January 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

A special day is coming later this month. January 30th marks the first-ever World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day. At the time I write this, over 175 global organizations — including countless WIPO Re:Search Members — have become official World NTD Day partners.

January 30th also marks the eighth anniversary of the 2012 London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases, which focused global attention and brought partners together to fight NTDs. Since 2012, 31 countries have eliminated at least one NTD. Progress is possible with coordinated efforts and support!

Follow BVGH and our WIPO Re:Search Members and friends on January 30th so that together we can raise awareness and engage more partners in the fight against these devastating diseases that afflict more than one billion people, predominantly the poor.

Our newest WIPO Re:Search Members are Foundation for Neglected Disease Research in India, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom, and University of Cape Coast in Ghana. We welcome these institutions and their researchers who are dedicated to beating NTDs, malaria, and tuberculosis.

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
New Member Announcement

**Foundation for Neglected Disease Research**

The Foundation for Neglected Disease Research (FNDR) is a non-profit research organization that strives to offer candidate drugs and diagnostics for diseases of the developing world. With expertise in malaria, tuberculosis, and other neglected infectious diseases, FNDR uses its 10,000 sq. ft. facility to conduct preclinical drug discovery and diagnostic work. With over 100 years of collective experience across the entire drug development pathway FNDR aims to build on the work that has already produced multiple patented molecules to help fight diseases of poverty.

**London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is a public research university that was founded in 1899. Since its founding, it has become one of the most highly placed institutions in the fields of public health and infectious diseases. LSHTM’s mission is to contribute to the improvement of health worldwide through the pursuit of excellence in research, postgraduate teaching, and advanced training in national and international public health and tropical medicine. Demonstrating excellency in scientific research, LSHTM is ranked 3rd in the world for social sciences and public health, as well as 6th overall in the world for impact, based on the top 1% of published papers in all fields.
University of Cape Coast

The University of Cape Coast is an equal opportunity university in Ghana uniquely placed to provide quality education through the provision of comprehensive, liberal, and professional programs that challenge learners to be creative, innovative, and responsible citizens.

Partnership Hub Central

Unleashing Africa's Innovation Potential: Lessons from Cameroon

Two WIPO Re:Search scientists from Cameroon, Professor Fabrice F. Boyom (pictured far left) from the University of Yaoundé I, and Professor Fidelis Cho-Ngwa (pictured second from left), from the University of Buea spoke on the power of public-private partnerships during an event organized by IFPMA (a WIPO Re:Search Supporter Member) in Geneva. Also pictured, from left to right: Charles Randolph, WIPO; Greg Perry, IFPMA; Guilherme Cintra, IFPMA.

Read the article from WIPO
WIPO Re:Search Fellow Receives ASTMH Honor

WIPO Re:Search Fellow, Dr. Deus Ishengoma (pictured center), received the prestigious Alan J. Magill Fellowship at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH). Dr. Ishengoma is Principal Research Scientist and Head, Laboratory Sciences Department, at the National Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania. The Magill Fellowship will assist his efforts to synthesize research findings to support evidence-based policies in malaria elimination/eradication. He conducted his WIPO Re:Search Fellowship at Monash University in Australia, working on metabolite and protein signatures of drug-resistant malaria parasites. Also pictured: Outgoing ASTMH President Chandy John and ASTMH CEO Karen A. Goraleski.

Eisai Breaks Ground for Global Drug Discovery Center

Eisai Co., Ltd. has embarked on a major renovation of its Tsukuba Research Laboratories. The renovation will strengthen drug discovery activities with the aim of contributing to global health including neglected tropical diseases.

Read the article from BioSpectrum Asia Edition
Special Announcement

First-Ever World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day is January 30

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day is January 30, 2020. More than 175 global partners including BVGH and WIPO Re:Search Members Eisai Co., Ltd; Johnson & Johnson; Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany; MSD*; Novartis; Pfizer; and Takeda have signed on to celebrate the first-ever World NTD Day. The World Health Organization is expected to launch new goals this year to guide NTD progress through 2030. World NTD Day will help rally the NTD community to drive attention and action to beat NTDs.

Join us in drawing attention to this important day. Below you will find communication materials you may adapt and share through your social media channels and newsletters on World NTD Day, January 30, 2020.

