

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



February 2019

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce that our 2018 BVGH Partnership Hub Annual Report will be released this month! Please keep an eye out for the report in your inboxes next week. While we have far surpassed our 2018 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 2019. If you would like hard copies of the Annual Report, please contact [Laurie Pfalzer](#).

Schistosomiasis affects over 200 million people around the world, and 700 million are at risk for contracting the disease. BVGH recently authored a publication in *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease* highlighting the important role WIPO Re:Search and cross-sector partnerships play in combatting schistosomiasis. Read the full publication [here](#).

WIPO Re:Search Members **Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)** and the **Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)** recently launched the [Pandemic Response Box](#) to provide researchers with free access to 400 diverse antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal compounds to accelerate the discovery of new treatments for infectious and neglected diseases.

I am pleased to welcome our newest Member to the Consortium, the **Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust (PRSTRT)**.

As always, please share this Snapshot with 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.

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## Special Announcement

### New Malaria Diagnostic Publication from WIPO Re:Search Collaborators



Hemozoin is a metabolic waste product produced in red blood cells infected by malaria parasites. As part of a collaboration to validate a nonlinear imaging diagnostic tool that would detect hemozoin during malaria parasite infection, Professor Paul Wiseman and Ph.D. student Alexei Kazarine from **McGill University** were connected with Professor Wellington Oyibo from the **University of Lagos** in order to have access to, and test clinical samples from, non-infected and malaria-infected patients to identify the limits of detection of this new diagnostic tool. This collaboration has resulted in a publication in [Analytical Chemistry](#). The results demonstrate that this novel diagnostic tool has the potential to easily and rapidly confirm malaria diagnoses following symptoms, and the ability to track treatment progress in existing patients, potentially allowing physicians to adjust medication and dosage for each individual.

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## Cornerstones of Collaboration

### MIT Shares Ampli Blocks to Aid in Onchocerciasis Diagnostic Development



Dr. Stephen Ghogomu at the **University of Buea** has identified two proteins as potential biomarkers for adult-stage onchocerciasis. To support his diagnostic development, Dr. Jose Gomez-Marquez and Dr. Kimberly Hamad Schifferli at the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** have shared [Ampli Blocks](#), a set of 40 different building blocks that enable lab workers around the world to assemble them in different ways to produce diagnostic devices. By supplementing the engineering of diagnostic development, Ampli Blocks allow researchers to focus on the biochemistry of detection and promote independent development of site-specific diagnostic devices. Dr. Ghogomu will use these blocks as a platform to develop an onchocerciasis diagnostic device.

### Pfizer Provides Expertise in Transdermal Drug Delivery for an Antimalarial Drug Candidate



Dr. Audrey Odom John (**Washington University, St. Louis [WUSTL]**) and Dr. Cynthia Dowd (**The George Washington University [GW]**) identified an antimalarial drug candidate with a novel, parasite-specific target. The investigators are

now exploring various solutions to improve the compound's pharmacokinetic properties, including administration in a patch formulation. BVGH coordinated a call between Dr. Odom John, Dr. Dowd, and Dr. Thean Yeoh, a **Pfizer** scientist with expertise in transdermal drug delivery, to help assess the feasibility of this approach for the compound.

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## New Member Announcement



Puerto Rico  
Science, Technology  
& Research Trust

The **Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust (PRSTRT)** was created in 2004 by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a non-profit to invest, facilitate, and build capacity to advance Puerto Rico's economy and well-being through innovation-driven enterprises, science and technology, and its industrial base. As a key component of its work, the Trust engages Puerto Rico's academic institutions through direct research grant funding and collaborative programmatic initiatives. These include: Brain Trust for Tropical Disease Research and Prevention, Center for Biodiversity and Bioprospecting, Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation, Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit, Puerto Rico Public Health Trust, and the Technology Transfer Office, which supports and manages IP and commercialization in partnership with academic research institutions.

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## BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

### [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Neglected Tropical Diseases Data Innovation Incubator](#)

This Grand Challenge seeks innovative ideas for how to improve the quality, completeness, and timeliness of routine NTD data and ensure programmatic decision-making is based on the best available data. Such outcomes will help target interventions to all at-risk populations and achieve high intervention coverage and maximal impact on infection and morbidity.

**Amount:** \$200,000 for up to 6 months (Round 1 – proof of concept); unspecified for 12-18 months (Round 2 – testing solutions broadly)

**Organization:** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Deadline:** March 25, 2019

**Eligibility:** Open to foreign and domestic organizations; for-profit, non-profit, government, and academic organizations; individuals are not eligible

### [Additional Funding Opportunities](#)

- [TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships](#) – Deadline: March 7, 2019
- [Japan Society for the Promotion of Science \(JSPS\) Research Fellowships in Japan](#) – Deadline: March 15, 2019
- [MMV 17<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals](#) – Deadline: March 29, 2019
- [Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation Medical Research Awards](#) – Deadline: March 31, 2019
- [NIH Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program](#) – Deadline: Letter of Intent due June 25, 2019; Application due July 25, 2019
- [Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center: Operational Research on "Endgame" Challenges](#) – No deadline specified

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



## Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
March 8-10, 2019	<a href="#">Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Annual Conference</a>	Chicago, IL, USA
March 23-29, 2019	Gordon Research <a href="#">Seminar</a> and <a href="#">Conference</a> : From Innovation in Tropical Infectious Diseases to Global Health Solutions	Galveston, TX, USA
April 13-16, 2019	<a href="#">European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases</a>	Amsterdam, Netherlands
April 14-17, 2019	<a href="#">World Vaccine Congress Washington</a>	Washington, DC, USA
May 12-15, 2019	<a href="#">Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research (WCAIR) Conference on Innovative Drug Discovery and Development</a>	Dundee, UK



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\*Known as EMD in the US and Canada | \*\*MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA.



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