



Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

September represents the start of a new academic year in many parts of the world, and it also ushers in a busy and exciting season for the WIPO Re:Search consortium.

The [WIPO General Assemblies](#) will be held from September 24 to October 2 in Geneva, Switzerland. Please join WIPO Director General Francis Gurry and me at the [“WIPO Re:Search: Collaborative Innovation for Health”](#) side event on Thursday, September 27. A moderated panel discussion will spotlight WIPO Re:Search’s successes in accelerating product R&D for neglected diseases and, through the [Funds in Trust \(FIT\) fellowship program](#) supported by the Government of Australia, training talented researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to contribute to the battle against neglected diseases. BVGH recently highlighted the FIT program, and the important role it plays in promoting health security and economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, in a [submission](#) to Australia’s Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Trade.

The WIPO General Assemblies side event will also feature the unveiling of the new [WIPO Re:Search Resource Platform](#). The Platform is a way for Members to showcase their research, assets, and additional pertinent information on their individual profiles, as well as to explore collaboration opportunities by viewing other Member profiles and interacting via the Platform’s features. **Please review and validate the information in the database pertaining to your institution prior to the launch, and send [WIPO](#) your feedback, questions, and comments.**

The [67th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene \(ASTMH\)](#) will take place from October 28 to November 1 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Joseph Hargan-Calvopiña will be representing BVGH at the conference and will be happy to meet with you to discuss your WIPO Re:Search partnering interests. Please [email](#) him to arrange a time to meet.

In other exciting news, last month the TB Alliance launched a new clinical trial, SimpliciTB, that is evaluating an all-oral, four-drug tuberculosis regimen that could treat most forms of the disease, including multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, more quickly and effectively than current therapies. A shorter and simpler treatment could mean better adherence, resulting in more positive outcomes. Learn more [here](#).

As always, please forward this Snapshot to your colleagues and reach out to us with any partnering requests or ideas.

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH*



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



The World Health Organization estimates that over 25 million people suffer from onchocerciasis globally. Available diagnostics are unable to detect impalpable adult worms that reside deep beneath the skin, resulting in the standardization of long-term, preventative drug treatments that can endure for over 20 years corresponding to the worm lifespan. Dr. Stephen Ghogomu at the **University of Buea** has identified two secretory proteins as potential biomarkers for adult-stage onchocerciasis. He has shared the amplified PCR products with Dr. Horacio Bach at the **University of British Columbia**, who will express and share the recombinant antigens with Dr. Ghogomu to test the antibody response via ELISA with the goal of developing an on-site antibody-based device to detect adult stage *O. volvulus*.



Parasitic infections currently affect over one billion people around the world, including millions of people in the U.S. each year. Drs. Alexis Kaushansky and Bart Staker at the **Center for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR)** are working to further anti-parasitic drug discovery. They have previously demonstrated Bcl-2 family inhibitors' efficacy in *Plasmodium* and *Toxoplasma* models of infection. To support their efforts to expand screening against other neglected parasitic infections, **Takeda** will provide the investigators with Bcl-2 family inhibitors to kill parasite infected cells including *P. falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *C. parvum*, *T. cruzi*, *Toxoplasma*, and *Leishmania* spp. To further support this project, BVGH has provided a Letter of Support for the CIDR researchers' NIH grant application.

Johnson & Johnson Contributes Compounds to Advance Malaria, Tuberculosis and NTD Drug Discovery



Johnson & Johnson has provided Prof. Tanya Parish, Senior Vice President, Drug Discovery, and Dr. Alyssa Manning, Scientist II, TB Drug Discovery Group, **Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI)**, with its Jump-stARter library to screen against intracellular *M. tuberculosis* and *Leishmania* parasites. Prof. Parish and Dr. Manning will use IDRI's high-content imaging system to perform the screens.



Infectious diseases remain a substantial cause of mortality around the world. This is particularly true in resource-poor areas, where access to treatment is sparse and people fight a multitude of infections simultaneously. Dr. Fabrice Boyom at the **University of Yaoundé I**, Cameroon is working to identify hit inhibitors of critical parasitic metabolic pathways to develop high-need drugs against HAT, leishmaniasis, and malaria. To best support his drug discovery efforts, **Johnson & Johnson's** Computer-Aided Design (CAD) team conducted analysis to select the best compounds for this collaboration and will be sharing the selected compounds with Dr. Boyom for screening. Johnson & Johnson also provided a Letter of Support for Dr. Boyom's MMV grant application with the hopes of acquiring funding to further their collaborative drug discovery efforts.



