

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



October 2019

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

I know I was not alone in watching with keen interest the United Nations General Assembly in September. The spotlight that the General Assembly shines on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reminds us of the important work that we do day in and day out to improve the lives of people around the world. WIPO Re:Search Members and friends like you are truly instrumental to advancing the UN's SDGs around health and well-being, innovation, and global partnerships.

At this moment, the [Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO](#) are meeting in Geneva to address the opportunities and challenges of intellectual property. We know that intellectual property is not a barrier to global health innovation, but instead is a key ingredient. WIPO Re:Search demonstrates this fact. The WIPO Re:Search consortium of Member companies and institutions around the world continually show that public-private partnerships are making smart use of intellectual property to address neglected infectious diseases. This Snapshot newsletter gives you a peek into our Members' work happening around malaria, tuberculosis, and Buruli ulcer. To learn more about how the Consortium is contributing to the SDGs, I encourage you to read WIPO's recent article, [SDG Spotlight: Health Innovation to Treat Neglected Diseases](#).

Later this month, Analise LeJeune-Stodieck will be representing BVGH and presenting a session at the [IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference](#) in Seattle. Joseph Hargan-Calvopiña and Noah Hunthausen will be attending the [ASTMH Annual Meeting](#) next month in National Harbor, Maryland. Please email [Analise](#), [Joseph](#) or [Noah](#) if you would like to schedule a time to meet at these conferences.

Through these global events and the work of WIPO Re:Search, we are all united in our commitment to address and end the scourge of infectious diseases.

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

IP in Focus

WIPO Patent Drafting Training Program

WIPO offers [tailor-made workshops](#) to help inventors and other users of the patent system improve their patent drafting skills and techniques. These events are organized in collaboration with member states, national and regional intellectual property offices and institutions.

Scheduled Workshops:

- [WIPO Sub-Regional Patent Drafting Workshop](#) (Amman, Jordan)
 - *October 13-17, 2019*
- [WIPO National Patent Drafting Workshop](#) (Mexico)
 - *October 21-25, 2019*



WIPO-WHO-WTO Trilateral Symposium (October 31, 2019; Geneva, Switzerland)

The [8th Joint Technical Symposium](#) will address the importance of innovation in, and access to, cutting-edge health technologies to ensure progress towards universal health coverage and the achievement of the health-related UN Sustainable Development Goals. Online registration is available [here](#).

Cornerstones of Collaboration

By Speeding TB Diagnoses, Researchers Aim to Save Lives



Although tuberculosis (TB) is the leading infectious disease killer in the world, early diagnosis and treatment can prevent most TB deaths. Dr. Abraham Pinter at the **Public Health Research Institute at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School**, along with colleagues at the Foundation For Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), are using novel monoclonal antibodies isolated from TB-infected patients for a diagnostic assay that is more sensitive and has a similar high level of specificity than currently available assays. In order to further improve the sensitivity of the assay, Dr. Pinter has connected with Dr. Peter Myler and fellow investigators from the NIAID-funded **Seattle Structural Genomics Center for Infectious Disease (SSGCID) at Seattle Children's Research Institute (SCRI)** to solve the crystal structure of these antibodies complexed to their antigens. These crystal structures will guide computational methods to design sequence variations that increase the affinity and/or specificity of the existing antibodies. This work will provide the foundation for an improved diagnostic test that can quickly, easily, and inexpensively identify TB infection in people.

Merck KGaA and University of Yaoundé I Take on Buruli Ulcer

Merck KGaA
Darmstadt, Germany



Merck KGaA*, Darmstadt, Germany will be sharing its Mini Library with Professor Fabrice Boyom at University of Yaoundé I for Buruli ulcer drug discovery.

* Known as EMD in the USA and Canada

Partnership Hub Central

Publication Looks at Resistance-Causing Malaria Genes

Dr. Jun-Hu Chen at the **National Institute of Parasitic Diseases (NIPD)** has developed PCR assays to identify resistance-causing mutations in malaria parasite genes. With funding from NIPD, Uche Igbasi, a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Wellington Oyibo at the **University of Lagos**, spent two months at NIPD to receive training on the PCR assay while using samples from Nigerian patients to look for mutations causing resistance to drugs. This collaboration resulted in a publication titled, “Kelch 13 propeller gene polymorphism among *Plasmodium falciparum* isolates in Lagos, Nigeria: molecular epidemiologic study” that demonstrates that although three mutant genotypes of Kelch 13 gene were observed, no validated Kelch 13 polymorphism associated with artemisinin resistance was seen.

