

BVGH ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP AND ACCELERATE NIGERIAN DRUG AND DIAGNOSTIC RESEARCH

SAN DIEGO—JUNE 26, 2014—BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) announced today at the BIO International Conference a new initiative designed to bolster Nigeria’s biomedical infrastructure and capacity through collaborations with BIO member organizations. BVGH has partnered with the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC) to introduce, the BVGH Nigerian Capacity-Building Initiative (BNCBI), which will place Nigerian researchers at participating western biopharmaceutical and diagnostic companies for training placements of up to 12 months. Training will include basic research and biotechnology skills, drug development, translational research, regulatory processes and clinical project management. The aim of the Initiative is to help Nigeria build the capability and eventually the infrastructure to develop new diagnostics and drugs for Africa’s unmet medical needs.

“We could not be more pleased with our new partnership with BVGH,” said Professor Julius Okojie, Executive Secretary and CEO, National Universities Commission, Abuja, Nigeria. “We launched this program to Universities across Nigeria, and there was great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to participate. This new program fits into NUC’s strategy and will be linked with our existing NUC Promotion of University Biomedical Science Development (PUBSD) program. This is exactly the type of collaboration our Universities want, to build bridges with leading research companies around the world. I commend BVGH for creating this program and building it in partnership with the NUC.”

“We are very pleased to be working hand and hand with the Nigerian National Universities Commission to launch this important new program,” said BVGH President Jennifer Dent. “Pharmaceutical companies are eager and willing to establish partnerships with African research institutes and BVGH can make that process easier through our targeted and customized programs.”

BVGH was founded in 2004 by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) to harness the capabilities of the global biopharmaceutical industry to address unmet medical needs in the developing world. In recent years BVGH, working with the UN’s World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has established 65 working research agreements between drug companies and scientists around the world. The aim of this Consortium – WIPO Re:Search - is to develop new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics for

neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) such as leprosy, river blindness, malaria, and tuberculosis. Under these agreements, pharmaceutical compounds, data and drug discovery techniques from western companies are matched with researchers around the world working on new treatments.

Former BIO President Carl Feldbaum who first proposed the concept of BVGH praised the new alliance in Africa, as “another step in closing the gap between the promise of new biomedical technologies and the realities of dealing with diseases people in developed nations may never have heard of. “

Jim Greenwood, current President, BIO praised BIO member companies who are participating in BVGH programs and encouraged the BIO membership to join in this important new African program. “This is a win-win opportunity for industry as we can expand our efforts to break down the barriers to developing new therapies for neglected diseases and at the same time improve lives in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa while building markets for our industry.”

ABOUT BVGH

BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) is a results-oriented nonprofit organization based in Seattle, Washington, USA whose mission is to engage private industry in global health initiatives. BVGH engages global health stakeholders in productive partnerships to accelerate the development of new drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics that address the unmet medical needs of the developing world. Working at the crossroads of the biopharmaceutical industry and global health, BVGH creates customized programs that fit the needs and capacity of partners and impact health in measurable ways.

ABOUT NIGERIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION (NUC)

The National Universities Commission (NUC) was established in 1962 and is a parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Education (FME). The NUC is an important arm of government in the area of development and management of university education in Nigeria. The vision of the NUC is to be a dynamic regulatory agency acting as a catalyst for positive change and innovation for the delivery of quality university education in Nigeria. The NUC’s mission is to ensure the orderly development of a well-coordinated and productive university system that will guarantee quality and relevant education for national development and global competitiveness. Its mission includes fostering partnerships between the Nigerian University System, the private sector and the global community.

ABOUT NIGERIAN CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

The BVGH Nigerian Capacity-Building Initiative (BNCBI) has been developed by BVGH in partnership with the NUC and with input from Nigerian Universities and researchers. The objective of the program is to build biomedical leadership and capacity by transferring skills, experience and knowledge from

biopharmaceutical companies to Nigerian researchers and universities. Selected Nigerian fellows will be trained at international companies for 3-12 months. Each training program will be customized to the needs of the Nigerian University and may include; developing drug discovery and development skills or gaining experience in formulation development, translational research and regulatory processes.

Contact Jennifer Dent – President, BVGH

jdent@bvgh.org

650-228-4375 (cell)

206-732-2131 (office)