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BVGH Newsletter



October 2016

- [1. IP Watch Interview](#)
- [2. BVGH Custom Reports](#)
- [3. Celgene's Work in Global Health](#)
- [4. WIPO Re:Search Highlighted Collaboration](#)
- [5. WHO - TDR Report](#)
- [6. Did you know?](#)

Note from Jennifer

Dear BVGH Friends and Colleagues,

BVGH had a busy summer establishing new collaborations and working to advance global health. You can read about some of these new partnerships in our [2016 BVGH Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report](#).

In other related partnership news, we are pleased to announce BVGH will be coordinating a panel session at the 8th European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) Forum on November 6-9, 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia. BVGH is also organizing a workshop on anthelmintic resistance during the Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD) meeting, which will be held prior to this year's American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. If you will be attending these meetings, please be sure to say hello and participate in the discussions!

On behalf of BVGH, I would like to congratulate Dr. Manu Prakash, a Stanford researcher and active participant in WIPO Re:Search, for being named a 2016 MacArthur Fellow. His creative solutions and multi-disciplinary approach to global health challenges are well deserving of this prestigious award.

This issue of the BVGH Newsletter features an interview with *Intellectual Property Watch* in which I discuss WIPO Re:Search and its relevance to the recent UN High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines discussions. Other highlights include a summary of BVGH's newer program, Custom Reporting; a spotlight on Celgene's global health programs; and a WIPO Re:Search collaboration between Eisai Co., Ltd. and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM).

We look forward to the season ahead and are eager to form more impactful global health collaborations.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH



Intellectual Property Watch - Innovation And Access: Fission Or Fusion?

Earlier this year, Jennifer Dent, President of BVGH, was invited to participate in the United Nations Secretary

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discussed WIPO Re:Search and its relevance to the UN High-Level Panel discussion. Jennifer called for a collaborative, cross-cutting approach to solve some of our greatest global health challenges:

“A proactive approach to developing innovative, multi-sectorial initiatives to address the complex issues of access to medicines is needed. So much more can be done when we communicate and work collaboratively to develop solutions. LMIC (low- and middle-income countries) governments must be at the table and committed to implementing access to medicines programs. Initiatives like WIPO Re:Search should be scaled up to create new multi-stakeholder and cross-sector programs to solve the issues of access. This is not a simple or straightforward task; it will require people to work together and to understand each party's position and capabilities.”

To read the complete interview, click [here](#).

In addition to discussing the UN High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines in the IP Watch interview, BVGH released a response to the recently published Access to Medicines Panel report that calls for more multi-sector partnerships. To read the full statement, click [here](#).

BVGH Custom Reports Program

BVGH leverages its knowledge and networks throughout Africa to develop custom reports for biopharmaceutical companies and global health organizations across communicable and non-communicable diseases. Companies that are new to Africa or expanding across the continent can rely on BVGH to support their strategic plans and partnership development needs.

Africa is a promising, growing market with increasing economic development and high demand for treatments. Tapping into this market in a meaningful way requires an in-depth understanding of the continent's disease landscape, infrastructure, politics, and key players. Collaborations with local researchers, healthcare providers, government officials, and other organizations working in the region are crucial to developing and launching products relevant to the African market.

BVGH develops reports that aggregate the data and insights needed for a company to implement its strategy. The reports are developed using BVGH's comprehensive and customized approach. The following is one example of BVGH's approach to preparing a custom landscape analysis.



To learn more about BVGH Custom Reports, please visit our [website](#) or email Jennifer Dent at jdent@bvgh.org.

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Africa. Together, they implement health system capacity-building initiatives including Celgene's program to support oncology capacity-building in Kenya.

WIPO Re:Search Highlighted Collaboration



Cerebral malaria (CM) is the most severe neurological complication of the infection by *Plasmodium falciparum*, resulting in seizures, coma, and death. With over 400,000 cases annually, children in sub-Saharan Africa are the most affected. Mortality is high, and around 25% of survivors develop neurological complications and cognitive impairment.

Work from Dr. Alister Craig, Dr. Chris Moxon, and colleagues at the [Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine \(LSTM\)](#) and [University of Liverpool](#) identified a role for protease-activated receptor (PAR) 1 in *Plasmodium*-mediated brain swelling. Their research demonstrated that during *P. falciparum* cerebral infection, PAR1 may be activated by an alternative pathway. This altered activation causes the PAR1 pathway to initiate a pro-inflammatory response, causing coagulation and inflammation – two suspected causes of brain swelling.

To assess the role of PAR1 in more detail, Dr. Craig wanted to test a selection of PAR1 inhibitors in a malaria assay that he had developed. BVGH connected Dr. Craig to vascular biology experts at [Eisai Co., Ltd. \(Eisai\)](#), who shared their PAR1 inhibitors. Dr. Craig has obtained encouraging results after his first round of screening the inhibitors. BVGH is currently working with Dr. Craig and the scientists at Eisai to explore different approaches to move this project forward.

To learn more about WIPO Re:Search and other collaborations, please visit our [website](#) or email Ujwal Sheth at usheth@bvgh.org for more information.

Call out: TDR Report



The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) at the World Health Organization (WHO) published, "[Health Product Research and Development Fund: a Proposal for Financing and Operation](#)," which describes how a potential pooled fund could operate under the governance of WHO Member States. It also suggests new financial modelling tools and mechanisms to guide the fund's operation. Click [here](#) to learn more and to read the entire report.

Did you know?

According to the WHO, more than [1,600 tons or over 3.2 million pounds](#) of preventive chemotherapies for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) were delivered to endemic countries in 2015.

Essential preventive chemotherapy medicines donated and delivered through WHO, 2010-2015

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Number of shipments	44	55	65	102	145	151	
Number of tablets (millions)	682	635	822	1 002	1 278	1 519	
Number of pallets	2 198	2 055	2 598	3 346	3 684	3 971	
Total weight (tonnes)	894	839	1 057	1 262	1 490	1 603	

To learn more about preventative chemotherapy and transmission control as it relates to NTDs, [click here](#).



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