Image (Click to download)

Standing With WIPO Re:Search on
WORLD NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES DAY
January 30, 2020

#BeatNTDs

Tweet

Did you know that neglected tropical diseases affect over one billion people? On World NTD Day, we stand with the innovative #WIPOReSearch scientists who are working to #BeatNTDs with @WIPO and @BIOVentures. https://bvgh.org/wipo-research/

*MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA
BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

2020 EDCTP Prizes

EDCTP intends to award four prestigious international prizes dedicated to the promotion of scientific research, improved health, and Africa-European collaboration. These prizes are presented to outstanding individuals and research teams, especially from sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, and will be announced at the tenth EDCTP Forum in Mozambique in 2020. The nomination deadline is April 16, 2020.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- Leprosy Research Initiative – Call for letters of intent for budget round 2021 is now open
- NIAID Investigator-Initiated Program Project Applications (P01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) – Next Deadlines: January 24, 2020; June 11, 2020
- EDCTP Senior Fellowships Plus 2019 – Deadline: February 18, 2020
- Scholarships: MSc Genomics & Precision Medicine for Students from Africa – Deadline: February 29, 2020
- JSPS Research Fellowships in Japan (Extramural) – Deadline: March 31, 2020
- NIH Planning Grant for Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program (D71 – Clinical Trials Not Allowed) – Next Letter of Intent Deadline: September 28, 2020

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.

Upcoming Global Health Events

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February 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce the release of our 2019 WIPO Re:Search Partnership Hub Annual Report. Last year, we catalyzed 16 new WIPO Re:Search collaborations in the fight against malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). These collaborations are targeting Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis. Most of the new collaborations involve partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and academic researchers, highlighting the importance of the private sector’s contributions to addressing the unmet medical needs of over a billion people around the world.

Chagas disease affects six to seven million people globally, killing 10,000 each year. Two WIPO Re:Search collaborations launched in 2019 are working to tackle this disease, which is endemic to Central and South America and spreading elsewhere. Novartis is providing access to its proprietary compounds, facilities, and expertise to help Dr. Artur Cordeiro at the Brazilian Biosciences National Laboratory move his drug discovery program forward. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is sharing its Mini Library with Prof. Vicky Avery at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery, Griffith University to advance her drug discovery programs for Chagas disease and other NTDs.

On the funding front, our friends at Unitaid issued a call for proposals for new projects that can help eliminate congenital infection of Chagas disease through better diagnosis and treatment. Unitaid expects to award one to two grants totaling up to US$15 million.

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
Cornerstones of Collaboration

**Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and GRIDD Collaborate on Drug Discovery**

**Merck KGaA**
Darmstadt, Germany

**GRIDD, Griffith University**

*Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany* will be sharing its Mini Library with Prof. Vicky Avery at **Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD), Griffith University** for Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, and leishmaniasis drug discovery.

*Known as EMD in the USA and Canada*

Partnership Hub Central

**Creating Synergies to Beat NTDs**

On the occasion of the *first-ever World NTD Day*, Thomas Cueni, Director General of **IFPMA** (a WIPO Re:Search Supporter Member), writes in *Life Science Leader* about the progress being made by WIPO Re:Search pharmaceutical company Members in the fight against neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis.

**Free Online Course on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**

Registration is open for the “Role of Diagnostics in the AMR Response.” The online course, developed by the **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine** (a WIPO Re:Search Member), is free to anyone with an internet connection. The course features translations of key content into French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

**Applications Due February 15 for Patents for Humanity Awards**

The **United States Patent and Trademark Office** (USPTO; a WIPO Re:Search Supporter Member) is accepting applications for its **Patents for Humanity awards**, a competition recognizing innovators who use game-changing technology to meet global humanitarian challenges. Winners receive an acceleration certificate to expedite select proceedings at the USPTO, as well as public recognition of their work.
**Special Announcement**

**BVGH Launches Online Platform Showcasing African Clinical Trial Capabilities**

The African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T) is a multi-sector initiative, led by BVGH, to foster and implement cancer clinical trials led by investigators in Africa. AC³T is building clinical trial capacity and addressing the cancer data gap in Africa, while increasing access to prioritized cancer diagnostics, medicines, and quality treatment for African cancer patients. AC³T’s online platform profiling African clinical trial sites has launched and features 29 sites from 15 countries. Visit the AC³T website to explore the platform, see locations of participating sites, and understand sites’ capabilities to conduct cancer clinical trials.

WIPO Re:Search Members are among the inaugural group of AC³T participants, including the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AiBST), Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (affiliated with Member Ahmadu Bello University), the Center for Innovative Drug Development and Therapeutics Trials for Africa (affiliated with Member Addis Ababa University), the Congolese Foundation for Medical Research (FCRM), Regional Hospital Annex Buea (affiliated with Member University of Buea), and University College Hospital (affiliated with Member University of Ibadan). Institutions featured on the platform will benefit by increasing their visibility and showcasing their clinical research capabilities to BVGH’s international network of industry, academic, philanthropic, and non-profit collaborators.

