

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



April 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

One of the key ways WIPO Re:Search accelerates the drug discovery process for neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis (TB) is by promoting the repurposing of existing drug compounds. For instance, Professor Yossef Av-Gay, a TB researcher at the **University of British Columbia (UBC)**, is [partnering](#) with **Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited** through a BVGH-coordinated [WIPO Re:Search collaboration](#) to develop inhibitors of a human protein that promotes the survival of *M. tuberculosis* within macrophages. Using Takeda's inhibitors—developed to treat other diseases—as a starting point, Professor Av-Gay identified highly active hits in screening assays that inhibited *M. tuberculosis* growth with relatively low macrophage toxicity. He is now preparing to test the compounds in animal studies. Learn more about Professor Av-Gay and his research in [this interview with WIPO](#), published for World TB Day.

Repurposing drugs and biologics that are approved for other diseases also offers an accelerated path for developing new therapies for COVID-19. BVGH is heartened to see the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Mastercard, and Wellcome commit up to \$125 million to the [COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator](#), which will evaluate new and repurposed drugs and biologics to treat patients with COVID-19.

WIPO Re:Search continues to expand Consortium activities in Latin America. We are excited to welcome our newest Member, the [Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre](#) (UFCSPA) in Brazil. We look forward to fostering collaborations and connections for UFCSPA researchers with WIPO Re:Search's global R&D network.

Every April 26, WIPO celebrates [World Intellectual Property \(IP\) Day](#) to highlight the critical role that IP rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity. This year, WIPO welcomes the global innovation community to organize or participate in [virtual activities](#) and use the hashtag #WorldIPDay on social media.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO

BIO Ventures for Global Health



Special Announcement

Opportunity to Participate in the WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program

Background

The [WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program](#), supported by the Government of Australia through WIPO Funds-in-Trust, organizes research training sabbaticals in advanced laboratories to increase the capacity of laboratory scientists from

low- and middle-income countries to engage in **neglected tropical disease (NTD), malaria, and tuberculosis** research and development for vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics. BVGH matches fellows and hosts with complementary research interests and capabilities. The research sabbaticals will range from three to six months in duration. Funding will cover fellows' visa applications, flights, and a monthly stipend for living expenses.

Eligibility Criteria

The WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program is open to late-early- to mid-career scientists with laboratory research experience located in the Indo-Pacific and East African regions (not all countries within this region will be eligible) who:

- Are currently conducting or leading research programs focused on product-oriented (vaccine, diagnostic, drug) NTD, malaria, or tuberculosis research.
- Currently hold, and will maintain after the fellowship period, an independent research position at an Indo-Pacific or East African research organization.
- Are proficient in English (spoken and written).

Interested candidates should email their CV's to Noah Hunthausen (nhunthausen@bvgh.org) in order to receive a full application. As the available positions will be filling up quickly, interested applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

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.

New Member Announcement

Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre



Located in Porto Alegre, capital city of the state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, the [Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre](#) (UFCSPA) is a Federal Institute of Higher Education founded in 1961 under the title of Catholic College of Medicine of Porto Alegre. Federalized in 1980, it was named Federal College Foundation of Medical Sciences of Porto Alegre (FFFCMPA). In January 2008, it obtained the status of university, being re-named as Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre (UFCSPA). Research units include pre-clinical, clinical, and

laboratory aspects of diseases; genetics, molecular biology, biotechnology, and bioinformatics; physiology, pathophysiology, and rehabilitation; pharmacology and toxicology; health and environment; and epidemiology, education, and health technology assessment.

Cornerstones of Collaboration

Johnson & Johnson and University of Melbourne Collaborate on Anthelmintic Drug Discovery

The logo for Johnson & Johnson, featuring the company name in a red, cursive script font.

Parasitic worms cause substantial morbidity and mortality worldwide, and a heavy reliance on anti-parasitic treatments has led to drug resistance, with no effective vaccine available for most parasites. In order to address this high priority gap, the team of Professor Robin Gasser, **University of Melbourne**, has developed a high-throughput whole-organism assay for anthelmintic drug discovery. **Johnson & Johnson** will provide its Jump-stARter library to the discovery effort by Dr. Aya Taki and colleagues in the Gasser Lab.

IP in Focus

WHO, WIPO, WTO Executive Course Open for Registration Until April 19, 2020

The [course](#), “Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation – WHO, WIPO, WTO Executive Course on the Intersections Between Public Health, Intellectual Property, and Trade,” focuses on the interplay between health, trade, and IP and how these policy domains affect access to, and influence, medical technology innovation, particularly for neglected diseases.

WIPO Contributes Millions of Searchable Chemical Formulas to NIH Database

WIPO has [contributed](#) 16 million chemical formulas to the [PubChem](#) open chemistry database, linked directly to WIPO’s free global patent database, [PATENTSCOPE](#). The direct link to PATENTSCOPE allows PubChem users to search patent documents related to chemical compounds of interest with just one click. A high percentage of the information found in patents is not available from any other source. Users will also find additional information, such as the main actors in the related field, in the Analysis section of the PATENTSCOPE results page.

WIPO Academy Offers Distance Learning Program

WIPO Academy’s [Distance Learning Program](#) provides worldwide access to online courses in all fields of IP. The courses are taught in over seven languages by a global network of renowned IP experts and are increasingly offered in an accessible format for the visually impaired.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

RSTMH Small Grants 2020



The aim of the small grants is to enable early career researchers and global health professionals in the field of tropical medicine or global health to undertake clinical or scientific research and/or fieldwork. To apply, please click [here](#).
Deadline for application is 5:00 PM GMT on April 27, 2020.

Applications focused on the thematic areas listed in RSTMH's five-year strategy are encouraged:

- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), with a particular focus on their overlap with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Malaria, with a particular focus on drug resistance
- One Health and wider planetary health. The consideration of human health alongside animal health and the environment, in the context of social, economic and political factors.
- Topical issues including, but not limited to, emerging diseases
- Drug-resistant infections

RSTMH is also interested in applications related to snakebite, mycetoma and other skin NTDs and other deep mycoses, co-morbidity and NCDs, coronavirus and emerging diseases.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [ASTMH Alan J. Magill Fellowship](#) – Deadline: May 14, 2020
- [Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme for Implementation Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty](#) – Deadline: June 1, 2020
- [NIH Technology Accelerator Challenge: Non-invasive Diagnostics for Global Health](#) – Deadline: June 2, 2020
- [TDR Operational Research to Support the Elimination of Communicable Diseases in the Latin American and Caribbean Region](#) – Deadline: July 31, 2020
- [EDCTP Innovative Approaches to Enhance Poverty-Related Diseases Research](#) – Deadline: August 13, 2020

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



Member News

Novartis and DNDi Collaborate on New Oral Treatment for Visceral Leishmaniasis

Novartis and the **Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative** (DNDi) are [combining efforts](#) to develop a potential new oral treatment for visceral leishmaniasis, one of the world's leading parasitic killers. Upon approval, Novartis has committed to distributing the drug on an affordable basis worldwide, with a focus on maximizing access in endemic countries. The partnership is a key contribution to the development of new oral drugs that are affordable, safe, effective, and easy to take.

Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name
Apr. 16, 2020, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM GMT+1	ISNTD Connect: Accelerating Clinical Research Relevant to LMICs: Lessons from Neglected Tropical Diseases for COVID-19
Apr. 22, 2020, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM UTC	Virtual Keystone Symposia: The Malaria Endgame
June 8-12, 2020	BIO Digital



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



Copyright © 2020 BVGH, All rights reserved.

Mailing Address:

2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121