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Johnson & Johnson will provide Dr. Peter Roy, Professor of Molecular Genetics at the **University of Toronto**, with its Jump-stARter library to screen in a *C. elegans* model of soil-transmitted helminths. Dr. Roy will employ his novel assay to identify molecules that target helminths under variable host conditions.

IP in Focus

You're invited to a special sneak peek of the new WIPO Re:Search Resource Platform!

The new [WIPO Re:Search Resource Platform](#) is a way for Members to showcase their research, assets, and additional pertinent information on their individual profiles. Members can also explore collaboration opportunities by viewing other Member profiles and interacting via the Platform's features.

The Resource Platform will be officially launched on September 27, 2018 during the [WIPO Re:Search side event](#) at the [WIPO General Assemblies](#). **Before the unveiling takes place, please review and validate the information in the database pertaining to your institution.**

Next steps:

- Access the Resource Platform and sign up for a WIPO Re:Search user account: <https://research.wipo.int/>
- Validate your institution's information
- Explore the Resource Platform and send [WIPO](#) your feedback, questions, and comments

Email [Daniela Valencia](#) for more information.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

[EDCTP: Strategic Action for the Comparison, Selection and Development of Malaria Vaccine Candidates](#)

The purpose of this Call for Proposals is to support one large-scale strategic action (clinical research activities) that is part of a bigger portfolio of clinical trials with the capacity to compare and select the most promising malaria vaccine candidates, and manage their progress through clinical development. This should be achieved by establishing an objective set of stage-gate criteria that can be used for comparing and evaluating a diverse set of vaccine candidates developed by different research groups, with the aim of bringing them together in a joint portfolio.

- **Funding amount:** €18 million
- **Funder:** European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)
- **Deadline:** November 1, 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.

[NIH: Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award](#)

The Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award aims to provide research support and protected time to a research scientist from a low- or middle-income country (LMIC) who holds an academic junior faculty position or research scientist appointment at an LMIC academic or research institution. Applications are invited from LMIC research scientists from any health-related discipline who propose both critically needed career development activities and a research project that is highly relevant to the health priorities of their country.

- **Funding amount:** Award budgets are composed of salary and other program-related expenses. NIH will contribute up to \$75,000 (for a minimum of 75% effort or 30 hours per week) per year toward the salary of the career award recipient, and up to \$30,000 per year toward the research development costs of the award recipient. The total project period should be a minimum of 3 years and may not exceed 5 years.
- **Funder:** National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- **Deadline:** Letter of Intent due October 8, 2018; application due November 7, 2018
- **Eligibility:** Applications must be submitted by academic or research institutions in LMICs, as defined by the [World Bank](#); low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income countries are included. Candidates must be LMIC citizens; must currently hold an academic junior faculty position or research scientist appointment at the LMIC applicant institution; and must have been in this position for at least one year at the time the application is submitted.

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



Highlighted Contributions

Tuberculosis

Many pathogenic organisms are showing alarming increases 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. This Snapshot highlights compounds that have repurposing potential for tuberculosis therapy:

- [Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors](#)
- [CXCR2 antagonists](#)

- [HDAC inhibitors](#)
- [Proteasome inhibitors](#)
- [STING inhibitors](#)

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

Upcoming Global Health Events

| Dates | Event Name | Location |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Sept. 24 - Oct. 2, 2018 | WIPO General Assemblies | Geneva, Switzerland |
| Oct. 14 – 16, 2018 | World Health Summit 2018 | Berlin, Germany |
| Oct. 14 - 18, 2018 | Keystone Symposium: Framing the Response to Emerging Virus Infections (S2) | Hong Kong, China |
| Oct. 17 – 20, 2018 | Keystone Symposium: 21st-Century Drug Discovery and Development for Global Health (S3) | Berlin, Germany |
| Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2018 | American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) 2018 Annual Meeting | New Orleans, Louisiana |
| Jan. 17 - 21, 2019 | Keystone Symposium: Tuberculosis: Mechanisms, Pathogenesis and Treatment (A3) | Banff, Canada |
| May 12 - 15, 2019 | Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research (WCAIR) Conference on Innovative Drug Discovery and Development | Dundee, UK |



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

