

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



March 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

As I write this, WIPO Re:Search has just concluded a first-of-its-kind virtual intellectual property (IP) capacity building workshop for scientists and IP management professionals in Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, and Latin America. In alignment with the Consortium's strategic objectives, the four-day IP capacity building workshop provided critical training to empower low- and middle-income countries to strategically manage their IP assets. WIPO's own IP experts and experienced trainers were joined by international IP experts representing WIPO Re:Search's cross-sector membership of private sector, academic, and government research organizations. **Pfizer's** prior Chief IP Counsel and subject matter experts from **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany; National Institutes of Health;** and **Association of University Technology Managers** shared their experiences and knowledge with WIPO Re:Search Fellows and other program participants. Please stay tuned for details on how to access the workshop recordings and trainers' presentations.

We were honored to have WIPO Director General Daren Tang speak to the importance of WIPO Re:Search and IP in the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), not only during the opening session of the IP workshop, but also in a [statement](#) issued for World NTD Day. Although much work remains to be done to eradicate NTDs, as well as malaria and tuberculosis, we are encouraged by recent news, including the [50% drop in human dracunculiasis \(Guinea worm disease\) cases in 2020](#), [certification of El Salvador as malaria-free](#), and [evidence that an old antibiotic may combat drug-resistant tuberculosis](#).

We are pleased to welcome the newest Members of the WIPO Re:Search Consortium: **University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)** and **Global Health Innovation Alliance Accelerator (GHIAA)**.

As always, please share this Snapshot with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO
BIO Ventures for Global Health



Special Announcements

Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease Calls for Papers on NTDs

Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease invites manuscripts relating to all aspects of the epidemiology, diagnosis, and management of NTDs for its Special Collection titled "*Neglected Tropical Diseases: Recent Progress and Future Challenges*" (Guest Editor: Diego Alvarez, **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**). Following

initial triage, suitable manuscripts submitted to this Special Collection will be peer reviewed before publication. Learn more [here](#).

BEI Resources Adds Four New Species of *Leishmania*

A [recent deposit of *Leishmania* strains](#) by Dr. K. P. Chang of Rosalind Franklin University has expanded the BEI Resources *Leishmania* collection by four new species: *L. braziliensis*, *L. gerbilli*, *L. infantum*, and *L. turanica*. Strains have been sequenced for the *nagt* gene, allowing for inter- and/or intra-species discrimination. Learn more [here](#).

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 Announcements

University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)



The [University of Nebraska Medical Center](#) (UNMC) is one of four campuses of the University of Nebraska. Founded in 1869, UNMC became part of the University of Nebraska in 1902. Major units include the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, College of Dentistry, College of Public Health, College of Allied Health Professions, Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute, Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute, and a graduate studies program. With collaboration from a highly engaged community of skilled professionals and access to world-class facilities, UNMC researchers identify and focus on critical questions that lead to new knowledge and, in the long term, life-changing therapies.

Global Healthcare Innovation Alliance Accelerator (GHIAA)



The [Global Health Innovation Alliance Accelerator \(GHIAA\)](#), established in 2017, is an independent resource, curator, interdisciplinary think tank, and consultancy. The organization is dedicated to improving the health of the world's communities through accelerated and improved alliance formation. GHIAA aims to facilitate translation of global health policies into actionable agreement provisions that will address global health challenges by advancing research, development, and marketing for new biomedical technologies. To achieve this objective, GHIAA develops and promotes the use of tools and best practices for global health alliance formation.

Cornerstones of Collaboration

UC San Diego Shares IP with University of Zambia for Schistosomiasis Drug Discovery

UC San Diego



Praziquantel (PZQ) has been the drug of choice for the treatment of schistosomiasis for over 40 years. Although it is effective against all major forms of schistosomiasis, it is less active against juvenile parasites. New antischistosomal targeting different parasite development stages would not only lead to improved efficacy and expand treatment options, but also reduce the risk of drug resistance. To address this treatment gap, Dr. Conor Caffrey, Professor at **UC San Diego's** Center for Discovery and Innovation in Parasitic Diseases (CDIPD) and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, will investigate natural product derivatives synthesized by Dr. Peter Cheuka, Lecturer and Researcher in Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery at **University of Zambia**. The compounds will be tested against various developmental stages of *S. mansoni* at CDIPD to determine bioactivity and identify interesting scaffolds for further development.

IP in Focus

WIPO Sequence Supports Patent Applicants Filing Sequence Listing

[WIPO Sequence](#), [launched in November 2020](#) is a free tool that supports the production and cross-border filing of patent applications generated in the biotechnology sector. The desktop application (available for Windows, Mac OSX, and Linux) allows patent applicants to author their sequence listings – including DNA, RNA, and amino acids – in a fashion compliant with the new [WIPO Standard ST.26](#) adopted by Member States. Under current practices, IP Offices have had to produce their own tools for applicants to author their sequence listings, which has resulted in sequence listings in different formats depending on where they originate from. WIPO Sequence represents an advancement because all Offices have agreed to adopt its use so that applicants across the world will have access to the same free tool.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

NIH/NIAID Innovation for Tuberculosis Vaccine Discovery (ITVD)

This initiative will support the design of novel tuberculosis vaccine candidates that exploit innovative approaches and their advancement into preclinical animal model testing. This funding opportunity will use a milestone-driven, biphasic award mechanism to fund high-risk/exploratory research. Transition to the second phase depends on the successful completion of milestones. Letters of Intent are due 30 days prior to the application due date of June 30, 2021. For more information, click [here](#).

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [MMV: 19th Call for Proposals](#) – Deadline: March 26, 2021.
- [For Women in Science: Sub-Saharan Africa Call for Applications 2021](#) – Deadline: March 29, 2021.
- [UKRI: Applied Global Health Research: Improve Health in LMICs](#) – Deadline: April 14, 2021.
- [OWSD: PhD Fellowships](#) – Deadline: April 15, 2021.
- [Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany: 2021 Research Grants](#) – Deadline: August 31, 2021.

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



Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event
March 12-14, 2021	CUGH 2021
March 24, 2021	GARDP Webinar: Discovering and Developing New Treatments for Tuberculosis
April 22-23, 2021	WUSTL 8th Global Health & Infectious Disease Conference
May 31-June 18, 2021	6th McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health
July 12-14, 2021	Future Insight Days



Johnson & Johnson



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