

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



October 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

I am excited to share that a new **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** [resolution recognizes](#) the role of WIPO Re:Search, and innovation more broadly, in the continuing fight against malaria. UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims to end the epidemics of malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. As we sit on the cusp of WIPO Re:Search's 10-year anniversary in 2021, the UNGA resolution is important validation of the work of the Consortium and our Members to support this goal.

Last month also marked the conclusion of Francis Gurry's 12-year term as **WIPO** Director General. His enthusiastic and committed support has been critical for the establishment, expansion, and success of WIPO Re:Search. I invite you to read his [final interview in WIPO Magazine](#), in which he discusses openness and collaboration – both key to the success of WIPO Re:Search – as the two most important lessons he learned as Director General. All of us at BVGH look forward to working with new [WIPO Director General Daren Tang](#) as we move into 2021 and beyond.

And finally, I congratulate [Benjamin Bande](#), a WIPO Re:Search Fellow and toxinologist from Papua New Guinea, who was recently named as a [Country Ambassador](#) for the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH). You can [read about his snakebite research](#) as a WIPO Re:Search Fellow at the **University of Melbourne**. I wish Benjamin great success in his new role.

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

A New Therapy for an Ancient Disease



Leprosy, or Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease – known to humans since ancient times – that is caused by the same family of bacteria responsible for tuberculosis. Over 200,000 people – including thousands of children – are diagnosed with leprosy each year. If untreated, leprosy can cause permanent damage to skin, nerves, limbs, and eyes, resulting in disability, stigma, and discrimination. The disease is curable if treated early with a three-drug regimen known as multidrug therapy (MDT). However, shorter treatment regimens, particularly for a form of the disease known as multibacillary leprosy, are needed, and patients who cannot tolerate MDT require safe and effective alternatives.

Dr. Tianyu Zhang at **Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health (GIBH)** in China has developed a new antibiotic (TB47) to treat leprosy. He is partnering with Dr. Flavio Lara at **Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FioCruz)** in Brazil through a BVGH-coordinated WIPO Re:Search collaboration to generate preclinical data necessary to advance TB47 into clinical trials. Dr. Lara will assess the efficacy of TB47 against bacterial strains from patients in Brazil, which has one of the highest rates of leprosy in the world and thus, a strong need for better treatments.

IP in Focus

WIPO Releases Vienna Classification Assistant

WIPO has [launched](#) a free-of-charge artificial intelligence (AI)-based tool to help users more easily classify trademark images according to the Vienna Classification. By just dropping an image into the [Vienna Classification Assistant](#), the user will be walked through the different selection steps. First, the 29 main categories will be displayed with the relevant ones highlighted together with a relevance rating (*****). Next, the user can pick the suggested choice or other options. When an auxiliary section is selected, the tool will notify the user that at least one principal section has to be selected. The image is then classified according to the Vienna Classification.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

NAM-HKU Fellowship in Global Health Leadership

The **University of Hong Kong (HKU)** and the **U.S. National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** have established the NAM-HKU Fellowship in Global Health Leadership, which provides a two-year training for early- to mid-career scholars to learn and work at HKU School of Public Health and NAM in areas under the umbrella of global health leadership. The application deadline is November 30, 2020 (Hong Kong time). For more information, click [here](#).

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [Dioraphte Foundation Call for Research Proposals on Skin-Related Neglected Tropical Diseases](#) – Deadline: December 1, 2020.
- [NIH Multidisciplinary Approach to Study Vaccine-Elicited Immunity and Efficacy against Malaria](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: January 9, 2021.
- [NIH Understanding the Role of the *M. Tuberculosis* Granuloma in Tuberculosis \(TB\) Disease and Treatment Outcomes](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: January 22, 2021.
- [NTD Support Center Operational Research on “Endgame” Challenges](#) – Deadline: Rolling.

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



Member News

University of Washington Professor Receives NIAID Emerging Infectious Diseases Grant

Congratulations to Prof. Wes Van Voorhis of the **University of Washington** on receiving a major National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) [award](#) entitled "United World Antiviral Research Network," as one of the Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID)! In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NIAID, according to Director Anthony Fauci, is establishing the CREID network to enable the detection of early warnings of emerging diseases, allowing for more rapid responses. As one of eleven grantees, Prof. Van Voorhis has established international partnerships with Brazil, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, and Taiwan, to be part of a network of multidisciplinary researchers in 30 countries investigating how and where viruses and other pathogens emerge from wildlife and spillover to cause disease in people.

Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name
October 25-27, 2020	World Health Summit
October 26-29, 2020	European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases Annual Meeting
November 15-19, 2020	ASTMH Annual Meeting
December 2-4, 2020	Tuberculosis: Science Aimed at Ending the Epidemic



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