To learn more about AC³T and how to participate, please email Daniel Seymour (dseymour@bvgh.org).

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**Special Announcement**

**Launch of the NUC Diaspora Program**

The Nigeria National Universities Commission (NUC) is excited to launch the “NUC Diaspora Program” in the area of Biomedical Sciences. The NUC Diaspora Program focuses on fostering collaborations between Nigeria Academics and Nigerians/Non-Nigerians in the Diaspora who are interested in elevating biomedical research in the Nigerian University System (NUS) through collaborative research, training, exchange programs, short courses, sabbaticals, adopt-a-lab program, etc. Register your interest by completing the Diaspora Scholars Survey.
BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

ReGRoW: Repurposing Grants for the Rest of the World

The ReGRoW pilot will provide up to three grants — between US$25,000 and US$50,000 each — for scientists and clinicians in low and lower-middle income countries (LMICs) who are investigating how currently approved therapies can be repurposed for the treatment of unsolved diseases in their own communities. The proposal deadline is March 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. U.S. Central Time.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [EDCTP Senior Fellowships Plus 2019](#) – Deadline: February 18, 2020
- [ASTMH Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowship in Tropical Medicine](#) – Deadline: February 19, 2020
- [GHIT Fund Hit-to-Lead Platform RFP](#) – Intent to Apply Deadline: February 28, 2020 at 10 a.m. Japan Standard Time
- [Leprosy Research Initiative](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: February 28, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Amsterdam Time
- [Wellcome Trust Snakebite Grants: Discovering and Developing New Treatments](#) – Expression of Interest Deadline: March 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. GMT
- [TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences (Groups)](#) – Deadline: March 31, 2020

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

Upcoming Global Health Events

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

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Mailing Address:
2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121
March 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

Snakebite envenoming kills approximately 11,000 people a month. An additional 450,000 people a year suffer life-altering injuries from snakebite such as amputation and permanent disability. BVGH is excited to announce WIPO Re:Search’s first snakebite collaboration between researchers at Johnson & Johnson and Professor Nicholas Casewell at the Centre for Snakebite Research & Interventions (CSRI), Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. This cross-sector collaboration aligns with the Wellcome Trust’s prioritization of snakebite treatments and its announcement of an ambitious £80 million program to increase research efforts and improve treatment delivery.

WIPO Re:Search Members are answering the call to action as COVID-19 emerges onto the infectious disease landscape. GSK, one of the world’s largest vaccine manufacturers, is in the preclinical stages of vaccine development in a technology-sharing partnership with Clover Pharmaceuticals. Johnson & Johnson, which historically responded to both the Ebola and Zika virus outbreaks, is taking a multipronged approach by working on a vaccine and a potential treatment for patients who are already infected. We are proud to work with WIPO Re:Search Members conducting crucial research for drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics addressing COVID-19.

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

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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 the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Funds-in-Trust, organizes 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 (R&D) 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, and must begin by September 1, 2020. 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 region (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 research organization.
- Are proficient in English (spoken and written).

Interested candidates should submit their CV’s to Joseph Hargan (jhargan@bvgh.org) in order to receive a full application. **Deadline to submit the full application is March 20, 2020.**

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

**Johnson & Johnson and CSRI Collaborate on Snakebite Treatment Discovery**

Professor Nicholas Casewell, a Wellcome Trust research fellow at the Centre for Snakebite Research & Interventions (CSRI), **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine**, is working on innovative approaches to discover and develop the next generation of treatments for snakebites. To support these efforts, **Johnson & Johnson** will be sharing its diverse compound library and a targeted set of compounds to potentially identify novel inhibitors of the toxic components of snake venom.
University of Ibadan and UBC Collaborate on Development of a New Diagnostic

Dr. Chiaka Anumudu at University of Ibadan previously identified 54 human proteins as potential biomarkers for schistosomiasis and bladder pathologies. Through WIPO Re:Search, Dr. Anumudu shared 60 samples with Dr. Horacio Bach at the University of British Columbia (UBC) to support her to conduct the proteomic confirmations and biomarker optimization. Upon identification of the biomarker(s), recombinant antibodies will be generated at Dr. Bach’s laboratory to develop a serological test for fast diagnosis.