Rutgers TB Researcher Accepted into Atomwise Award program

WIPO Re:Search investigator Dr. G. Marcela Rodriguez from the **Public Health Research Institute at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School** has been accepted into Atomwise’s Artificial Intelligence Molecular Screen (AIMS) Awards program. Dr. Rodriguez has identified a promising drug target in *M. tuberculosis*, and now, through the AIMS program, Artificial Intelligence will perform a virtual screen of more than 10 million compounds. She will then be provided with 72 small molecules predicted to bind her protein target, and will have support from Atomwise’s medicinal chemists and computational biologists.

WIPO Re:Search Scientist wins Grand Challenges Africa Award

Professor Fabrice Boyom from University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon is one of eight African drug discovery researchers who were awarded up to US \$100,000 to expand their research capacity. The Grand Challenges Africa award is made possible through a partnership with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), University of Cape Town’s H3D, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The award aims to advance the discovery of new drugs to prevent, treat, and cure diseases endemic to Africa. [Learn more at MMV.](#)

SDG Spotlight: Health Innovation to Treat Neglected Diseases

In September, world leaders gathered at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York to signal how they will boost action to respond to the climate emergency and ensure the health and wellbeing of people everywhere. WIPO Re:Search contributes to the UN SDGs by encouraging the sharing of intellectual property-protected health assets and know-how. [Learn more at the World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\).](#)

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI)



The African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are partnering under the auspices of the Coalition of African Research and Innovation (CARI) to establish a post-doctoral training fellowship program, the African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI).

APTI fellows will train in a global health research area of priority for their home institutions and countries, and AAS, BMGF and NIH, while building bridges and lasting connections between the partner organizations and African scientists and institutions. While at the NIH, the fellows must be on leave or sabbatical from their home institution under the NIH Intramural Visiting Fellow Program. The research priority areas are in infectious diseases, nutrition, and reproductive, maternal, and child health and developing skills for clinical and translational research.

Funding call: [African Postdoctoral Training Initiative \(APTI\) requirements, selection criteria, FAQs and application](#)

Organization: The AAS

Application deadline: December 1, 2019

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [EDCTP Pediatric Drug Formulations for Poverty-Related Diseases](#) – Deadline: October 10, 2019
- [EDCTP Strategic Actions on Product-Related Implementation Research](#) – Deadline: October 10, 2019
- [NIH Planning Grant for Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program](#) – Deadline: Letter of intent due October 12, 2019
- [Chevening Scholarships](#) – Deadline: November 5, 2019
- [EDCTP New Drugs and Vaccines for Priority Pathogens in Antimicrobial Resistance](#) – Deadline: November 7, 2019
- [EDCTP Strategic Actions Supporting Large-Scale Clinical Trials](#) – Deadline: November 7, 2019
- [EDCTP Career Development Fellowships](#) – Deadline: November 27, 2019
- [EDCTP Preparatory Fellowships: Joint Call with the Africa Research Excellence Fund \(AREF\)](#) – Deadline: November 27, 2019
- [EDCTP Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships \(CRDF\) – Joint call with WHO/TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases 2019](#) – Deadline: February 28, 2020

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



Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
Oct. 9-10, 2019	The Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference	Lyon, France
Oct. 17-20, 2019	IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference*	Seattle, WA, USA
Oct. 27-29, 2019	World Health Summit	Berlin, Germany
Oct. 31, 2019	WIPO-WHO-WTO Trilateral Symposium	Geneva, Switzerland
Nov. 9-10, 2019	Women Leaders in Global Health Conference	Kigali, Rwanda
Nov. 12-14, 2019	NIMR 6th International Scientific Conference	Lagos, Nigeria
Nov. 20-24, 2019	ASTMH Annual Meeting*	National Harbor, MD, USA

*BVGH anticipated to attend



Johnson & Johnson

Merck KGaA*
Darmstadt, Germany



NOVARTIS



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



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