

# Early Career Researchers



# Housekeeping

1. The meeting will only be recorded for the purpose of the report –the recording will not be shared.
2. Interpretation is available in the main room – use the interpretation button at the bottom of your screens to select English or French channel.
3. Remember to keep your microphone switched off/on mute during the meeting so as not to disturb others. You can turn your microphone on when you want to ask a question, share an idea or make a comment.
4. Check that your name is displayed properly, this will help us assign you to the correct breakout group.
5. Feel free to use the chat to introduce yourself.
6. Use ZOOM-raise-hand symbol if you have something to say.
7. Please keep your contributions concise and to the point.

# Early Career Researchers online café

27 July 2023



# Introduction

- The **Global Schistosomiasis Alliance** is a multi-stakeholder platform and network. Brings together groups working on schistosomiasis to discuss and problem-solve common challenges and barriers for schistosomiasis elimination
- **GSA Research Working Group (RWG)**: To highlight and promote research priorities and needs. To share and disseminate research findings and developments. Chairs Derick Osakunor and Justin Komguez
- The RWG priority for 2023 - Focus on Early Career Researchers
- **Purpose** of ECR online café : an informal online meeting to discuss ideas of what the GSA could do to support Early Career Researchers (ECR) with ECRs themselves.
- **Objectives**: Identify challenges, identify potential support that the GSA could take forward.

# Online Café Programme

- Section 1 – Introduction and questionnaire findings
- Section 2 - Breakout Discussion Groups
  - Share experiences of pursuing research in this area - what were some of the challenges
  - What have you found useful in your career development -share examples from your institute/network/experience
  - What are the top three actions you think would be most useful for the GSA to do to support Early Career Researchers working in schistosomiasis?
- Section 3 - Summary of ideas and networking opportunity

# Early Career Researchers Questionnaire

- Shared through GSA network and partner networks in May 2023
- To help us develop the content, structure and running of this online meeting.
- The short questionnaire asked about career stage, topic suggestions, language preferences, and challenges, needs and desired support for ECRs.



## Schistosomiasis Early Career Researchers

The [Global Schistosomiasis Alliance](#) will be hosting an informal online meeting with early careers researchers working on schistosomiasis. This online meeting will be called **The Schistosomiasis Early Career Researchers Online Café**. The purpose of this online café is to discuss ideas of what the GSA could do to support Early Career Researchers (ECR) with ECRs themselves, to identify challenges, discuss potential areas and ideas of support that the GSA could take forward. **This form is the first step in understanding the needs of ECRs. We invite ECRs to fill in this form to help us develop the content, structure and running of this first online café.**

ECR Definition: We recognize that countries use different definitions for ECRs, and that the challenges faced will differ accordingly. **We wish to be as inclusive as possible, therefore we invite anyone who self-identifies as an ECR.** In order to help us structure the online cafe to capture all definitions and to support discussions for the different definitions we are using this form to assess career stages of all ECRs.

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form. The information and data you provide will be used by the GSA solely for the purposes of the GSA ECR Online Cafe. You can request that your data is removed at any time by emailing Anouk Gouvras at [anouk.gouvras@eliminateschisto.org](mailto:anouk.gouvras@eliminateschisto.org)



# Schistosomiasis Early Career Researchers Questionnaire

- Number of respondents: 101
- English survey: 89
- French survey: 12

Career stage	No	
Junior faculty	8	
PhD candidate or other student	51	
Post-doctoral - research fellow	13	
Research associate	18	
Other	11	

Language	First	Second
English	88	78
French	11*	16
Portuguese	1	2
Spanish	1	3
Kiswahili	0	2

\*Three selected French with no other language

Country <sup>a</sup>	Respondents
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Cameroun	5
Cote D'Ivoire	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3
Denmark	1
Equatorial Guinea	1
Ethiopia	1
Germany	5
Ghana	2
Italy	2
Kenya	6
Madagascar	6
Netherlands	1
Nigeria	50
Rwanda	3
South Africa	1
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Tanzania	1
Uganda	2
United Kingdom	3
United States of America	5

<sup>a</sup> A couple of respondents put nationality and residence

# Schistosomiasis Early Career Researchers Questionnaire

- What specific topics within your research interests you the most?
- What topics would you like to discuss during the breakout room sessions?
- What are the main challenges you have faced as an ECR?
- What types of support do you think would be most beneficial for ECRs?
- Are there any specific skills or experiences you would like to gain as an ECR?



