

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



April 2018

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

On April 26th WIPO will celebrate its annual [World Intellectual Property Day](#). This year's campaign, "powering change: women in innovation and creativity," draws attention to the women who are driving change and shaping our future. WIPO Re:Search supports and actively engages women in science. In 2017 BVGH and WIPO (through Funds in Trust [FIT2] from the government of Australia) supported the training of two female scientists from Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh through capacity building sabbaticals in Australia. More than half of the WIPO Re:Search collaborations established last year involved female lead investigators.

"The superbugs can be stopped – if we put good ideas into action," caveated Dr. Jayasree Iyer (Executive Director, Access to Medicine Foundation) in the Foundation's [Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark 2018](#). WIPO Re:Search Member companies are making major contributions to the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Of the [top eight companies](#) leading efforts towards appropriate access and stewardship of antibiotics, five are WIPO Re:Search Members: **GSK, Johnson & Johnson, MSD*, Novartis, and Pfizer**.

In 2016 resistance to artemisinin-based combination therapies was confirmed in *Plasmodium* parasites circulating in Southeast Asia. It was [recently reported](#) that a multidrug-resistant *P. falciparum* strain that originated in Cambodia, *PfPailin*, has spread to Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. This alarming expansion poses a public health crisis and endangers advances in malaria control. In recognition of World Malaria Day (April 25th), this Snapshot underscores the development of novel antimalarials through partnerships.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH

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



Special Announcements



Phages for
Global Health

[Phages for Global Health: 2nd East Africa Phage Workshop](#)

Motivated by the deficit of phage experts in Africa and Asia – regions where 90% of deaths caused by antibiotic resistance occur – Phages for Global Health is on a mission to bring phage expertise to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Phages for Global Health offers a variety of laboratory training and product development workshops to support capacity building and international collaboration. Through these hands-on laboratory training courses, LMIC scientists are taught how to isolate and characterize phages in their own regions. Phages for Global Health will hold its 2nd East Africa Phage Workshop at Pwani University in Kenya, from June 28 to July 7, 2018. To sign up for the workshop, click [here](#).

[New Online Reference Resource for Labs Conducting Tuberculosis Trials](#)

The [Mycobacteriology Laboratory Sourcebook for Harmonization and Support of Tuberculosis \(TB\) Clinical Trials](#) was created to support high-quality results and comparability of data across labs participating in tuberculosis clinical trials sponsored by National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases- (NIAID) funded clinical trial networks. The 100+ page sourcebook describes essential technical components of lab procedures aimed at ensuring safety and comparability and quality of results.

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



Cerebral malaria (CM) is one of the most severe complications of malaria, and is often fatal. Prof. Alister Craig of the **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)** is working to elucidate the mechanisms of CM, and found that inhibition of the PAR1 protein might reduce brain swelling and fatality. BVGH connected Prof. Craig with **Eisai Co., Ltd.**, who shared a set of PAR1 inhibitors. Following promising initial results with the PAR1 inhibitors in an *in vitro* model of brain barrier function, Prof. Craig was awarded a Medical Research Council Confidence in Concept award. Eisai shared additional PAR1 inhibitors with Prof. Craig to support his continued research of PAR1 inhibitors using more complex models.

IP in Focus



Oussama Ben Fadhel, a Technology Transfer Professional from the **Institut Pasteur de Tunis (IP Tunis)**, visited **Emory University** last month for a week-long technology transfer exchange and consulting program. During his visit, Oussama learned and worked alongside Emory University's licensing, patent, and industry contracting teams. Oussama's visit was supported by the [Commercial Law Development Program \(CLDP\)](#) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The CLDP fosters global innovation and entrepreneurship by providing technical assistance on technology transfer to developing countries.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

[The African Postdoctoral Training Initiative](#)

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the **National Institutes of Health** (NIH), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have established a postdoctoral training fellowship program, the African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI). Recipients of the APTI fellowship will train at the NIH, and will focus on a global health research area of priority to their home institutions and countries, and the AAS, BMGF, and NIH. The research priority areas are infectious diseases; nutrition; reproductive, maternal, and child health; and developing skills for clinical and translational research. Click [here](#) for more information.

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



Member Spotlight



[Global Health Compound Design Webinars](#)

Throughout 2018 **Medicines for Malaria Venture** (MMV) will be hosting webinars on compound design. These webinars aim to share experts' experiences in designing compounds for global health projects (malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases), and will cover wide-ranging topics including open-access design tools, quality criteria such as target candidate profiles, and case histories.

The next webinar will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 16:00 CET. Dr. Mark Gardner (Managing Director, Computation and Medicinal Chemist, **Salvensis**) will introduce PK Solver – a free tool to analyze pharmacokinetic (PK) data and derive PK parameters for modelling. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

If you are interested in giving a presentation, please contact [Mark Gardner](#).

Highlighted Contribution

Malaria

According to the **World Health Organization** (WHO), between 2010 and 2015, malaria incidence fell by 21% globally. Despite this impressive decline, malaria is still endemic in 91 countries and accounts for an estimated 200+ million cases annually, resulting in approximately 430,000 deaths – primarily in children under the age of five. This mosquito-borne illness claims the life of one child every two minutes. In recognition of World Malaria Day (April 25th), this Snapshot highlights compounds that have demonstrated repurposing potential against *Plasmodium* parasites:

- [Diglyceride acyltransferase \(DGAT\) 1 inhibitors](#)
- [Enhancer of zeste homolog \(EZH\) 2 \(histone-lysine N-methyltransferase\) inhibitors](#)
- [HIV protease inhibitors](#)
- [HMG-CoA Reductase inhibitors](#)
- [Lysine-specific demethylase \(LSD\) 1 inhibitors](#)

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

Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
June 25 - 26	<u>International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ISNTD): diagnostics, drug discovery, & development (d³)</u>	London, England
July 1 - 5	<u>1st Malaria World Congress</u>	Melbourne, Australia
July 22 - 27	<u>Gordon Research Conference: Looking for Common Themes and Solutions in Drug Resistance for Cancer, Infectious Disease and Agriculture</u>	Smithfield, Rhode Island
August 19 - 24	<u>14th International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA 2018)</u>	Daegu, Korea



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