Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce the release of our WIPO Re:Search Mid-Year Report 2018! Over the first half of the year, BVGH established ten new collaborations and recruited five new Members. Read the Report to learn how the BVGH team is well on its way to achieving and surpassing its goals and deliverables for 2018.

Two WIPO Re:Search Members, the Center for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR) and Seattle Children’s Research Institute (SCRI), have made a major announcement: CIDR will merge with SCRI’s infectious disease division. This merger will create the largest pediatric infectious disease research program in the United States, capitalizing on the clinical expertise of SCRI and the laboratory skills of CIDR. “Our expertise is more slanted towards bedside, theirs towards bench, so together it’s more balanced,” SCRI President Jim Hendricks told GeekWire.

Last month, the FDA announced the approval of Krintafel (tafenoquine) for the radical cure of Plasmodium vivax malaria. This first ever single-dose medicine to prevent the relapse of P. vivax malaria is a major contribution towards eradication efforts. Congratulations to WIPO Re:Search Members GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and the Medicines for Malaria Venture on this groundbreaking treatment. Learn more here.

The following two upcoming WIPO Re:Search events will be of interest to our Members:

1. **WIPO Re:Search quarterly teleconference, Thursday, August 23rd, 2018 at 7:00 am PDT.** WIPO will provide a general update that will include planning for upcoming events as well as the launch of new Member resources. BVGH will brief participants about our newest Members, ongoing and new collaborations, recent publications, and upcoming events. Together, WIPO and BVGH will provide Members with an update on the implementation of the WIPO Re:Search Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Please RSVP to Daniela Valencia.

2. **“WIPO Re:Search: Collaborative Innovation for Health” side event at the WIPO General Assemblies (Geneva, Switzerland), Thursday, September 27th, 2018.** Please join WIPO Director General Francis Gurry and me for a panel session focused on WIPO Re:Search’s advances in accelerating R&D for promising product candidates, in addition to highlighting WIPO’s capacity-building successes as exemplified by the Funds in Trust (FIT) program supported by the Government of Australia.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH

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**Special Announcements**

Featuring Three Recent Publications by WIPO Re:Search Collaborators
Through an ongoing collaboration, Dr. Fabrice Boyom at the University of Yaoundé 1 and Dr. Bill Baker at the University of South Florida (USF) have partnered to further natural product antimalarial drug discovery efforts. The investigators have successfully identified the compounds as having good antiplasmodial activity, and are now working to isolate the active ingredients from the crude extracts and fractions. The researchers recently co-published their findings in *Parasitology Research*, authoring the first publication to show the effect of conditioned media on the antiplasmodial potential of endophytic fungi.

Onchocerciasis is the second leading infectious cause of blindness in the world, yet treatment options remain very limited. Moxidectin was recently approved by the US FDA as the second recommended drug treatment option following ivermectin. However, both drugs are limited in that they are only effective against microfilariae, and are unable to kill the adult *Onchocerca* parasite worms. Dr. Fidelis Cho-Ngwa at the University of Buea and Dr. Raymond Andersen at the University of British Columbia (UBC) have been collaborating through WIPO Re:Search to study the antifilarial activities of two Cameroonian medicinal plants, *Lantana camara* and *Tamarindus indica*, locally used to treat onchocerciasis. The investigators recently co-published their findings in *PLoS NTDs*, reporting for the first time the anti-onchocercal activities of these locally consumed medicinal plants and identifying a potential lead for further development that appears effective against both adult and microfilarial *Onchocerca* parasite worms.

*Erythrophleum ivorense* is a tree that grows in tropical parts of Africa and has been shown to possess broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity. In collaboration with Dr. Conor Caffrey at the Center for Discovery and Innovation in Parasitic Diseases (CDIPD), University of California, San Diego (UCSD), Dr. Christian Agyare at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) was interested in determining the phenotypic effects of *E. ivorense* on two developmental stages of *S. mansoni*: the post-infective larvae and adult parasites. Methanol leaf and stem bark extracts of *E. ivorense* were successively fractionated and demonstrated activity against the post-infective larvae (stem and bark) and adult parasites (bark). The research was in part performed by Ms. Gertrude Kyere-Davies from Dr. Agyare’s research group. Ms. Kyere-Davies spent six months at the CDIPD, and data from this FIT fellowship resulted in a publication in the *Journal of Parasitology Research*. These results provide the first step in the potential discovery of new treatments for schistosomiasis using locally sourced African medicinal plants.

**WIPO Re:Search Statistics**

Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search Members.  
Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search collaborations.
Schistosomiasis affects as many as 240 million people globally, and more than 700 million people in endemic regions are at risk. The treatment and control of schistosomiasis relies on a single drug, praziquantel, which was discovered 40 years ago. Raising concerns over the possibility of drug resistance, it is critical to develop novel and potent antischistosomal molecules. Leveraging Nigeria’s natural resources, Professor Alexander Odaibo at the University of Ibadan has identified several crude botanical extracts with activity against Schistosoma. To support Professor Odaibo’s drug discovery efforts, Professor Yun Jiang Feng from Griffith University will perform activity-guided fractionation to isolate and identify the extracts’ compounds with antischistosomal activity.

