

# BVGH Panel Sessions to Highlight Global Ebola Response, Biotech Partnership Opportunities in Africa at BIO 2015 International Convention

*BIO CEO and President Jim Greenwood to welcome African Delegates at Exhibit Hall in Philadelphia*

*Sessions to Explore Business and Infectious disease collaborations*

Seattle, WA, June 16—BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) President Jennifer Dent today announced that for the first time, the annual Biotechnology Industry Organization International Meeting (BIO) will host a sub-Saharan Africa pavilion and delegation, organized by BVGH. “By 2050, Africa will be home to ~25% of the world’s population,” said Dent. “Africa represents enormous market growth opportunities for life science companies as well as investments in healthcare start-ups and state-of-the-art hospitals and medical facilities.”

The pavilion, located in the Pennsylvania Convention Center Exhibition Hall will have representatives from five countries: Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. Liberia will also be represented at the Convention by Deputy Minister of Health and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Francis Kateh. “It is a privilege to be at BIO interacting with so many industry leaders who are actively developing and advancing products in the clinic to prevent and treat Ebola virus disease,” said Kateh. “Liberia is the first of three impacted West African countries to be declared Ebola virus disease free. Partnerships with foundations, companies, and government organizations have played a critical role in our success eliminating Ebola. I look forward to building new partnerships to strengthen Liberia’s healthcare system here at BIO.”

“The role of industry in improving global health cannot be understated,” said **BIO CEO and President Jim Greenwood**. “We have been, and must continue to be, leaders, experts, innovators, and - most importantly – partners in efforts to improve health across the globe. I encourage BIO Convention attendees to visit the pavilion, welcome our delegation from sub-Saharan Africa, and explore partnering opportunities.”

“Science, technology, and international partnerships are a top priority for my administration,” said **Secretary James Macharia, Minister of Health, Kenya**. “I am committed to dramatically improving healthcare and access to new medicines across our population and welcome BIO members to help me achieve these objectives. I hope to see you at the 2016 BIO International Convention in San Francisco.”

BVGH was founded in 2004 by BIO to harness the capabilities of the global biopharmaceutical industry to address unmet medical needs of the developing world. In recent years BVGH, working with the UN’s World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), has established more than eighty working research agreements between drug companies and scientists around the world through the WIPO Re:Search consortium. WIPO Re:Search catalyzes collaborations to develop new drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics

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

#### **BVGH PANEL DISCUSSIONS:**

BVGH has organized two panel sessions at the BIO Convention. The first, which takes place on June 16 at 2:00pm, highlights the expanding life sciences industry in Africa, its infrastructure development, and the continent's investment opportunities. The second, which will take place on June 17 at 10:15am, will highlight the global response to the Ebola virus disease epidemic and the need to prepare for a variety of global infectious disease outbreaks.

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#### **Africa's Leading Economies Welcome Industry Partnerships**

**June 16, 2015 | 2pm – 3:15pm**

**Room – 119A**

Africa is home to a number of the fastest growing economies in the world. A panel of leaders from sub-Saharan Africa will discuss the expanding life sciences industry, health focus and infrastructure development in their countries. State-of-the-art hospitals are under development, research institutions with innovative technologies and clinical trial capabilities are open to partnerships, and stakeholders in other sectors are participating in health initiatives. The panel will present concrete examples and opportunities for investment and collaboration to build health capacity and systems that will be effective across sub-Saharan Africa. The strategies, policies, partnerships and infrastructure necessary to support the transformation of the Life Sciences sector in Africa will be a key component of this panel session.

**Moderator:** Jennifer Dent, President, BIO Ventures for Global Health

**Speaker 1:** Dr. Francis Kateh, Deputy Minister of Health and Chief Medical Officer, Liberia

**Speaker 2:** Dr. Karniyus Gamaniel, CEO, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), Abuja, Nigeria

**Speaker 3:** Dr. James Kimotho, Director, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya

**Speaker 4:** Dr. Kwadwo Koram, Director, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana

#### **Panel Session**

#### **Global Emergency Case Study: Ebola**

**June 17, 2015 | 10:15am – 11:30am**

**Room – 113A**

The West African Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic has alerted the world to the catastrophic impact that infectious diseases can have. The lack of preparedness and available drugs and vaccines for EVD emphasize the need for a global public-private partnership between industry, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to best solve global health crises. The panelists will discuss worldwide collaborative efforts to accelerate development, clinical trials, and the regulatory approval process to help ameliorate a public health crisis. The session will feature high profile panelists from the governments of impacted countries, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and companies that are addressing the current EVD emergency. Panelists will discuss the most significant barriers that hinder product development during these crises, the lessons learned

from past and present extreme health events, and the organizations (national and international) that are instrumental to accelerate development.

**Moderator:** Jennifer Dent, President, BIO Ventures for Global Health

**Speaker 1:** Dr. Francis Kateh, Deputy Minister of Health and Chief Medical Officer, Liberia

**Speaker 2:** Dr. Luciana Borio, Acting Chief Scientist, US Food and Drug Administration

**Speaker 3:** Dr. Trevor Mundel, President, Global Health Division, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Speaker 4:** Dr. Ripley Ballou, Head of Ebola Vaccine Research, GlaxoSmithKline

**Speaker 5:** Dr. Hanneke Schuitemaker, Head of Viral Vaccine Discovery and Translational Medicine, Infectious Disease and Vaccines, Johnson & Johnson

**Speaker 6:** Dr. Swati Gupta, Executive Director, Medical Affairs and Public Health, Merck & Co., Inc.

**Speaker 7:** Dr. Louis Fries, Chief Medical Officer, Novavax

The sub-Saharan Africa pavilion is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Pfizer, Inc.; Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.; Johnson & Johnson; Merck & Co., Inc.; Celgene Corporation; BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company); and SCYNEXIS, Inc.

#### **About BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH)**

BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) is a non-profit organization based in Seattle, Washington, dedicated to solving global health issues by forming connections between people, resources, and ideas. BVGH works at the crossroads of the biopharmaceutical industry and global health to find the common ground between the aspirations of the global health community and the strategic priorities of companies.