



Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce the release of our [2017 WIPO Re:Search Partnership Hub Annual Report](#). Across the board, we exceeded our 2017 goals for WIPO Re:Search. We look forward to building on these successes and continuing to drive product development for the most pressing global health needs in 2018. If you would like hard copies of the Annual Report, please contact [Erica Jones](#).

Innovation and access to health technologies are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably [SDG 3](#): healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages. Later this month, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Trade Organization (WTO) will host the [Technical Symposium on Sustainable Development Goals: Innovative technologies to promote healthy lives and well-being](#). This Trilateral Cooperation promotes interplay between public health and IP policies, improving the synergistic implementation of policies.

At the 30th African Union Heads of State Summit, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) approved the addition of NTDs to the ALMA annual scorecard on disease progress. This commitment prioritizes NTDs alongside malaria and maternal and child health for the African continent. The [NTD progress index](#), developed by the WHO and Uniting to Combat NTDs, tracks mass treatment coverage across sub-Saharan Africa for five NTDs: lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and trachoma.

As mass treatment efforts increase, so does antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Through WIPO Re:Search, scientists are addressing AMR by developing new drug candidates with novel modes of action. In 2017 alone, BVGH established eight drug discovery collaborations addressing one or more of the ALMA priority NTDs. Continue reading to learn how a new collaboration between the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) and the Institut Pasteur Korea seeks to address drug-resistant tuberculosis.

I am pleased to welcome our newest Member, the **University of Zambia**.

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH*



Special Announcements

[Newly Established Master's Program in Global Health](#)

The University of Bonn in Germany has announced a new M.Sc. program in global health, with a focus on risk management and hygiene policy. The University of Bonn study program is offered in association with the Institute of Environment and Human Security (EHS) at the United Nations University in Bonn. The course is offered to post-graduate students and will be taught in English. Applications are considered on a rolling basis. Click [here](#) for more information.

[WIPO-WTO Colloquium for IP Teachers and Researchers in Africa](#)

Building upon the success of the annual Geneva WIPO-WTO Colloquium, WIPO and the WTO are offering—in cooperation with the University of South Africa (UNISA)—a regional edition of the Colloquium for participants from Africa. The WIPO-WTO Colloquium for IP Teachers and Researchers in Africa will be held April 9-12 followed by the IP Scholars Africa Conference, which will be hosted by and held at UNISA on April 13, in Pretoria, South Africa. Registration closes Feb. 25. Click [here](#) for more information.

WIPO Re:Search Statistics



Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search Members.
Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search collaborations.

Cornerstones of Collaboration



In 2016, approximately 490,000 new cases of multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis emerged, a figure that underscores the need to develop novel therapies. Dr. Vincent Delorme, Group Leader of the Tuberculosis Research Lab at **Institut Pasteur Korea** is working to develop new drugs against tuberculosis. Dr. Delorme's compounds showed promise against MDR tuberculosis, and he was interested in screening them against additional drug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) strains to inform the selection of a preclinical candidate. BVGH connected Dr. Delorme with the **Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics** (FIND), who agreed to share resistant *Mtb* strains to support Dr. Delorme's drug development efforts.

FIND houses a large biorepository with sputum, blood, and urine samples and matching strains from around the globe. Click [here](#) for more information, or email [Cathy Manner](#) to discuss your collaboration interest.

New Member Announcement

University of Zambia

The University of Zambia (UNZA) was established in 1965, guided by its motto for “service and excellence.” Today, UNZA is the oldest and largest public university in Zambia, enrolling over 30,000 students. Researchers at the University of Zambia are working to develop new drugs for human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) and schistosomiasis, screening and validating traditional medicines for their antimicrobial and antiviral properties, and exploring the potential etiologies of brain swelling in cerebral malaria. In addition to their drug discovery work, UNZA investigators are developing new diagnostics for dual-schistosome infections, using rats to detect *Mtb* infections, and improving diagnostic methods for malaria.



Partnership Hub Central

WIPO Visits BVGH for Productive Meetings in Seattle

Edward Kwakwa (Senior Director, Department for Traditional Knowledge and Global Challenges, WIPO) and Charles Randolph (Head, Global Health, WIPO) visited BVGH’s offices in Seattle, Washington. During the visit, WIPO and BVGH conducted internal discussions, mapping out actions towards fulfilling WIPO Re:Search goals and deliverables for 2018 and beyond. In addition, BVGH and WIPO held meetings with key global health stakeholders including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and **PATH**.



From left to right: Jennifer, Erica, Cathy, Edward, Callie, Joseph, Katy, Charles, Amy.



Darin Zehrung (Portfolio Leader, Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Delivery Technologies and Senior Technical Officer, PATH) gives a tour of PATH, featuring novel technologies in development.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

[Medicines for Malaria Venture: 16th Call for Proposals](#)

Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) recently opened up its 16th call for proposals. MMV welcomes proposals in the following areas:

1. Compounds addressing the key priorities of the malaria eradication agenda
2. Compounds with activity against asexual liver and/or blood stages
3. Novel approaches for screening

Funder: Medicines for Malaria Venture

Deadline: Letter of intent (LOI) due March 23, 2018

[Medicines for Malaria Venture: 1st Call for African Proposals](#)

MMV has opened its 1st call for proposals from African scientists focused in the following priority areas:

1. Compounds with confirmed activity on any antimalarial lifecycle stage
2. Assay development and screening

Funding amount: USD \$20,000

Funder: Medicines for Malaria Venture

Deadline: LOI due March 23, 2018

Eligibility: Scientists in malaria-endemic regions of Africa.



For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email [Cathy Manner](#).

Highlighted Contribution

Leprosy

The [Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy](#) was launched to accelerate progress towards a world without leprosy. Contributors to the Global Partnership include the **Novartis Foundation**, the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), and the International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA), with support from the WHO. In its initial phase, the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy will coordinate action in three key areas:

1. Accelerate research on new diagnostic and therapeutic tools, interventions, and strategies to interrupt leprosy transmission
2. Mobilize technical expertise to strengthen existing national programs
3. Increase advocacy and fundraising

In recognition of the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy and World Leprosy Day (Jan. 28), BVGH highlights the following compounds with repurposing potential against *Mycobacterium leprae*:

- [Dihydrofolate reductase \(DHFR\) inhibitors](#)
- [HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors](#)
- [Phosphoinositide 3-kinase \(PI3K\) inhibitors](#)
- [Squalene synthase inhibitors](#)
- [Tyrosine kinase inhibitors](#)

For more information or to discuss potential collaborations involving these inhibitors, please contact [Cathy Manner](#).

Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
Mar. 27	International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases: ISNTD Festival	London, England
April 15 - 19	Keystone Symposium: Tuberculosis: Translating Scientific Findings for Clinical and Public Health Impact	Whistler, Canada
May 23 - 25	BioMalPar XIV: Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite	Heidelberg, Germany
Jun. 10 -15	Gordon Research Conference: Eukaryotic Parasites: From Discovery Research to Clinical Interventions	Newport, Rhode Island



*Known as EMD in the US and Canada | **Known as Merck in the US and Canada



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