Partnership Hub Central

**WIPO Re:Search Collaboration Studies Schistosome Infection in Snails**

Professor Michael Hsieh, former Stirewalt Endowed Director and Principal Investigator of the Schistosomiasis Resource Center at the Biomedical Research Institute (BRI), shared positive controls (genomic DNA) for *Schistosoma mansoni* and the intermediate host, the snail *Biomphalaria pfeifferi*, with Professor Olaoluwa Pheabian Akinwale, Director of Research (Neglected Tropical Diseases) and Principal Investigator of the Molecular Parasitology Research Laboratory at the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR). These positive controls were used as part of a study to screen and characterize the snails from this region to determine the level of infection with *Schistosoma mansoni*. This collaboration recently resulted in a publication in Acta Tropica titled, “Report of high prevalence of schistosome infection in *Biomphalaria* snails from a geographic area with no previous prevalence of human schistosomiasis in Nigeria.” The results demonstrate that some of the *Biomphalaria pfeifferi* snails were indeed infected with *Schistosoma mansoni*. This suggests that there may be cases of intestinal schistosomiasis in this region of Nigeria. [Read the paper in Acta Tropica.](#)

**COVID-19: Tackling the Novel Coronavirus: Free Online Course**

With the outbreak of a novel coronavirus declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization, people worldwide are working to address it. This online course offered by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM; a WIPO Re:Search Member) will cover how COVID-19 emerged and was identified, the public health measures being taken worldwide, and what is needed to address COVID-19 going forward. [Join the course today.](#)

**BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards**

**Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV): 18th Call for Proposals**
MMV has opened their 18th call for drug discovery proposals. Are you a researcher working on compounds with antimalarial potential or novel screening approaches? If yes, MMV welcomes proposals for drug discovery projects, compounds for target identification, and proposals specifically from endemic-region African scientists. The proposal deadline is March 27, 2020 at 12:00 noon CET.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- ASTMH Annual Meeting Travel Award – Deadline: March 26, 2020
- TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences (Groups) – Deadline: March 31, 2020
- NIH Technology Accelerator Challenge: Non-invasive Diagnostics for Global Health – Deadline: June 2, 2020

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.

Upcoming Global Health Events

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Mailing Address:
2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121
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

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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**

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.
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

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<td>ISNTD Connect: Accelerating Clinical Research Relevant to LMICs: Lessons from Neglected Tropical Diseases for COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 22, 2020, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM UTC</td>
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Mailing Address:
2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121
May 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

While researchers—including many WIPO Re:Search Members—work to find effective treatments and develop an urgently needed vaccine for COVID-19, it is critical to remember that the battle still wages on against malaria. The global community made substantial advances in controlling malaria between 2000 and 2014 (including a 40% decrease in malaria-related deaths), but progress has ground to a standstill in recent years. Through WIPO Re:Search, BVGH facilitates R&D collaborations to develop new malaria treatments, especially for sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 90% of malaria cases and deaths occur.

Professor Fabrice Boyom, an analytical biochemist and drug discovery researcher at the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon, is engaged in multiple BVGH-brokered WIPO Re:Search collaborations on malaria and neglected tropical diseases. Tapping into his early work studying essential oils from Cameroonian aromatic plants, Professor Boyom focuses on developing novel antimalarial drugs from natural products and small molecule libraries to combat drug resistance “and help more people in Africa and beyond.” Professor Boyom established the Antimicrobial and Biocontrol Agents Unit (AmBcAU), where he trains Cameroonian scientists to continue his work. Learn more about Professor Boyom in this interview with WIPO published for World Malaria Day.

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

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**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

Johnson & Johnson, Seattle Children’s Research Institute, and University of Washington Collaborate on Leishmaniasis Drug Discovery

Johnson & Johnson is sharing its Jump-stArter library with Dr. Peter Myler at Seattle Children’s Research Institute for screening for leishmaniasis drug discovery. Under the umbrella of the Seattle Structural Genomics Center for Infectious Disease, SCRI will partner with University of Washington’s Dr. Wes Van Voorhis to carry out screening of the library.

IP in Focus

WIPO Launches New Search Facility For PATENTSCOPE Database to Support COVID-19 Innovation Efforts

WIPO launched a new search functionality for its global patent database, PATENTSCOPE, to facilitate the location and retrieval of information contained in published patent documents that may be useful for innovators developing new technologies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

PAHO/TDR Operational Research to Support the Elimination of Communicable Diseases in the Latin American and Caribbean Region

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in collaboration with the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), is pleased to announce the 2020-2021 call for applications for the Joint PAHO/TDR Small Grant Scheme for operational research. The objective of the call is to facilitate and strengthen elimination-oriented operational research in selected communicable diseases that are potential candidates for elimination through an integrated approach. To apply, please click here. Deadline for applications is July 31, 2020.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- 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
- EDCTP Career Development Fellowships in Poverty-Related Diseases and Child and Adolescent Health – Deadline: August 5, 2020
**Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events**

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<td>Walk the Talk: The Health for All Challenge</td>
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<td>World Health Assembly</td>
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<td>May 26, 2020</td>
<td>RSTMH Mid-term Strategy Review and Presidential Address: &quot;How Many Neglected Tropical Diseases Can We Eliminate by 2030?&quot;</td>
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<td>June 8-12, 2020</td>
<td>BIO Digital</td>
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For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.

