

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



April 2019

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

This month we celebrate two important days that draw attention to the critical role WIPO Re:Search plays in improving global health.

On World Malaria Day (April 25), we reflect on the progress WIPO Re:Search has made toward combating this devastating disease. To date, BVGH has catalyzed more than 45 malaria-focused R&D collaborations, three of which have advanced through development milestones. World Intellectual Property (IP) Day (April 26) celebrates the critical role of IP in stimulating innovation and creativity. Through WIPO Re:Search, BVGH has established 150 IP-sharing collaborations to drive drug, diagnostic, and vaccine development for diseases of poverty, with many more collaborations in development.

Novartis recently joined the [Global Chagas Disease Coalition](#), a collaborative alliance that aims to increase awareness of Chagas disease and foster synergies in disease control, diagnosis, and treatment. Novartis also [plans](#) to launch a multinational study of its heart failure drug, Entresto®, in patients with chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy in Latin America. This will be the first definitive morbidity and mortality study to assess a potential cardiac disease therapy in this underserved population.

If you are planning to be in Geneva on April 16, I encourage you to join our WIPO colleagues, Cathy Manner, and me for [WIPO's Global Challenges Seminar](#) on Urgent Innovation: Policies and Practices for Effective Response to Global Health Crises.

I am pleased to welcome our newest WIPO Re:Search Member, **Umaru Musa Yar'adua University**.

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



Special Announcement

New BVGH Publication: "WIPO Re:Search: Catalyzing Public-Private Partnerships to Accelerate Tropical Disease Drug Discovery and Development"

BVGH's new article in *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease* describes how WIPO Re:Search empowers tropical disease drug discovery researchers from academic and non-profit organizations and small companies to leapfrog their R&D



Perspective

WIPO Re:Search: Catalyzing Public-Private Partnerships to Accelerate Tropical Disease Drug Discovery and Development

Cathyryne K. Manner, Katy M. Graef and Jennifer Dent*

programs by accessing pharmaceutical industry resources that may not otherwise be available to them. Read the full article [here](#).

WIPO Re:Search Statistics



Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search Members.

Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search collaborations.

Click [here](#) to view the WIPO Re:Search Collaboration Pipeline.

Cornerstones of Collaboration

Novartis Shares Compounds to Aid in Chagas Disease Drug Discovery



It is estimated that eight million people worldwide are infected with *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the causative agent of Chagas disease. In an effort to develop novel drugs against this parasite, Dr. Artur Cordeiro at the **Laboratório Nacional de Biociências (LNBio)** has identified chemical scaffolds that have shown activity against two promising targets and efficacy against the parasite's intracellular form. In order to identify additional inhibitors or novel chemical scaffolds with activity against both *T. cruzi* enzymes, Dr. Cordeiro will be working with **Novartis** as part of their Facilitated Access to Screening Technologies (FAST) Lab program to screen several of Novartis' proprietary compounds against these two targets to identify tool compounds for structure-based drug discovery.

University of Dundee Provides Training to Support Leishmaniasis R&D



Leishmaniasis is endemic in nearly 100 countries worldwide and, with treatment failure a growing problem, there is an urgent need for development of novel first-line agents. Dr. Edmund Ekuadzi, co-manager of the **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)** Central Laboratory and former [Novartis Next Generation Scientist](#)

[Program fellow](#), is exploring the anti-leishmanial properties of Ghanaian plants used in traditional medicines. He will receive training in bioassay-guided fractionation of plant extracts through the Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research (WCAIR) program at the **University of Dundee** to advance his drug discovery programs.

Partnership Hub Central

[Advancing Healthcare Innovation in Africa \(AHIA\) 2019 – Apply by April 15!](#)

Led by **Emory University** and the **Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio)**, AHIA is a transformative program for healthcare scientists in Africa. Its goal is to support and promote the advancement of **health innovations and technologies in Africa** by advising, educating, and training African scientists in the business and legal aspects of the healthcare sector.

AHIA is a multi-phase program that consists of a three-day conference (July 10-12, 2019, in Johannesburg, South Africa)—during which development plans will be created for each participant’s technology—and ongoing advice from leading scientific, business, and legal professionals. AHIA is a non-profit and does not take any ownership in any project.

African scientists with innovative solutions to healthcare needs on the African continent are invited to apply [here](#).



New Member Announcement



Umaru Musa Yar'adua University (UMYU), formerly known as Katsina State University, was established under the Katsina State Law No. 7 of September 2006. The Katsina State University was conceived to serve as a nucleus for socio-economic, technological, and political development of the State by producing highly skilled human resources through conventional face-to-face and distance learning modes. It is the hope and aspiration of the Government and people of Katsina State to establish, nurture, and develop a world-class university driven by modern information and communication technology (ICT) culture.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

[Harrington Scholar-Innovator Award](#)

The Harrington Scholar-Innovator Award recognizes physician-scientist innovators whose research has the potential to change standards of care. The award provides research and drug development support to help bridge the gap between basic discovery and the clinical realm.

Amount: US\$100,000, with opportunity to qualify for up to US\$700,000

Organization: Harrington Discovery Institute

Deadline: May 3, 2019

Eligibility: Must have M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. and hold a faculty position at an accredited academic medical center, university or research institution in the US or Canada

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [Wellcome Trust: International Master's Fellowships](#) – Deadline: April 16, 2019
- [Wellcome Trust: International Intermediate Fellowships](#) – Deadline: April 25, 2019
- [Wellcome Trust: International Training Fellowships](#) – Deadline: April 25, 2019
- [NIH Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program](#) – Deadline: Letter of Intent due June 25, 2019; application due July 25, 2019

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



Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
May 12-15, 2019	Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research (WCAIR) Conference on Innovative Drug Discovery and Development	Dundee, UK
June 3-6, 2019	BIO International Convention	Philadelphia, PA, USA
Sept. 10-13, 2019	20th International Leprosy Congress	Manila, Philippines



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