## Top 5 Research interests

Rank	Research interest	No
1	Epidemiology	32
2	Genital Schistosomiasis	18
3	Implementation (Programmatic) Research	16
4	Molecular /Genetics /Genomics	15
5	Other (other NTDs, disease,AMR etc)	12

Research Topic of interest	No
Epidemiology	32
Genital Schistosomiasis	18
Implementation (Programmatic) Research	16
Molecular /Genetics /Genomics	15
Other (other NTDs, disease,AMR etc)	12
Diagnostics	10
Morbidity	9
Intermediate Host Snails	7
Schistosomiasis	6
Social and Behaviour Change Sciences and Communications	6
Immunology	5
Drug discovery	3
Hybridization / Zoonotic schistosomiasis	3
WaSH	3
Modelling	2
Surveillance	2
Climate Change	1
Vaccines	1

# Top 5 Breakout Discussion Topics

Rank	Discussion Topics	No
1	Epidemiology	17
2	Implementation research design	18
3	Proposals, Grants and fellowships	13
4	Molecular /Genetics /Genomics	8
5	Diagnosis	7

Discussion Topics Final	No
Epidemiology	17
Implementation research design	18
Proposals, Grants and fellowships	13
Molecular /Genetics /Genomics	8
Diagnosis	7
Collaborations and networking	6
Training and mentoring	6
Career progression and opportunities	5
Genital Schistosomiasis	5
Morbidity	4
Social and Behaviour Change Sciences and Communications	4
Intermediate Host Snails	3
Writing and publishing	3
Schistosomiasis general	3
Databases and analysis	2
Other (non-NTDs)	2
Research challenges and support	4
Clinical research	1
Decolonizing research	1
Drug discovery	1
Hybridization	1
Mental Health	1

# Challenges faced by Early Career Researchers

ECR challenges	No	ECR challenges	No
Funding	55	Lack of Expertise	2
Laboratory facilities/materials	11	Longevity of research	2
Training and mentorship	11	None	2
Networking and Collaborations	17	Publication writing	2
Career progression/Opportunities/positions/Job security	6	Sample collecting and access	2
Proposal/grant writing	5	Accessibility	1
Behaviour change (tackle non-compliance and create demand)	4	Culture barriers in implementation research	1
Data/databases/analysis	4	Intermediate host snails	1
Science communications/Policy briefings/Advocating Research Prioritisation	4	Lack of health infrastructure	1
Research resources	3	Leadership (culturally aware)	1
Conferences/workshops/sponsorships	2	Mapping	1
Defining research topic	2	Research ethics	1
Diagnostics (molecular and other)	2	Screening and prevention	1
Global/national policies and guidelines	2	Up to date with research	1
Lack of Expertise	2	Work-life balance	1

## Types of support shared by Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

ECRs Support	No	ECRs Support	No
Funding (Research and ECR Grants)	63	Samples and data access	3
Training (Research design, leadership, Lab, analysis)	32	Conference and workshops sponsorships	2
Mentorship	21	Social and Behaviour Change Sciences and Communications	2
Networking and Collaborations	19	Diagnosis	1
Workshops (Lab/writing/analysis)	10	Logistical support	1
Research resources and materials	7	Multidisciplinary meetings	1
Community of Practice Platform	6	Project database	1
Career opportunities	4	Publication support	1
Advocacy and allyship from established researchers	3	Studentships	1

## Top 5 challenges and support types for Early Career Researchers (ECR)

Rank	ECR challenges	No
1	Funding	55
2	Laboratory facilities/materials	11
3	Training and mentorship	11
4	Networking and Collaborations	17
5	Career progression/ Opportunities/positions/Job security	6

Rank	ECR Support	No
1	Funding (Research and ECR Grants)	63
2	Training (Research design, leadership, Lab, analysis)	32
3	Mentorship	21
4	Networking and Collaborations	19
5	Workshops (Lab/writing/analysis)	10

# Types of skills needed by Early Career Researchers (ECR)

ECR Skills	No
Molecular and cellular techniques	19
Proposal/Grant writing and project development	19
Communications and scientific writing skills	15
Laboratory and fieldwork training	14
Bioinformatics, biostatistics and data analysis skills	13
Diagnostics	8
Develop Collaborations and networking	7
Implementation research	6
Project management-Logistics and MTA preparation	6
Working with intermediate host and cercariae	5
Leadership skills, supervising students, academic skills	4

ECR Skills	No
Research skills - Developing research focus / expertise	3
Social sciences and Behaviour change communications	3
Data management	2
Modelling skills	2
Quantitative and qualitative research	2
Research updates and trends - Community of Practice	2
Uptake of research to health policy	2
Capacity development	1
Machine learning, AI and new technologies	1
National research regulations	1
Research needs for global and national schistosomiasis goals and targets	1
Training at referral centres	1
Training the trainers	1