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

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**Mailing Address:**
2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121
June 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

I am pleased to announce that WIPO Re:Search Member DNDi was awarded the Grand Prix at the inaugural WHO Health for All Film Festival in May. The short film, *A Doctor’s Dream: A Pill for Sleeping Sickness*, tells the story of Dr. Victor Kande, a Congolese researcher who led a team to develop fexinidazole, a revolutionary all-oral treatment for human African trypanosomiasis (HAT). I invite you to watch this moving and inspirational film.

The battle against HAT continues today, with WIPO Re:Search Members and others working to develop even better treatment options that are effective, safe, affordable, and easy to use. For example, Prof. Fabrice Boyom at the University of Yaoundé I is screening metabolic pathway inhibitors generously provided by Eisai Co., Ltd. through a BVGH-coordinated WIPO Re:Search collaboration, with the promise of finding new drugs to reduce the burden of HAT in endemic countries and save lives.

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

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**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

**Fiocruz and Seattle Children’s Research Institute Collaborate on Chagas Disease Drug Discovery**

Dr. Stenio Fragoso, Head of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of Trypanosomatids at Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), is interested in testing inhibitors against recombinant *T. cruzi* Topoisomerase II. To initiate these studies, Dr. Fragoso and investigators from Seattle Children’s Research Institute and the NIAID-funded Seattle Structural Genomics Center for Infectious Disease (SSGCID; contract HHSN272201700059C) are collaborating to develop constructs to express and purify *T. cruzi* Topoisomerase II. Once the protein is purified, it will be incorporated into an in vitro assay to identify new drugs for Chagas disease.

**IP in Focus**

**WIPO Launches WIPO PROOF to Help Creators and Innovators Protect Assets**

WIPO has launched a new online service, WIPO PROOF, that helps creators and innovators safeguard their valuable intellectual assets by creating tamper-proof evidence of the existence of a digital file at a specific point in time. WIPO PROOF serves as a sort of “digital notary” for the digitized world. Watch Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General, introduce WIPO PROOF.

**BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards**

**EDCTP 2020 Open Calls for Proposals**

European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) awards funding to collaborative clinical research projects conducted in sub-Saharan Africa on poverty-related infectious diseases. The EDCTP2 programme is supported under Horizon 2020, the European Union’s Framework Programme for Research & Innovation. Click here to review open calls. Deadlines: July-August, 2020.

**Additional Funding Opportunities**

- NIH Technology Accelerator Challenge: Non-invasive Diagnostics for Global Health – Deadline: June 16, 2020
- Grand Challenges Africa Round 11 Transition to Scale Innovation Call 2 – Deadline: June 30, 2020
- EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme Implementation Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty – Deadline: June 30, 2020
- PAHO/TDR Operational Research to Support the Elimination of Communicable Diseases in the Latin American and Caribbean Region – Deadline: July 31, 2020

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.
Novartis, Fiocruz, and LNBio Collaborate on Chronic Chagas Cardiomyopathy

As a founding WIPO Re:Search Member, Novartis is committed to being a part of the global solution to combat neglected tropical diseases, including Chagas disease. Chagas disease affects approximately six million people, mainly in Latin America. Less than 1% of affected individuals receive proper antiparasitic treatment. As a member of the Global Chagas Disease Coalition, an alliance to increase awareness and promote access to diagnosis and treatment, Novartis, in collaboration with the World Heart Federation, recently developed an end-to-end roadmap to address Chagas disease through a holistic care model. With that mission, Novartis recently started the first clinical study in people with chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy – which causes the majority of deaths and disability from the disease. Additionally, Novartis is partnering locally through healthcare system strengthening initiatives across Latin America, and collaborating with investigators at Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz) and Laboratório Nacional de Biociências (LNBio) – the latter facilitated by BVGH through WIPO Re:Search – to diversify and expand the product development pipeline for this neglected disease.

Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Vaccinology in the Age of Pandemics: Strategies Against COVID-19 &amp; Other Global Threats</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>GARDP: Bringing new treatments for drug-resistant infections to all who need them</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare Facilities: Accelerating Action to Meet Urgent Need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>GARDP: Putting children first in the fight against antibiotic resistance</td>
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*Known as EMD in the USA and Canada | **MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA
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
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

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, Medecines 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.

