



Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

“Why do you work with corporations?” Bill and Melinda Gates were asked in their Annual Letter 2018, the [10 Toughest Questions We Get](#). “We work with companies like GSK and Johnson & Johnson because they can do things no one else can,” answered Melinda, “when the goal is to build upon basic science, translate it into products that save lives, get those products tested and approved, and then manufacture those products, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies have the vast majority of the necessary expertise. Every partner we work with is required to make products developed with foundation funding widely available at an affordable price.”

Stewart Cole, President of the Institut Pasteur, recently published an editorial, [Tuberculosis drug discovery needs public-private consortia](#). Cole petitions that academic talent and creative skills be combined with “the pragmatism and experience of professional drug developers to harness medicinal chemistry to deliver drug-like molecules with the best pharmacological properties.”

Since its inception in 2011, WIPO Re:Search has been grounded on parallel principles. WIPO Re:Search recognizes and applies companies’ critical expertise to neglected tropical disease (NTD) product development, and increasing global access to the resulting products. I encourage you to read on to learn how **Merck & Co., Inc.** is playing such a critical role in sharing expertise and know-how to accelerate drug development for NTDs.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH



Upcoming Event



Mark your calendars! The [1st Malaria World Congress](#) will be held **July 1-5, 2018** in Melbourne, Australia. Among others, one objective of the Congress is to facilitate collaboration between practitioners of scientific innovation, health systems delivery, and community, government, and non-government organizations.

[Early bird registration](#) closes March 29, 2018.

Special Announcement

[CID Research Awarded \\$17.2 Million NIH/NIAID Tuberculosis Grant](#)
Omics for TB: Response to Infection and Treatment



Congratulations to the **Center for Infectious Disease Research** (CID Research), which has been awarded a \$17.2 million dollar grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to tackle tuberculosis using a systems-level approach. The grant involves CID Research scientists, in collaboration with the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB), **Stanford University**, and Weill Cornell Medical College. The research will focus on infection and disease progression, and treatment outcome variability. The research will ultimately support the development of new drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines against tuberculosis.

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



Center for Infectious
Disease Research
PEOPLE. SCIENCE. HOPE.



Advancing Partnerships through Knowledge Transfer

Although pharmaceutical compounds are an important intellectual property asset, knowledge and expertise sharing can be an equally valuable accelerator of product development. To support an ongoing collaboration, **MSD*** scientists Drs. Stephen Soisson, Corey Strickland, Sujata Sharma, and David Olsen engaged in discussions with investigators from the **Center for Infectious Disease Research** (CIDR), the **Seattle Structural Genomics Center for Infectious Disease** (SSGCID), and the **University of California, San Diego** (UCSD). MSD scientists provided valuable advice and expertise in support of CIDR, SSGCID, and UCSD's structural elucidation efforts for *Schistosoma* HMG-CoA reductase, a drug target for schistosomiasis.

Dr. Stephen Soisson, Structural Chemistry Site Lead at MSD, spearheaded the discussions with SSGCID, CIDR, and UCSD.

*Known as Merck & Co., Inc. in the US and Canada

IP in Focus

[WHO-WIPO-WTO Technical Symposium on Sustainable Development Goals: Innovative technologies to promote healthy lives and well-being](#)

“Better health allows children to learn and adults to earn; it helps people escape from poverty; and it lays the foundation for long-term economic development,” said WHO Director General Tedros in his opening remarks of the [Technical Symposium on Sustainable Development Goals: Innovative technologies to promote healthy lives and well-being](#). WIPO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and World Trade Organization (WTO) organized the Symposium to promote interplay between public health and IP policies in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 3: healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages.



From left to right: Charles Randolph, Francis Gurry, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Roberto Azevêdo, Dr. Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

[The S10 Research Instrumentation Awards](#)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Research Infrastructure Program (ORIP) S10 Instrumentation Grant Programs support purchase of commercially available instruments to enhance research of NIH-funded investigators. In the last 5 years, ORIP has awarded funding to purchase over 500 instruments. S10 awards are made to domestic higher education and non-profit institutions. Applications must include three or more currently NIH-funded Principal Investigators who demonstrate substantial need for the instrument. Instruments supported by S10 funding include, but are not limited to, X-ray diffraction systems, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometers, DNA and protein sequencers, biosensors, electron and confocal microscopes, cell-sorters, and biomedical imagers.

Funding amount: \$50,000 to \$2,000,000

Funder: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Deadline: May 31, 2018

Eligibility: Each application must include three or more NIH-funded investigators at U.S. institutions. Only higher education and non-profit institutes are eligible to apply.

[E-ASIA Joint Research Program: Health Call for Proposals in the Areas of Infectious Diseases and Cancer](#)

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program aims to develop a collaborative research community in science and technology, to promote innovation in the East Asian region, and to contribute to the region’s economic development. The following member organizations of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program are implementing joint calls for proposals of multilateral cooperative research activities: Cambodia (Ministry of Health), Indonesia (Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education), Japan (Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development), Myanmar (Ministry of Education), New Zealand (Health Research Council), Philippines (Department of Science and Technology), Russia (Russian Foundation for Basic Research), Thailand (National Science and Technology Development Agency), and USA (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Cancer Institute). The program is accepting proposals in infectious diseases and cancer. The aim of the joint call is to contribute to the development of regional science and to overcome public health and medical problems in East Asia through multilateral collaboration.

For more information, see the [Guidelines](#) (PDF) and [Application Forms](#) (Word).

Funding Amount and Funder: Dependent on applicant’s country

Deadline: April 25, 2018

Eligibility: Proposals must involve multilateral collaboration by researchers from three or more participating countries.

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



Member Spotlight

[Natural Product Activity & Species Source Database](#)

Investigators at the **National University of Singapore** have developed a [database](#) connecting natural products to biological targets via experimental-derived quantitative activity data.



The database includes over 25,000 source organisms, 35,000 natural products, nearly 6,000 biological targets, and 447,000 activities records. The database allows users to browse targets by protein family, and review biological activities of natural products against specific targets. Users can download data relating to targets including IC₅₀ and compound-species pairs.

Highlighted Contribution

Tuberculosis

Many pathogenic organisms are showing alarming increase in antimicrobial resistance (AMR), threatening advances in modern medicine. In addition to multidrug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), extreme drug-resistant (XDR-TB) infections are on the rise. The success rate of MDR-TB treatment is only around 50%, and drops to around 25% for XDR-TB. There is urgent need for the development of new tuberculosis drugs with novel targets and mechanisms of action.

Host-directed therapies offer a novel approach to treating tuberculosis, as host targets can amplify anti-TB immune responses and facilitate host elimination of the bacteria. Even more advantageous, host-directed therapies minimize the risk of drug resistance. In support of World Tuberculosis Day (March 24), this Snapshot highlights compounds that have repurposing potential as host-directed therapies against tuberculosis:

- [Epidermal growth factor receptor \(EGFR\) inhibitors](#)
- [Muscarinic receptor antagonists](#)
- [Protein kinase R \(PKR\) inhibitors](#)
- [Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors \(SSRIs\)](#)
- [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
April 21 - 24	28th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases	Madrid, Spain
May 14 - 15	20th International Conference on Tuberculosis	London, England
June 10 - 15	Gordon Research Conference: Eukaryotic Parasites: From Discovery Research to Clinical Interventions	Newport, Rhode Island
July 1 - 5	1st Malaria World Congress	Melbourne, Australia



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