# Top 5 Skills Requested

Rank	ECR Skills	No
1	Molecular and cellular techniques	19
2	Proposal/Grant writing and project development	19
3	Communications and scientific writing skills	15
4	Laboratory and fieldwork training	14
5	Bioinformatics, biostatistics and data analysis skills	13



# Breakout Discussion Groups

- **Epidemiology, Burden and Unmet Need:** Disease distribution, patterns, and impact on populations, including the monitoring and understanding of disease spread and burden. It also includes a specific focus on disease forms, such as genital schistosomiasis, as well as considerations for hybridization and zoonotic transmission.
- **Implementation Research, Diagnostics, Drug Discovery, Vaccines:** Involves research and development activities related to combating Schistosomiasis.
- **Molecular Research and Immunology:** Related to genetic and molecular aspects of disease as well as the immune response to the infection.
- **Environmental/Social Factors, and Behaviour Change:** Focuses on environmental and social factors (including intermediate host snails/malacology, WASH) and their impact on disease transmission , as well as communication strategies related to disease prevention, control, and health promotion.

# Breakout Discussion Groups

- **Epidemiology, Burden and Unmet Need** (English with French interpretation)
  - Facilitators: Janet Masaku and Adam Cieplinski
- **Implementation Research, Diagnostics, Drug Discovery, Vaccines**
  - Facilitators: Ilemobayo Victor Fasogbon and David Woutouoba Ntieche
- **Molecular Research and Immunology**
  - Facilitators: Anna Kildemoes and Chiaka Anumudu
- **Recherche moléculaire et immunologie** (French discussion group)
  - Facilitators: Patience Muika and Edmond Loic Mengoue
- **Environmental/Social Factors, and Behaviour Change**
  - Facilitators: Philip Leakey Odida and Simon Odoemene

# Breakout Discussion Points

- Share experiences of pursuing research in this area - what were some of the challenges?
- What have you found useful in your career development - share examples from your institute/networks/experiences.
- What are the top three things you think would be most useful for the GSA to do to support Early Career Researchers working on schistosomiasis?
- Use of JamBoard and Zoom chat.

# Using a JamBoard

The image shows a JamBoard interface within a web browser. The main title is "Breakout Room 1 - Epidemiology". The board content includes the text "Breakout group 1: Epidemiology, Burden and Unmet Need" and "How to use Jamboard".


Annotations provide a step-by-step guide to using sticky notes:

1. Click here to open a sticky note (points to the sticky note icon in the left toolbar)
2. Enter your text (points to the text input area in the sticky note dialog)
3. Choose colour (points to the color selection dots in the sticky note dialog)
4. Click on Save (points to the Save button in the sticky note dialog)



Additional annotations include:





- "Use to navigate between frames as directed by the facilitator" (points to the navigation arrows at the top of the board)
- "Enter Text Here - Sticky note saved" (points to a completed yellow sticky note on the board)









# Using a JamBoard

 Breakout Room 1 - Epidemiology

< 2 / 2 >

 [Share](#) 

    Set background Clear frame

### Breakout group 1: Epidemiology, Burden and Unmet Need

Share experiences of pursuing research in this area - what were some of the challenges  
What have you found useful in your career development -share examples from your institute/network/  
experience

Challenges/Experiences	What would be useful?	Three Actions for the GSA?

# Summary of ideas and networking opportunity

- Purpose of ECR online café : an informal online meeting to discuss ideas of what the GSA could do to support Early Career Researchers (ECR) with ECRs themselves.
- Objectives: Identify challenges, identify potential support that the GSA could take forward.
- Breakout discussion groups
  - Epidemiology, Burden and Unmet Need
  - Implementation Research, Diagnostics, Drug Discovery, Vaccines
  - Molecular Research and Immunology
  - Recherche moléculaire et immunologie
  - Environmental/Social Factors, and Behaviour Change

For any additional feedback or ideas please email [anouk.gouvras@eliminateschisto.org](mailto:anouk.gouvras@eliminateschisto.org)

# Global Schistosomiasis Alliance

- GSA website [www.eliminate-schisto.org](http://www.eliminate-schisto.org)
  - Resource Collections
  - Webinars
  - GSA Online Network – become a member
- GSA Newsletters and Bulletins [eepurl.com/dyjac9](http://eepurl.com/dyjac9)
  - Schisto Bulletin newsletter, covering schistosomiasis news circulated every 3 months.
  - Frequent Schistosomiasis Research Update Bulletin.
  - Adhoc announcements to mailing list.

Follow us on Twitter

[twitter.com/eliminate-schisto](https://twitter.com/eliminate-schisto)

And LinkedIn

[www.linkedin.com/company/global-schistosomiasis-alliance/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/global-schistosomiasis-alliance/)



# Networking Opportunity

Please feel free to join a group and discuss your research interests



# Thank you!

## Early Career Researchers