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**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.

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**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

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<td>NTD NGO Network Annual Meeting (Virtual)</td>
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<td>October 13-14, 2020</td>
<td>RSTMH Annual Meeting: Emerging Diseases and Outbreaks (London, UK)</td>
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<td>November 15-19, 2020</td>
<td>ASTMH Annual Meeting (Virtual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16-17, 2020</td>
<td>3rd International Conference on Tropical and Infectious Diseases (Virtual)</td>
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*The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany  
**MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA*
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
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.
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.

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**New Member Announcement**

**University of Tokyo**

Established in 1877, University of Tokyo is a public research university located in Bunkyō, 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

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<td>ASTMH Annual Meeting</td>
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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 polio virus-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)
Cornerstones of Collaboration

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

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


For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.

Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

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*The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
**MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA
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
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.

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

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<th>Dates</th>
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<td>October 25-27, 2020</td>
<td>World Health Summit</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26-29, 2020</td>
<td>European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>November 15-19, 2020</td>
<td>ASTMH Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>December 2-4, 2020</td>
<td>Tuberculosis: Science Aimed at Ending the Epidemic</td>
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*The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
**MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA
November 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, collaborative R&D to develop lifesaving vaccines and treatments is more critical than ever. WIPO Re:Search Members across the globe are joining their colleagues to rise to this challenge, and we are pleased to showcase their work in this special issue of the Snapshot.

In the spirit of WIPO Re:Search, many of our company Members are active in collaborative programs including the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, COVID R&D Alliance, and Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV). Read more about WIPO Re:Search Member companies’ COVID-19 work below.

WIPO Re:Search academic, non-profit, and government Members are also tackling COVID-19 through joint initiatives. We congratulate Dr. Virginia López and Dr. Marcelo Comini at Institut Pasteur de Montevideo (IP Montevideo) and their partners, who recently received funding from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the Institut Pasteur International Network to continue their novel COVID-19 drug discovery program.

Research training programs equip scientists in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) with expertise that can be rapidly deployed to combat pandemics. Through the WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program—supported by the Government of Australia through WIPO Funds-in-Trust—BVGH and WIPO have organized 100+ months of training for 20 scientists from 11 LMICs. Dr. Tedjo Sasmono of the Eijkman Institute is applying learnings from his fellowship at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research to lead a study in Indonesia on dengue and COVID-19 clinical similarity and diagnostics cross-reactivity.

Cross-sector R&D collaborations are important for other infectious diseases as well. Our partner, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has a longstanding commitment to sharing proprietary assets—through WIPO Re:Search and other global programs—to drive drug R&D for infectious diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis. Interested? Please visit their new Open Innovation Initiatives for Global Health webpage. Company leaders will discuss how these open innovation initiatives are addressing global health challenges at the Geneva Health Forum on November 16.

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
Cornerstones of Collaboration

**MSD* and WEHI Scientists Discover Novel Malaria Drug Leads with Dual Antiparasitic Activity**

Parasite resistance to antimalarial medicines is a significant and growing threat to malaria control. **MSD*** is partnering with Prof. Alan Cowman, Dr. Paola Favuzza, and Dr. Justin Boddey at the **Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI)** through a **BVGH-facilitated WIPO Re:Search collaboration** to discover new antimalarial drug candidates with novel mechanisms of action.

The collaborators recently announced the discovery of a novel class of lead antimalarial agents that block multiple stages of the lifecycle of *Plasmodium falciparum*, the parasite responsible for most cases of severe malaria. Using MSD’s aspartyl protease inhibitor libraries—assembled for other biochemical targets and medical indications—as a starting point for their drug discovery program, the researchers identified drug-like dual inhibitors of two essential *P. falciparum* proteases, plasmepsins IX and X (PMIX and PMX). The research was published in the April 8, 2020 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Cell Host & Microbe*.

One dual inhibitor, WM382, blocked growth of both *P. falciparum* and *P. knowlesi* (which causes malaria in humans and other primates). When administered orally, WM382 cured mice of *P. berghei* (which causes malaria in certain rodents) and prevented parasites in the liver from infecting the blood. WM382 also prevented transmission of
Plasmodium parasite from infected blood to mosquitoes—which could potentially reduce both the incidence and spread of malaria.

The collaborators will continue to optimize the potency, selectivity, and pharmacokinetic properties of their compounds with the aim of advancing lead candidates through preclinical development and into human trials.

This research was funded by Wellcome Trust (UK), MSD, National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia), and the Victorian Government (Australia).

