

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



April 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

I am pleased to announce the publication of "[IP to Beat TB: How Efforts to Curb Tuberculosis Are Being Fueled by a Collaborative IP Ecosystem](#)" in *IPWatchdog*, in collaboration with the **United States Chamber of Commerce**. Timed to coincide with [World TB Day](#), the article showcases the critical role that WIPO Re:Search, and public-private R&D partnerships and IP sharing more broadly, are playing in the global fight against TB.

As World Malaria Day approaches later this month, we are heartened by the [major strides](#) the countries of the Greater Mekong subregion have made toward malaria elimination in the face of the dual threats of COVID-19 and antimalarial drug resistance. We also celebrate all of our WIPO Re:Search Members who are battling malaria—and antimalarial resistance—in a variety of ways, including [leveraging of pharmaceutical industry assets](#) to develop [new drugs with novel modes of action](#).

Every April 26, WIPO celebrates [World 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



Special Announcements

[ASTMH Travel Award Applications Due April 21](#)

The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) offers Travel Awards to qualified students, early-career investigators, and scientists in the tropical medicine field to attend the Society's Annual Meeting (November 17-21 in Maryland, USA). Awardees participate in the meeting through oral or poster presentations. Learn more [here](#).

[Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Research Challenge Applications Due April 30](#)

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is organizing a series of research competitions for technology pioneers worldwide in areas of high innovation. Winning these renowned prizes shows the superiority of the winning team and also opens new avenues for partnering with the company. 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.

Cornerstones of Collaboration

SCRI, NIH, UBC Researchers Identify Natural Products with Antitubercular Activity

With a total of 1.4 million people worldwide who succumbed to tuberculosis (TB) in 2019, TB remains the world's deadliest infectious disease. There was also a 10% increase in multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) between 2018 and 2019. MDR-TB is not susceptible to the normal six-month drug course of isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol, and for this reason it is critical that novel antitubercular agents are identified. Marine sponges have consistently been the richest source of novel marine natural products and have historically shown in vitro cytotoxicity and antimicrobial activity. Using crude extracts of the marine sponge *Chelonaplysilla sp.* obtained from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Open Repository at the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, Prof. Tanya Parish from **Seattle Children's Research Institute (SCRI)**, along with Prof. Raymond Andersen from **University of British Columbia (UBC)** and Dr. Barry O'Keefe from NCI, collaborated to screen and characterize the extracts for antitubercular activity. This WIPO Re:Search collaboration resulted in the identification of compounds that exhibited potent antimicrobial activity against *M. tuberculosis*, and a [publication](#) in *The Journal of Antibiotics* titled "Diterpenoids isolated from the Samoan marine sponge *Chelonaplysilla sp.* inhibit *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* growth".

IP in Focus

WIPO's Global Design Database

[WIPO's Global Design Database](#) is a free, multilingual, global search engine for a worldwide collection of industrial designs data, including WIPO Hague registrations and information from participating offices. You can find [an overview](#) from a January 2021 webinar, as well as other webinars on the database [here](#).

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

RSTMH Small Grants Program – Deadline Extended to April 29

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 29, 2021 (17:00 BST). For more information, click [here](#).

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [NIH/NIAID Tropical Medicine Research Centers \(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) for NTDs in endemic areas – Letter of Intent Deadline: May 19, 2021; Application Deadline: June 18, 2021.
- [NIH/NIAID Innovation for Tuberculosis Vaccine Discovery \(ITVD\)](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: May 31, 2021; Application Deadline: June 30, 2021.
- [NIH R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program, Notice of Special Interest](#) for Secondary Analysis of Existing Datasets for Advancing Immune-mediated and Infectious Disease Research – Next Application Deadline: June 16, 2021.
- [Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany: 2021 Research Grants](#) – Application Deadline: August 31, 2021.

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



Member News

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Publishes Snakebite Article

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) recently [published an article](#) on snakebite treatment in *Trends in Pharmacological Sciences*. In their opinion piece, Prof. Nick Casewell and Prof. Rachel Clare and their team at the **Center for Snakebite Research & Interventions** discuss the promise of small molecule drugs as new snakebite treatments.

Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event
April 22-23, 2021	WUSTL 8th Global Health & Infectious Disease Conference
May 25-27, 2021	BioMalPar XVII: Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite
May 31-June 18, 2021	6th McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health
June 18, 2021	RSTMH Topics in Infection 2021
July 12-14, 2021	Future Insight Days



Johnson & Johnson



*The business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Electronics in the US and Canada.

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



Copyright © 2021 BVGH, All rights reserved.

Mailing Address:

2101 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121