASAQ and ASMQ), nifurtimox-eflornithine combination therapy (NECT) and Fexinidazole for sleeping sickness, sodium stibogluconate and paromomycin (SSG&PM) combination therapy for visceral leishmaniasis in Africa, a set of combination therapies for visceral leishmaniasis in Asia, a paediatric dosage form of benznidazole for Chagas disease, and a 'superbooster' therapy for children co-infected with HIV and TB. DNDi has established regional disease-specific platforms, which bring together partners in disease-endemic countries to strengthen existing clinical research capacity, as well as to build new capacity where necessary. The primary objective of the initiative is to deliver 16 to 18 new treatments by 2023 and to establish a strong R&D portfolio for these diseases.

Leishmaniasis East Africa Platform (LEAP)



Founded in 2003, in Khartoum, Sudan, LEAP is a clinical research network that brings together experts from leishmaniasis endemic eastern African countries to facilitate clinical testing and improved access to better treatments for leishmaniasis in the region. The LEAP platform aims to strengthen clinical research capacity, which is lacking in part due to the remoteness and geographic spread of the patients, most of whom live in the most impoverished regions of Africa.

The platform also is a base for ongoing educational cooperation between the countries in the Eastern Africa region and standardization of procedures and practices within the region, as far as is possible within the confines of local regulations. LEAP evaluates and validates, new treatments that address regional needs for visceral leishmaniasis.



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LEAP Secretariat DNDi Africa
Tetezi Towers, 3d Floor
George Padmore Road Kilimani
P.O. Box 21936-00505
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 3995 000
leap@dndi.org