From left: Dr. Manuel de Lera Ruiz (MSD), Prof. Alan Cowman (WEHI), Dr. David Olsen (MSD), and Dr. Paola Favuzza (WEHI)

* MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA

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BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

**Dioraphte Foundation Calls for Research Proposals on Skin-Related NTDs**

The Netherlands-based Dioraphte Foundation supports medical research in NTDs, rare diseases, and food security. In the area of NTDs, the Foundation supports translational and clinical experimental research that underpins the understanding of the pathophysiology and pathogenesis of skin-related NTDs. Proposals linking groups that have expertise in NTDs to those with expertise in skin research are encouraged. For more information, click [here](#). Deadline: December 1, 2020.

**Additional Funding Opportunities**

- [NAM-HKU Fellowship in Global Health Leadership](#) – Deadline: November 30, 2020 (Hong Kong time).

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.
**Member Spotlight**

**WIPO Re:Search Company Members Join the Global Fight Against COVID-19**

WIPO Re:Search company Members share in their own words how they are answering the call to action for COVID-19:

*In the fight against COVID-19, Eisai is contributing to the development of remedies through joining in industry-academia-government collaborations by providing its drug candidates, and participating in a consortium of life science companies entitled COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator.*

Eisai is taking all possible actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in operations at all of its facilities to ensure the safety of its employees and the stable supply of medicines. Furthermore, Eisai has provided supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and made financial donations to Japan, the United States, and various countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa to support healthcare providers and local communities.

*The world is facing an unprecedented pandemic with extensive consequences for all of us. How are we, at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, helping to fight COVID-19?*

As a science & technology company, we have continued serving patients, scientists, and customers with our expertise, products, and services. We have been producing liters of disinfectants and donating, with these, two million FFP2 masks to over 30,000 healthcare professionals fighting COVID-19 on the front lines. We have been providing solutions for scientists to detect and characterize viruses, and to develop vaccines and therapies; supplying medicines to patients in need; and producing electronic materials to stay connected. Read more about our response to COVID-19 [here](#), and our global health position [here](#).

*MSD has been committed to developing an effective response to COVID-19 since the early stage of the pandemic and is exploring multiple paths to advance the understanding of SARS-CoV-2, and develop vaccines and treatments.*

In collaboration with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, MSD is evaluating molnupiravir (MK-4482), an investigational orally available anti-viral candidate, in two Phase 2/3 trials, for the treatment of patients with COVID-19 in both the outpatient and in-patient settings.

The company is also evaluating two COVID-19 vaccine candidates: V590, that utilizes a recombinant vesicular stomatitis vector, is being developed through a collaboration with IAVI; and V591 that uses an innovative measles virus vector-based platform.

*In March 2020, Pfizer issued a bold five-point plan, calling for unprecedented collaboration to end the COVID-19 pandemic. In the months following, Pfizer and its partner BioNTech mobilized an enormous level of resources to develop promising vaccine candidates, while simultaneously marshalling a global supply and manufacturing network to quickly and significantly scale up their capacity. Along with vaccines research, Pfizer is advancing a novel antiviral therapy targeting the enzyme coronaviruses use to assemble themselves and multiply. The company also is sharing its manufacturing facilities with companies like Gilead to help ramp up supply of other investigational antivirals. Pfizer recently reaffirmed its commitment to the scientific process by signing a historic pledge with eight other companies working toward a COVID-19 vaccine.*
Within Takeda R&D, we are taking a comprehensive approach to support the development of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, and we have aligned our efforts around the following focus areas:

- Research
- Plasma-Derived Hyperimmune Therapy
- Repurposed Products and Assets in Development
- Data and Information Sharing
- R&D Alliances and Partnerships

Takeda is dedicated to helping those currently impacted by COVID-19, as demonstrated through our support of essential efforts at the front lines, launch of a national campaign to drive plasma blood donation, and global distribution of PPE to healthcare workers in need. Please find more information at Takeda’s COVID-19 Information Center.

* The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt Germany
** MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA

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### Highlighted Contribution

**Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Open Global Health Library**

As part of its commitment to Open Innovation, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is making its [Open Global Health Library](#) available free of charge to investigators worldwide to catalyze drug discovery research for a broad array of infectious diseases. **Researchers working in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are particularly encouraged to utilize this resource.** The library is comprised of 250 small molecules covering over 30 human targets. Investigators are free to generate IP on their discoveries and publish their results. Researchers interested in accessing the Open Global Health Library—especially investigators in LMICs—can either request it directly on the [website](#), or contact Cathy Manner to discuss opportunities to collaborate with Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany on library screening projects through WIPO Re:Search.

