Who We Are

BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) is a nonprofit organization working at the crossroads of the private and public sectors to advance research and improve health.

BVGH connects people, resources, and ideas across biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, governments, and nonprofits to solve global health issues.

What We Do

Accelerate Research and Development (R&D) for Diseases of Poverty

WIPO Re:Search: Connecting Industry Assets and Researchers to Drive Neglected Disease R&D

Expand Access to Cancer Medicines and Technologies in Africa

African Access Initiative: Connecting Industry with African Leaders to Improve Cancer Care

Build Biomedical R&D Capacity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)

Fellowships and Equipment Donation: Connecting LMIC Researchers with Industry Expertise and Resources

Africa Pavilion: Connecting African Researchers with Global Life Science Leaders for Partnership Development
Who We Work With

- Biotech/Pharma
- Governments
- Academia
- Research Institutions
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Healthcare Providers

Where We Work

Dot size is proportional to the number of partner countries in each region.
Global consortium founded by BVGH, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and leading pharmaceutical companies

Facilitates sharing of intellectual property (IP) to advance drug, vaccine, and diagnostic R&D for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria, and tuberculosis

“WIPO Re:Search is an innovative platform that helps companies share their IP assets—including those developed to treat non-communicable diseases—to stimulate NTD product discovery. By connecting industry’s assets with disease experts, WIPO Re:Search can accelerate the development of much needed drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics. We are very satisfied with BVGH’s partnership coordination services, which help ensure that our IP assets are being put to best use for neglected disease R&D.”

—Ms. Nobue Yokoi, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Japan (WIPO Re:Search Member)
Developing New Drugs to Tackle Malaria Resistance

Drug resistance threatens progress in the battle against malaria. To enable discovery of new antimalarials, Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA shared aspartyl protease inhibitors with researchers from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI), Australia. With Wellcome Trust Pathfinder Award support, Merck & Co. and the WEHI researchers are developing compounds targeting plasmepsin V, a key parasite enzyme.

110+ R&D partnerships established since 2011

120+ Members from 30+ countries

20+ DISEASES addressed by the Consortium

Accelerating R&D for Diseases of Poverty
African Access Initiative (AAI)

Connecting Industry with African Leaders to Improve Cancer Care

Cancer causes 50% more deaths in Africa than malaria

AAI is a partnership of companies, governments, healthcare providers, and NGOs focused on sustainably expanding access to cancer medicines and technologies, improving healthcare infrastructure, and building clinical and R&D capacity in Africa.

Unique features:

- Driven by self-identified needs of each country and hospital
- Tailored access agreements align needs with companies’ assets to deliver medications and technologies
- Companies’ clinical and R&D instrumentation placed in hospitals and laboratories
- Fellowships support knowledge exchange among companies, NGOs, and African oncologists and researchers

“As a researcher dedicated to unraveling breast cancer genetics in women of African descent, and as a native of Nigeria, I understand cancer’s toll in Africa from both scientific and personal perspectives. I am thrilled to partner with BVGH and AAI to empower African healthcare providers to better prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer across the continent.”

—Dr. Olufunmilayo (Funmi) Olopade, University of Chicago, IL, USA
Our Approach

Identify and engage target African countries and hospitals

Prepare custom analyses of cancer markets, payer systems, capabilities, and gaps for each country/hospital

Match participating companies’ oncology portfolios with country/hospital needs

Develop innovative business models and access agreements aligned with country/hospital priorities and company interests

Coordinate delivery of oncology medicines, technologies, and training

Expanding Access to Cancer Medicines & Technologies in Africa
Connecting LMIC Researchers with Industry Expertise and Resources

Research training, equipment placement, and partnership coordination to catalyze R&D in LMICs

- Fellowships place industry scientists at LMIC institutes, or LMIC researchers at companies, to promote intellectual and technical knowledge sharing

- Equipment donation programs place gently used laboratory instruments in LMIC institutes to enhance R&D capabilities

“My fellowship experience was life-changing. I not only gained a unique perspective on health systems in other parts of the world, but I also tested my leadership skills and ability to adapt to foreign environments. I look forward to applying these real-life learnings in my work to drive Merck & Co.’s mission to help the world be well.”