New Member Announcements

The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) was established in 1965 as the country’s first institution of higher learning. It is now a leading teaching and research university with strong networks and collaborations with international research and professional organizations. The UPNG experience is founded on 50 years of a strong, dedicated, and rich culture of producing educated leaders for Papua New Guinea, the South Pacific, and the global community. With established schools across a range of educational disciplines, such as business administration, humanities and social sciences, law, medicine and health sciences, and natural and physical sciences, UPNG’s mission is to deliver excellent education and research results for nation building and global advancement towards an innovative and empowered society.

Founded in 1986, the Burnet Institute traces its origins to a small virus laboratory with only 10 staff. Today, Burnet boasts over 400 staff and students, and an annual budget exceeding AU$50 million. Burnet’s mission is to achieve better health for vulnerable communities by accelerating translational research. The institute’s programs represent a breadth of technical skills, and include research themes such as maternal and child health and disease elimination.

Partnership Hub Central

Call for Scientists: Join the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy Research Agenda Working Group

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy is launching the Research Agenda Working Group to develop an aligned, prioritized research agenda and support advocacy for investment. Chaired by Fareed Mirza (Head of Research, Novartis Foundation), the working group will develop research priorities in seven areas by assessing current research, identifying gaps, and prioritizing the new research needed to reach the goal of zero leprosy. To be involved in the working group, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Expertise in one of the sub-group topic areas
- Availability to participate in conference calls during the September-October 2018 timeframe
- Ability to review drafts and provide comments within a short timeframe

Persons affected by leprosy, country programme managers, and scientists and researchers in leprosy or other NTDs are encouraged to apply. Apply for membership here before August 17, 2018.
Advancing Healthcare Innovation in Africa: 3rd Annual Conference

Through the Advancing Healthcare Innovation in Africa (AHIA) partnership, Emory University, the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDi), and BVGH unite towards a shared goal: saving lives with innovative health products and services created by Africans for Africans. Supported by Pfizer and instituted in 2015, AHIA promotes the advancement of health innovation and technologies in Africa by advising, educating, and training African scientists in the business and legal aspects of the healthcare sector.

AHIA recently held its 3rd Annual Conference in South Africa. During the three-day conference, leading professionals provided advice in the scientific, business, and legal aspects of healthcare entrepreneurship. Attendees included eight African entrepreneurs (selected from hundreds of applicants) from four African countries. The entrepreneurs’ ideas ranged from diagnostic kits to medical devices. Emory University students and faculty members formed teams and facilitated the creation of development plans for each of the participating technologies. One of the African scientists reported of his experience with the Emory faculty, “I call these people scientific philanthropists. [This experience] has opened my eyes to the science of business and the business of science.”

Attendees of AHIA’s 3rd Annual Conference.

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BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

EDCTP Research and Innovation Action: Diagnostic Tools for Poverty-Related Diseases

The purpose of this call is to provide funding towards the development and uptake of rapid, accurate, cost-effective, scalable and field-friendly diagnostic tools for poverty-related diseases (PRDs). Projects should focus on validation of the clinical performance and/or implementation of new or improved diagnostic tools and technologies for the detection of any of PRDs, including co-infections. The proposed tools and technologies should improve the performance of diagnosis, prediction, monitoring, intervention, or assessment of therapeutic response, with a significant impact on clinical decision and health outcomes. Proposals should focus on late-stage development (e.g., evaluation and/or demonstration phase trials) or implementation studies in sub-Saharan Africa. Diagnostic algorithms to detect multiple infections are also eligible.

- **Funding amount:** Approximately US$21 million towards 6-12 awards
- **Funder:** European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)
- **Deadline:** October 11, 2018
- **Eligibility:** Consortia comprising a minimum of three independent legal entities are eligible to apply. Two of the entities shall be established in two different Participating States (European Partner States) and one of the legal entities must be established in a sub-Saharan African country. All three legal entities shall be independent of each other.
Joint WPR/TDR Small Grants Scheme for Implementation Research in Infectious Diseases of Poverty

The objectives of this joint call are to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions in conducting implementation research, and to facilitate and strengthen implementation research in countries for the control and elimination of infectious diseases of poverty, including research that addresses issues related to the culture and environment that contribute to these problems.

- **Funding amount:** Up to US$15,000 per project (exceptionally larger grants up to US$20,000 may be considered)
- **Funder:** The World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region (WPR), and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), co-sponsored by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and WHO
- **Deadline:** October 15, 2018
- **Eligibility:** Individuals submitting proposals must be researchers or health professionals working in infectious disease programs of Ministries of Health, national universities, or research institutions; and who are from and are working in low- and middle-income countries of the WHO WPR. See here for a list of eligible countries.

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.

Upcoming Global Health Events

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<td>Oct. 14 - 18, 2018</td>
<td><strong>Keystone Symposium: Framing the Response to Emerging Virus Infections (S2)</strong></td>
<td>Hong Kong, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2018</td>
<td><strong>American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) 2018 Annual Meeting</strong></td>
<td>New Orleans, Louisiana</td>
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