



Newsletter #3

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Three years into the eWHORM journey, the project is entering a decisive phase. What began in April 2023 as a shared ambition is now taking tangible shape – laying the groundwork for the solutions we aim to deliver by 2028.

With clinical sites now up and running in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania, and Gabon, we have reached a critical milestone to start the testing of Oxfendazole as a promising drug candidate for worm infections. Teams across all sites are working with a harmonised protocol, ensuring the generation of high-quality, robust clinical data.

As part of our commitment to strengthening research capacity in endemic countries, we are also proud to have completed a series of workshops co-organised with our sister project INTEGRATE. These focused on scientific writing, grant development, as well as leadership and communication skills, all essential for sustainable impact.

I would like to sincerely thank all partners for their outstanding commitment to our shared mission of eliminating worm infections in sub-Saharan Africa. In this issue, you will also discover how some team members have received well-deserved recognition for their work.

We invite you to explore this latest edition of our newsletter and to continue helping us raise awareness of neglected tropical diseases. Together, we can drive meaningful progress towards global health.

Thank you for being part of our journey,



Marc Hübner

eWHORM Coordinator

Testing One Treatment Across Four Countries

Clinical trials are carefully designed research studies that test how safe and effective new medicines or treatments are in people. They are a **crucial step in making sure that any new therapy works** as intended and meets strict safety standards before it can be widely used. **Adaptive clinical trials**—such as basket, umbrella, and platform studies—represent a new way of conducting these studies that **allows for standardisation and harmonisation of treatment protocols**. Instead of running separate trials for each question, these approaches use a shared “master protocol,” **allowing researchers to study multiple treatments or diseases** within one coordinated framework. This streamlines processes like patient recruitment, data collection, and oversight, saving both time and resources while helping bring new treatments to patients sooner.



The eWHORM project has launched an adaptive basket trial across four countries in sub-Saharan Africa to test an existing drug, **oxfendazole**, against four helminthic infections. Each country focuses on a specific disease and contributes to a larger, shared study effort: **Onchocerciasis (DRC), Loiasis (Gabon), Mansonellosis (Cameroon) and soil-transmitted helminths (Tanzania)**. The goal is not only to speed up the development of this potential treatment for multiple helminth infections, but also to strengthen local clinical research capacity for the future. Early-stage trials are already underway at all four sites, marking an important step toward more collaborative and efficient global health research.

To gain insights into the work of our clinical trial teams, have a look at the videos on our website.

[Clinical Trials](#)

Strengthening Research Capacity Through Training

Together with the **INTEGRATE project**, eWHORM partners took part in a BNITM-led **workshop series** on scientific writing, grant development, and leadership and communication. Bringing together researchers from across the consortia and clinical sites, the trainings provided practical skills to strengthen publications, funding applications, and collaboration.

The series marks an important step in building sustainable research capacity in endemic countries and supporting the next generation of scientists tackling neglected tropical diseases.

[Learn more](#)

Partners in Spotlight

We are proud to highlight the achievements and collaborations that make eWHORM such a strong and dynamic consortium.

Beyond advancing its core research, eWHORM actively fosters knowledge exchange across partners. One recent example took place in June 2025, when the Medical University of Vienna (MUW) welcomed **Thaddaeus Egondi**, Senior Biostatistics Manager at the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) in Nairobi, [for a two-week exchange](#). The visit focused on advancing adaptive clinical trial design and harmonising data standards—key building blocks for more efficient, collaborative research.

Our partners are also receiving well-deserved international recognition.

In February 2026, **Prof. Ghyslain Mombo-Ngoma**, an eWHORM researcher from DRC, was listed as an innovator in malaria research in [TIME's 2026 TIME100 Health list](#) of the world's most influential leaders. Prof. Mombo-Ngoma and his team have been testing a new single-dose treatment comprising four existing and readily available drugs, called SPAP, which is proving to be as effective as the standard course, and more effective against drug resistant parasites. This revolutionary approach tackles two major barriers in malaria control: rising drug resistance and poor patient adherence to multi-day treatments

Adding to the momentum, PhD student **Hannah Wegner** was awarded the [Best Poster Prize](#) at the 2026 Joint Meeting of DZIF and the Paul Ehrlich Society for Infection Therapy (PEG) in Bonn, for her research showing how vaccine adjuvants can boost the efficacy of Oxfendazole in a filarial rodent model.

Keeping the Conversation Going

From World NTD Day to World Health Day and beyond, these key moments are opportunities to take action. **Mark your calendar** and join us in celebrating, sharing, and raising awareness. Together, we can amplify our message and bring our community closer to eliminating worm infections and advancing global health.



eWHORM **IMPORTANT DATES**

The following dates offer excellent opportunities for us to spread the word about our project. Share interesting facts, relevant publications, or even a snapshot of you and your team in the lab to showcase your commitment. And, of course, don't forget to tag [@eWHORM Project](#) on LinkedIn and to use the [#eWHORM](#) hashtag.

Let's advocate for global health and work towards eliminating worm infections in Sub-Saharan Africa together!

30 January	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	Last week of April	World Immunization Week
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	15 October	International Day of Rural Women
22 March	World Water Day	19 November	World Toilet Day
7 April	World Health Day	5 December	World Soil Day

#eWHORM

For daily updates, make sure to follow us on [LinkedIn!](#)

If you'd like to help us spread the word about eWHORM, you can share the **newsletter** with your network and invite them to **subscribe** so they don't miss any updates on the project!



1 APRIL 2023
START DATE



60 MONTHS
DURATION



7.9 MIL €
BUDGET



10 PARTNERS
FROM 7
COUNTRIES

Connect with us



Co-funded by
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