—Dr. Ellen Minnihan, Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA

“The coming of the Merck & Co. scientists to our laboratory at the University of Buea for several weeks, over multiple years, was very impactful and was a great honor for us. Not only did they impart industrial level insights and skills, and donate capital intensive pieces of equipment to us, they also made us their friends, paving the way for sustainable and more fruitful collaborations.”

—Professor Fidelis Cho-Ngwa, University of Buea, Cameroon
Africa Pavilion—BIO International Convention

Connecting African Researchers with Global Life Science Leaders for Partnership Development

Programming at the annual BIO International Convention to showcase African R&D innovations and foster international partnerships:

- Africa Pavilion featuring representatives from organizations across the continent
- BVGH-coordinated one-on-one partnering meetings
- Private meetings between the African delegation and company executives
- Site visits to companies in or near the Convention host city
- Panel sessions focused on Africa and its healthcare priorities
- Media events highlighting Africa's key role in the biomedical R&D landscape

“The BIO International Convention provided me with the opportunity, for the first time, to see how the research at my institute could be positioned for greater impact.”

—Professor Kwadwo Koram, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana

Building R&D Capacity in LMICs
Custom Programs & Services

Connecting Global Health Leaders with Strategic Planning and Educational Resources

- **Custom Reports**: In-depth analyses aligned with client interests and needs.
- **Africa eLearning Initiative**: Free eCourses and webinars from professional associations for African research institutions.
- **BVGH FundFinder**: Database of funding opportunities for neglected disease R&D.
- **Meeting Coordination**: Custom events focused on global health topics.
- **Neglected Disease Pipelines**: Surveys of drug, diagnostic, and vaccine landscapes to identify R&D gaps and opportunities.
Prof. Cho-Ngwa's Lab
Novartis
Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
BIO International Convention
University of British Columbia (UBC)

BVGH Impact: University of Buea, Cameroon

WIPO Re:Search
Prof. Cho-Ngwa identified natural products with activity against *Onchocerca* worms. BVGH connected him to a UBC organic chemist to identify and characterize the natural products' active compounds. *University of British Columbia (UBC)*

BIO International Convention
Africa Pavilion
Prof. Cho-Ngwa presented his research and represented the University of Buea and Cameroon at BVGH's Africa Pavilion.

BVGH FundFinder & WIPO Re:Search
Through a BVGH-established WIPO Re:Search collaboration, Prof. Cho-Ngwa is screening compounds from Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany against *Onchocerca*, including a counter-screen against *Loa loa*. BVGH used BVGH FundFinder to identify a grant to support this project, which the collaborators applied for and received. *Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany*

BVGH FundFinder
At BVGH's recommendation, Prof. Cho-Ngwa applied for and received a grant from MMV to screen MMV's Pathogen Box inhibitor set against *Onchocerca*. *Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)*

BVGH FundFinder & WIPO Re:Search
Prof. Cho-Ngwa identified natural products with activity against *Onchocerca* worms. BVGH connected him to a UBC organic chemist to identify and characterize the natural products' active compounds. *University of British Columbia (UBC)*

Equipment Donation Program
BVGH coordinated the donation of high-tech laboratory equipment from Merck & Co. to Prof. Cho-Ngwa. The instruments are essential to his onchocerciasis drug discovery projects.

BVGH FundFinder
At BVGH's recommendation, Prof. Cho-Ngwa applied for and received a grant from MMV to screen MMV's Pathogen Box inhibitor set against *Onchocerca*. *Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)*

Novartis
WIPO Re:Search
BVGH coordinated a research placement for Prof. Cho-Ngwa at Novartis' headquarters, where he received training in natural products chemistry. *Novartis, Basel, Switzerland*

Prof. Cho-Ngwa's Lab
University of Buea

Fellowship Program
BVGH placed Merck & Co. scientists at the University of Buea to share their technical skills and expertise.

**Professor Fidelis Cho-Ngwa**
University of Buea, Cameroon
- Professor, Biotechnology and Molecular Biology
- Head, Biotechnology Unit
- Head, ANDI Centre of Excellence for Onchocerciasis Drug Research
“The role of industry in improving global health cannot be understated. We have been, and must continue to be, leaders, experts, innovators, and—most importantly—partners in global efforts to reduce suffering and the burden of disease.”

—James Greenwood,
President & CEO,
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO);
Chairman, BVGH Board of Directors