

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



July 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

As the world fights COVID-19, the battle against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) wages on, primarily in the most vulnerable communities in low- and middle-income countries. We invite you to read two new publications from WIPO Re:Search partners and use them as inspiration and direction to continue to combat NTDs.

International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA), a WIPO Re:Search Supporter Member, co-published [Collaborating to End Neglected Tropical Diseases: Catalyzing Innovation and Partnerships](#) with Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) and vfa Pharma. The report highlights the strong progress made by the biopharmaceutical industry and its partners against NTDs through WIPO Re:Search and other public-private initiatives.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, a special technical advisor to WIPO Re:Search, released a draft NTD road map. [Ending the Neglect to Attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A Road Map for Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030](#) proposes three key shifts in the approach to tackling NTDs: (1) use of impact indicators, instead of progress indicators, to increase accountability; (2) enhanced focus on mainstreaming programs into national health systems and intensifying cross-cutting approaches; and (3) greater program ownership by countries. Join WHO for its [webinar series](#) to learn more.

We are pleased to welcome **Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology** in Kenya to WIPO Re:Search.

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



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

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and University of Yaounde I Collaborate on NTD Drug Discovery



Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will be sharing its Mini Library of compounds with Prof. Fabrice Boyom at University of Yaounde I for leishmaniasis and amoebiasis drug discovery.

* The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

UCSF Team Identifies New Malaria Drug Leads



University of California
San Francisco



The emergence of artemisinin partial resistance, and resistance in certain regions to partner drugs such as piperaquine, have highlighted the need for novel antimalarial drug candidates. A team led by Prof. Adam Renslo at **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)** has identified new trioxolane malaria drug leads with candidate-quality in vivo efficacy in *P. berghei* models, as well as drug-like properties. Through a BVGH-coordinated WIPO

Re: Search collaboration, **Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)** provided valuable assay support that contributed to a publication in *ACS Infectious Diseases*, "[Antimalarial Trioxolanes with Superior Drug-Like Properties and In Vivo Efficacy.](#)" The results demonstrate that the new analogs combine high in vitro potency and good in vivo efficacy. With further pharmacokinetic optimization, and resistance evaluation and optimization, this series could be a potential source of a future antimalarial drug candidate.

New Member Announcement

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya



[Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology \(JKUAT\)](#) is a public university situated northeast of Nairobi, Kenya. The university was started in 1981 as Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology (JKCAT), a middle-level college, by the government of Kenya with assistance from the Japanese government. It offers courses in technology, engineering, science, architecture, and building sciences. The university has a strong research interest in the areas of biotechnology and engineering and has been ranked as the most preferred university in Kenya for three years in a row. Its mission is to offer accessible quality training, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in order to produce leaders in the fields of agriculture, engineering, technology, enterprise development, built environment, health sciences, social sciences, and other applied sciences to suit the needs of a dynamic world.

IP in Focus

WIPO IP Protection and Dispute Resolution Services

WIPO supports organizations worldwide, from multinational corporations to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), through its extensive range of efficient, cost-effective [IP services](#). WIPO Services include:

- [Patent Cooperation Treaty \(PCT\) System](#): By filing one international patent application under the PCT, applicants can simultaneously seek protection for an invention in a large number of countries.
- [Madrid System](#): Process for obtaining and maintaining trademark protection in multiple jurisdictions through a single application.
- [Hague System](#): Procedure for obtaining industrial design protection simultaneously in many countries or regions by filing a single application.
- [WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center](#): Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) options to resolve disputes between two or more parties without resorting to conventional court litigation.

Join WIPO's [free webinars](#) for the latest information and training on WIPO services, databases, and program activities.

COHRED, Swiss Academy of Sciences Issue Fair Research Contracting Guide

The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) and the Swiss Academy of Sciences' Commission on Research Collaboration with Developing Countries (KFPE) have released the [Fair Research Contracting Self-Assessment Guide](#). The guide is a step-wise process for self-assessment and improvement of research contracting in academic and research institutions in low- and middle-income countries and is aimed at levelling the playing field in global science collaborations.

Partnership Hub Central

WIPO Re:Search Showcased at Nigerian Diaspora Summit

BVGH [presented](#) WIPO Re:Search during the Nigerian Diaspora Biomedical Research Think Tank (July 1-3, 2020). Keynote speaker Prof. Folasade Ogunsola of **University of Lagos** highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration to translate knowledge to intervention. Nigerian researchers have participated in 17 BVGH-coordinated WIPO Re:Search collaborations with partners including **Novartis**, **Johnson & Johnson**, [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#), and [Stanford University](#).

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

TDR Calls for Applications from Universities in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and Senegal

One university will be selected by an independent external panel, both to participate in the TDR Postgraduate Training Scheme and to serve as a sub-Regional Training Centre. In addition, the selected university will be involved in a SORT IT program, either as the program host or in close collaboration with another hosting institution. For more information, click [here](#). Deadline: July 31, 2020.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [PAHO/TDR Operational Research to Support the Elimination of Communicable Diseases in the Latin American and Caribbean Region](#) – Deadline: July 31, 2020
- [African Researchers' Small Grants Program IV](#) – Deadline: August 14, 2020
- [TDR/WPRO Small Grants Scheme for Implementation Research](#) – Deadline: August 31, 2020

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



Highlighted Contribution

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Releases Open Global Health Library

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany has launched the [Open Global Health Library](#) to catalyze infectious disease drug discovery research around the world. The library, available free of charge, is composed of 250 small molecules covering over 30 human targets. Nearly 200 compounds are being made available to the global research community for the first time, while the remainder are included in Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's [Mini Library](#). The investigator is free to generate IP on their discoveries. Researchers interested in accessing the Open Global Health Library as part of a WIPO Re:Search collaboration should contact [Cathy Manner](#) to discuss their partnership ideas.

Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name
September 8-10, 2020	NTD NGO Network Annual Meeting (Virtual)
October 13-14, 2020	RSTMH Annual Meeting: Emerging Diseases and Outbreaks (London, UK)
November 15-19, 2020	ASTMH Annual Meeting (Virtual)
November 16-17, 2020	3rd International Conference on Tropical and Infectious Diseases (Virtual)



Johnson & Johnson



*The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

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