

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



August 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We invite you to read the recent *New York Times* article, [“The Biggest Monster’ is Spreading. And It’s Not the Coronavirus”](#), which describes how malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and HIV are making comebacks as COVID-19 consumes health resources around the world. In the words of Dr. Pedro L. Alonso, Director of the Global Malaria Programme at the **World Health Organization (WHO)**; a special technical advisor to WIPO Re:Search, “COVID-19 risks derailing all our efforts and taking us back to where we were 20 years ago.” This sobering situation underscores the importance of initiatives such as WIPO Re:Search that are continuing the fight against humanity’s “perennially neglected adversaries” in the midst of the pandemic. We are proud of all of the WIPO Re:Search Members who are working hard to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of malaria and TB, as well as neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

Our partners at the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, in conjunction with WHO and the World Trade Organization (WTO), have published a new edition of the [Trilateral Study on Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation](#). This study seeks to strengthen the understanding of the interplay among health, trade, and intellectual property (IP), and how each domain affects innovation and access to health products such as medicines, vaccines, and medical devices. The publication covers topics that were not included in the first edition published in 2013, including antimicrobial resistance and cutting-edge health technologies, and also features a special insert on the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

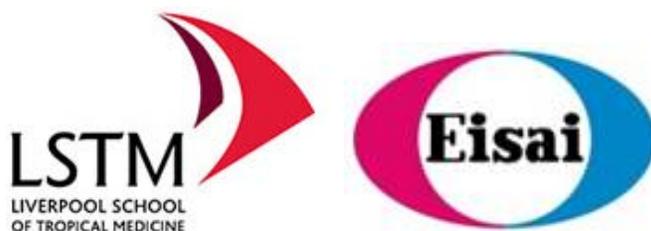
Cornerstones of Collaboration

University of Yaoundé I and University of South Florida Researchers Receive NIH Grant for Antimalarial Drug Discovery



Prof. Fabrice Boyom at **University of Yaoundé I** and Dr. Bill Baker at **University of South Florida (USF)** are [partnering](#) through a BVGH-coordinated WIPO Re:Search collaboration to further natural product antimalarial drug discovery efforts. The investigators have identified a set of compounds with strong antiplasmodial activity and [co-published](#) their findings in *Parasitology Research*. Dr. Baker and Prof. Boyom were recently awarded an NIH R21 grant to support the next phases of their work, focusing on the induction of antiprotozoal secondary metabolites from endophytic fungi using epigenetic modifiers. These collaborative efforts are key to developing new drug candidates for malaria, a disease that claimed an estimated 405,000 lives worldwide in 2018.

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Investigators Unravel Mechanisms of Cerebral Malaria through Collaboration with Eisai Co., Ltd.



Cerebral malaria is the most severe pathology caused by the malaria parasite, and can lead to surviving patients having an increased risk of neurological and cognitive deficits, behavioral difficulties, and epilepsy. In cerebral malaria, endothelial barrier function is altered by the sequestration and cytoadherence of *Plasmodium falciparum*-infected erythrocytes (IE) to microvascular endothelium. Prof. Alister Craig from **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)** was interested in studying the role of protease-activated receptor (PAR)1 in causing endothelial activation and loss of barrier function. To support these efforts, **Eisai Co., Ltd.** shared a set of PAR1 inhibitors through a BVGH-facilitated WIPO Re:Search collaboration to test their ability to reverse the decrease in barrier function. This collaboration resulted in a publication in *Wellcome Open Research* titled, "[Testing the effect of PAR1 inhibitors on *Plasmodium falciparum*-induced loss of endothelial cell barrier function.](#)" The results demonstrate that the selected PAR1 inhibitors had the ability to reverse the disruption of barrier function. However, the inhibitors did not reverse disruption of barrier function induced by the IE lysate, implicating a mechanism independent from PAR1. These findings have implications for the design of adjunct therapies aimed at reducing brain swelling in cerebral malaria.

New Member Announcement

University of Tokyo



Established in 1877, [University of Tokyo](#) is a public research university located in Bunkyo, Tokyo, Japan. The university has ten faculties and 15 graduate schools, and is considered to be one of the most selective and prestigious universities in Japan. University of Tokyo aims to be a world-class platform for research and education, contributing to human knowledge in partnership with other leading global universities. University of Tokyo aims to nurture global leaders with a strong sense of public responsibility and a pioneering spirit, possessing both deep specialism and broad knowledge. As a research institution that receives the largest amount of national grants, researchers are able to carry out world-class research in pursuit of academic excellence and to contribute to the accumulation and diversity of human knowledge. By active translation of research results to society, University of Tokyo aims to support a deeper and broader understanding of the research activities within the context of society.

IP in Focus

WIPO IP and Technology Databases

WIPO offers free online access to global databases that make it easy for anyone, anywhere to use the wealth of information in the IP system:

- [PATENTSCOPE](#): WIPO's global patent search system. It offers a powerful, fully searchable database with flexible, multilingual interfaces and translation tools to assist users in finding and understanding patent documents.
- [Global Brand Database](#): WIPO's global database of trademarks, appellations of origin, and official emblems. It streamlines trademark searches by allowing you to perform a single trademark search across multiple national and international sources. Moreover, it provides an intuitive, flexible and powerful search function that supports image-based as well as text-based searches.

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

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

Kleberg Foundation Medical Research Grants

The Foundation is seeking highly innovative and groundbreaking medical research proposals in basic biological and applied research that will have the greatest impact on scientific knowledge and human health. For more information, click [here](#). Deadline: September 30, 2020.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [TDR Generating Evidence to Strengthen Intersectionality and Gender Research Efforts in Infectious Disease Prevention and Control](#) – Deadline: August 17, 2020
- [TDR/WPRO Small Grants Scheme for Implementation Research](#) – Deadline: August 31, 2020

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



Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name
September 8-10, 2020	NTD NGO Network Annual Meeting
October 13-14, 2020	RSTMH Annual Meeting: Emerging Diseases and Outbreaks
October 26-29, 2020	European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases Annual Meeting
November 15-19, 2020	ASTMH Annual Meeting



Johnson & Johnson



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