

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



September 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce the release of the [BVGH Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report 2020!](#) The Mid-Year Report presents updates on WIPO Re:Search for the first half of 2020—including new research and development (R&D) collaborations, advances in ongoing collaborations, and launch of a third round of R&D capacity building fellowships. These accomplishments are particularly noteworthy given that they come in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic forces difficult choices regarding resource allocations, the [identification](#) of artemisinin-resistant *Plasmodium falciparum* parasites in Rwanda underscores the importance of maintaining positive momentum in the fight against neglected diseases. Resistance to artemisinin, a mainstay of malaria treatment, is widespread in Southeast Asia, but the *Nature Medicine* study provides the first evidence of resistance in Africa—where [over 90%](#) of malaria cases and deaths occur. The findings add increased urgency to the efforts of WIPO Re:Search investigators and others to [develop](#) new antimalarial drugs with [novel mechanisms of action](#). The recent certification of the WHO African Region as wild poliovirus-free—representing the culmination of coordinated efforts by African stakeholders and their global partners over many years—provides hope that similar multinational commitment and collaboration will ultimately lead to the eradication of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria, and tuberculosis.

WIPO, Cornell University, INSEAD, and their Knowledge Partners* have published the [Global Innovation Index \(GII\) 2020](#). The report notes that the pandemic hit the innovation landscape at a time when innovation was flourishing. While COVID-19 has catalyzed ingenuity in health and certain other sectors, the [GII 2020 calls on](#) business and policy leaders worldwide to support innovation more broadly once the pandemic is under control. As WIPO Director General Francis Gurry states in a [press release](#), “Innovations equal solutions.”

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

*Confederation of Indian Industry (CII); Dassault Systèmes, The 3DEXPERIENCE Company; and the National Confederation of Industry Brazil (CNI)



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

Former Novartis Fellow Collaborates with Leading NTD Researcher to Unleash the Medicinal Power of Ghanaian Plants

UC San Diego



[Dr. Edmund Ekuadzi](#) at **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)** in Ghana—a former **Novartis Next Generation Scientist Program Fellow**—has identified and purified a series of natural product extracts from Ghanaian plants for drug development purposes. Dr. Ekuadzi has shared a set of extracts with Dr. Conor Caffrey at **University of California, San Diego (UCSD)** to screen for human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) and schistosomiasis drug discovery.

*“As long as humans have walked the Earth, natural products have played a vital role in the treatment of diseases. The seemingly unending structural diversity found in plants represents a wealth of untapped therapeutic potential.”—
Dr. Edmund Ekuadzi, KNUST*

IP in Focus

Registration Now Open for Free Trilateral Distance Learning Course

The [course](#), Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation, provides an overview of the interplay between the distinct policy domains of health, trade, and IP and how they affect access to, and influence, innovation in medical technologies. The course was developed by, and draws together the respective areas of expertise of, WHO, WIPO, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is based on the joint *WHO, WIPO, WTO Study Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation*. Registration is open through October 4, 2020; the course runs September 29, 2020 through October 31, 2020.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

National Institutes of Health (NIH) DS-I Africa Program

The NIH Common Fund's Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa) program will leverage data science technologies and prior NIH investments to develop solutions to the continent's most pressing public health problems through a robust ecosystem of new partners from academic, government, and private sectors. Despite recent progress, Africa carries a disproportionate share of the global burden of disease. In the next decade, rapid advances in data science are expected to transform biomedical and behavioral research and lead to improved health for individuals and populations. While data science applications are largely undeveloped in Africa, there are opportunities to utilize data science to impact health outcomes on the continent and around the world. For more information, click [here](#). Letter of Intent deadlines vary by funding mechanism; the earliest deadline is October 23, 2020.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [Kleberg Foundation Medical Research Grants](#) – Deadline: September 30, 2020.
- [NTD Support Center Operational Research on “Endgame” Challenges](#) – Deadline: Rolling.

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



Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name
October 7, 2020	Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) - Meet the Social Innovators
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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