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### Special Announcement

**Free Access to ASTMH GOTropMEd through December 31, 2020**

GOTropMEd, ASTMH’s new Global Online Tropical Medical Education website, offers online talks and presentations by world experts in tropical medicine, hygiene, and global health, including rarely seen interviews with TropMed luminaries. This digital education resource is free for all through the end of 2020.
## Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

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<td>November 18, 2020</td>
<td>WHO Webinar: Optimizing One Health and Global Vector Control Response to Reach the 2030 NTD Roadmap Goals</td>
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<td>December 2-4, 2020</td>
<td>Tuberculosis: Science Aimed at Ending the Epidemic</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3, 2020</td>
<td>RSTMH Research in Progress 2020</td>
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*The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

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Mailing Address:
2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121
December 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

As 2020 draws to a close, we look back with great pride at WIPO Re:Search’s accomplishments during a year unlike any other—including identification of novel antimalarial drug leads by Consortium investigators and multiple peer-reviewed publications reporting progress on WIPO Re:Search collaborations. We also welcomed organizations from around the world to the Consortium and facilitated new intercontinental collaborations, such as WIPO Re:Search’s first leprosy and snakebite projects and the Institut Pasteur Korea-University of Zambia tuberculosis drug discovery partnership described below. As COVID-19 threatens to derail hard-won progress against NTDs, malaria, and tuberculosis, WIPO Re:Search, and the work of our investigators, is more important than ever.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be continuing our partnership with WIPO—including the newly appointed senior management team—and our growing network of Members during WIPO Re:Search’s 10th anniversary year and beyond. (Stay tuned for information about our plans to commemorate this important milestone in 2021!) As new Director General Daren Tang shapes his strategy for WIPO in the coming years, WIPO Re:Search will continue to play a key role in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the broader global health agenda.

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

Everyone at BVGH wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO
BIO Ventures for Global Health
Cornerstones of Collaboration

**Novel Therapies for Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis is among the top 10 causes of death worldwide, and the leading cause from a single infectious agent. Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis increased 10% between 2018 and 2019, highlighting the need for novel therapies. To continue the fight against this deadly disease, Dr. Vincent Delorme, Head of the Tuberculosis Research Laboratory at Institut Pasteur Korea, will be screening compounds synthesized and derived from natural sources by Dr. Peter Cheuka, Lecturer and Researcher in Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery at University of Zambia. The goals of the screening are to assess the compounds’ antitubercular activity, and to identify interesting scaffolds for further development.

IP in Focus

**WIPO Offers IP Diagnostic Tool for Businesses**

WIPO’s free [IP Diagnostic Tool](#) helps users undertake a basic diagnostic of their business’s IP situation. Developed by experienced IP experts, the tool provides key IP information tailored to each user and offers hints and advice on issues that could be interesting for the user’s business.
NTD Support Center: Optimizing NTD Diagnostics and Sampling Strategies for Low-Prevalence Settings

The NTD Support Center, with support from USAID through the COR-NTD grant, is soliciting proposals in two areas: 1) Research targeting the near-term development of highly specific diagnostic markers, tools, and technologies to monitor and evaluate programs aimed at lymphatic filariasis (LF) and onchocerciasis (oncho) in low-prevalence settings; and 2) Research on application of epidemiological and statistical methods that maximize the programmatic effectiveness of survey sampling strategies to detect specific LF and oncho signals in low-prevalence settings. Application deadline: January 31, 2021. For more information, click here.

Additional Funding Opportunities


For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.

Member News

WIPO Re:Search Investigators Receive African Researchers’ Small Grants Program Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Chiaka Anumudu and Dr. Cabirou Shintouo, who have both received awards through the African Researchers’ Small Grants Program (SGP IV) to support their ongoing WIPO Re:Search collaborations. Dr. Chiaka Anumudu of University of Ibadan in Nigeria will use the award to advance development of a rapid diagnostic test (RDT) for schistosomiasis using Schistosoma antigens present in the urine. Dr. Anumudu previously identified 54 human proteins as potential biomarkers of schistosomiasis, and, through WIPO Re:Search, will use Ampli Blocks to develop a device to detect those proteins in blood samples. Dr. Shintouo of University of Buea in Cameroon plans to use the award to develop a dipstick test for assessment of elimination of human onchocerciasis – the second-leading cause of infection-related blindness worldwide.
# Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

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<td>PAHO Webinar: Universal Health Day 2020 Health for All: Protect Everyone</td>
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<td>December 16, 2020</td>
<td>WHO Webinar: The Leadership Needed to Stimulate the Battle Against NTDs</td>
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<td>January 30, 2021</td>
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<td>February 25, 2021</td>
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*The businesses of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Performance Materials in performance materials in the U.S. and Canada.

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