

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



February 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

Last month, BVGH and WIPO joined WIPO Re:Search Members and other partners around the globe to commemorate the second annual [World NTD Day](#). Activities included social media campaigns, virtual events, and feature articles—including WIPO's [interview](#) with Dr. Takayuki Hida, Senior Director for Sustainability at **Eisai Co., Ltd.**, a founding Member of WIPO Re:Search. On January 30, more than 60 landmarks across 24 countries and 40 cities—including BVGH's and WIPO's hometowns of Seattle and Geneva, respectively—[lit up](#) to draw international attention to NTDs. As readers of this Snapshot know all too well, NTDs affect one in five people worldwide. We are grateful for the work that you do—on World NTD Day and every day—to end the neglect and beat NTDs.

The new [WHO Road Map for NTDs 2021–2030](#), released during the lead-up to World NTD Day, establishes ambitious targets for NTD control, elimination, and eradication. In addition to expanding access to existing NTD vaccines, diagnostics, and drugs, it is also critical to expand R&D of new tools to address gaps in the current arsenal. Catalyzing such R&D through cross-sector, cross-institutional collaborations is—and always will be—at the core of WIPO Re:Search. We invite you to reach out to us to discuss your partnering interests for NTDs as well as malaria and tuberculosis.

We are pleased to welcome the newest Members of the WIPO Re:Search Consortium: **Medical College of Wisconsin** and the **Public Health Institute** (our first Member in Sudan).

As always, please share this Snapshot with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO  
BIO Ventures for Global Health



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## Special Announcement

### European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) Call for Abstracts

Researchers—including students—are invited to submit abstracts for oral presentations or poster presentations at the [ECTMIH 2021](#) virtual conference. The abstract may be on any global challenge in health, migration, and equity—both research and practice. The abstract should correlate to at least one of the conference tracks, such as tuberculosis, malaria, or NTDs. Deadline for submission is **March 15, 2021**. Learn more about requirements [here](#).

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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.

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## New Member Announcements

### Medical College of Wisconsin



As a major national research center and the second largest research institution in Wisconsin, [Medical College of Wisconsin \(MCW\)](#) is dedicated to doing its part in transforming research to improve health in our communities. Founded in 1930, MCW is a distinguished leader and innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians, scientists, pharmacists, and health professionals. MCW discovers and translates new knowledge in the biomedical and health sciences; provides cutting-edge, collaborative patient care of the highest quality; and improves the health of the communities it serves.

### Public Health Institute



The [Public Health Institute \(PHI\)](#), located in Khartoum, Sudan, is a multi-disciplinary institute that promotes creation of new knowledge and application of evidence-based interventions through delivering applied health research/professional training and teaching programs. PHI was established in 2009 by ministerial decree under the

Directorate of Human Resources for Health, Federal Ministry of Health, which supervises the running of the institute through a director appointed by the Undersecretary for Health. PHI acts as a “think tank” for the health sector by analyzing policies, searching for evidence, and advocating for health system reform. It has a workforce of both full-time and part-time staff, as well as external collaborators. PHI’s mandate is research, training, and consultancy. PHI also contributes to the development of public health and health systems in Sudan.

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## Cornerstones of Collaboration

### Pfizer Shares IP with University of Yaoundé I to Develop Novel Drugs



Leishmaniasis, malaria, and human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) are among the parasitic infectious diseases that disproportionately exact a heavy toll on people living in low- and middle-income countries. Prof. Fabrice Boyom, Head of the Antimicrobial & Biocontrol Agents Unit at **University of Yaoundé I**, is working toward the discovery and development of novel drugs for all three diseases by targeting the parasites’ critical metabolic pathways. To support Prof. Boyom’s drug discovery research, **Pfizer Inc.** has agreed to provide certain potassium channel blockers.

### MIT and University of Buea Continue Onchocerciasis Diagnostic Development Collaboration



Prof. Stephen Ghogomu and Mr. Cabirou Shintouo at **University of Buea** and Dr. Jose Gomez-Marquez at **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (MIT) are [partnering](#) through WIPO Re:Search to further diagnostic development for onchocerciasis. Dr. Gomez-Marquez has just shipped the resupply of Ampli blocks and consumables for gold nanoparticle development to support the next phases of their work. These collaborative efforts are key to developing a new dipstick test for assessment of elimination of human onchocerciasis – the second-leading cause of infection-related blindness worldwide.

The MIT team recently launched the [Ampli Science Platform](#), an online learning portal for remote science using their plug-and-play biochemistry tools. Using interactive tutorials and a growing learning community, the platform connects diagnostic researchers from around the globe to share stories, experiences, and ideas on how to use the Ampli platform. This will continue to help teams to experiment with Ampli despite COVID-19 restrictions.

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## IP in Focus

### WIPO Offers New Patent Information Tool for Innovators

[WIPO INSPIRE](#) (Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports), [released in November 2020](#), serves as a one-stop shop for information on commercial patent databases. By bringing information on these databases together in

one place, innovators, service providers, patent offices, and other stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem can make more informed decisions regarding which databases to use. In a WIPO [press release](#), Director General Daren Tang said WIPO INSPIRE is the fruit of an excellent public-private collaboration between WIPO, the owners of the databases, and patent information user groups.

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## BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

### RSTMH Opens 2021 Small Grants

RSTMH's small grants program offers early-career researchers and global health professionals based anywhere in the world the opportunity to apply for funding in a topic related to tropical medicine and global health. The program funds projects across the research spectrum, including lab-based, clinical, implementation, and policy-related research. RSTMH developed the program to support the next generation of global health researchers by providing seed funding to enable them to generate preliminary data to secure follow-on grants and further their careers. For 2021, priority will be given to applications in these areas: NTDs (focused on overlap with non-communicable diseases and the SDGs); malaria (drug resistance); One Health and wider planetary health; human health alongside animal health and the environment; emerging diseases; and drug-resistant infections. Deadline: April 15, 2021 (17:00 GMT). For more information, click [here](#).

### Additional Funding Opportunities

- [WHO/TDR: Call for Identification of Good Practices in Engaging Communities in Research for Implementation and in Social Innovation in Health in LMICs](#) – Deadline: February 19, 2021.
- [Africa Young Innovators for Health Award 2021](#) – Deadline: March 31, 2021.
- [Sasakawa Health Foundation: Hansen's Disease \(Leprosy\) Grants FY2021](#) – Application Deadline: May 5, 2021.

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



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## Member News

### McGill University Features WIPO Re:Search Chagas Disease Collaboration



Dr. Horacio Bach



Dr. Momar Ndao

McGill University [featured](#) the [WIPO Re:Search collaboration](#) between Dr. Horacio Bach at **University of British Columbia (UBC)** and Dr. Momar Ndao at **McGill University** (originally from Senegal) in the January 20, 2021 issue of *McGill Perspectives on Global Health*. The two investigators are partnering to develop new diagnostics for Chagas disease, a significant public health problem in Latin America.

# Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event
February 11, 2021	<a href="#">Webinar: Noma – A Disease that Shouldn't Exist Anymore</a>
February 24-25, 2021	<a href="#">ISNTD d3 2021: Drug Discovery &amp; Development, Diagnostics and Vaccines for Tropical Diseases</a>
February 25, 2021	<a href="#">Global Health Day on Capitol Hill</a>
March 12-14, 2021	<a href="#">CUGH 2021</a>



Johnson & Johnson



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