

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



June 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

In this issue we are pleased to feature a new WIPO Re:Search collaboration between **University of Tokyo** and **Pfizer**. Dr. Tomoyoshi Nozaki, an experienced parasitic diseases researcher at the University's Graduate School of Medicine, will screen compounds from Pfizer to assess their repurposing potential against malaria. The Government of Japan recently [reinforced its commitment to the World Health Organization \(WHO\) and global health](#) as one of WHO's top contributors across their shared priorities. **Eisai** and **Takeda** have represented Japan as active participants in WIPO Re:Search for many years. Eisai is currently partnering on an [onchocerciasis drug discovery and capacity building program](#) with Prof. Fidelis Cho-Ngwa at **University of Buea** in Cameroon, as described in the [2020 BVGH Partnership Hub Annual Report](#). Takeda's [tuberculosis drug R&D project](#) with Prof. Yossi Av-Gay at **University of British Columbia** was featured in [WIPO Re:Search: Advancing Product Development for Neglected Infectious Diseases through Global Public-Private Partnerships](#).

Takeda's longstanding commitment to improving global health goes beyond WIPO Re:Search. The company's recently announced [long-term safety and efficacy data](#) demonstrate the potential of its dengue vaccine candidate (TAK-003) to significantly impact health.

Last month, the World Health Assembly [adopted](#) a new resolution that aims to revitalize and accelerate efforts to end malaria. This resolution is particularly crucial as global progress against malaria stalls in the face of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Assembly also [adopted](#) a decision recognizing January 30 as World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day. BVGH, WIPO, WIPO Re:Search Members, and other partners around the globe were proud to [commemorate](#) World NTD Day earlier this year, and we look forward to contributing to future campaigns to help end the neglect and beat NTDs.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO  
BIO Ventures for Global Health



---

## WIPO Re:Search Statistics



Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search Members.  
Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search collaborations.  
Click [here](#) to view the WIPO Re:Search Collaboration Pipeline.

---

## Cornerstones of Collaboration



### Pfizer Shares Compounds for University of Tokyo Antimalarial Drug R&D Program

In 2019, malaria caused an estimated 229 million clinical episodes and 409,000 deaths. As development of resistance to existing drugs is one of the greatest threats to malaria control, it is critical that new potential therapeutics be developed. Dr. Tomoyoshi Nozaki, Professor at the Graduate School of Medicine, **University of Tokyo**, is working toward the discovery and development of novel potential treatments for malaria. To support Dr. Nozaki's drug discovery research, **Pfizer Inc.** has agreed to provide certain compounds that may inhibit selected targets.

---

## BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

### RSTMH Chalmers Medal and Sir Rickard Christophers Medal

The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine (RSTMH) is accepting nominations for two prestigious medals awarded for outstanding work in tropical medicine. The Chalmers Medal recognizes mid-career researchers in tropical medicine or global health who demonstrate evidence of mentoring and professional development of junior investigators, and other forms of capacity building. For more information on the Chalmers Medal, click [here](#). The Sir Rickard Christophers Medal recognizes senior experts for their outstanding work in tropical medicine and hygiene, and evidence of practical and field applications. For more information on the Sir Rickard Christophers Medal, click [here](#). For both medals, nominators and nominees should be RSTMH members or Fellows. Deadline for nominations for both medals is July 19, 2021.

## Additional Funding Opportunities

- [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 Deadlines: June 16, 2021 and October 16, 2021.
- [GHIT Fund Call for Proposals: Product Development Platform](#) – Intent to Apply (ITA) Form Deadline: July 8, 2021.
- [GHIT Fund Call for Proposals: Target Research Platform](#) – Intent to Apply (ITA) Form Deadline: July 8, 2021.
- [TDR Postgraduate Training Scholarship in Implementation Science](#) – Application Deadline: July 31, 2021.
- [Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany: 2021 Research Grants](#) – Application Deadline: August 31, 2021.

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



---

## Highlighted Contributions

### PATH Vaccine Technologies

PATH has developed two technologies to improve vaccine efficacy and delivery methods, for which they are willing to discuss possible collaboration with WIPO Re:Search investigators on a case-by-case basis:

1. [Fast-Dissolving Tablets \(FDTs\)](#) to address the current challenges of vaccine storage, transport, and delivery. These freeze-dried, lyophilized tablets are a dosage formulation designed for sub-lingual administration. This is a broadly applicable technology that can be used for vaccine, biologic, and small molecule candidates.
2. **Double-mutant labile toxin (dmLT) adjuvant** stimulates the mucosal immune response. As such, it may be a useful adjuvant for vaccines targeting respiratory or enteric pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2, *Shigella*, and ETEC. This technology has been featured in the following recent publications: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#).

If you are interested in learning more, please contact [Callie Weber](#).

---

## Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event
June 18, 2021	<a href="#">RSTMH Topics in Infection 2021</a>
July 12-14, 2021	<a href="#">Future Insight Days</a>
September 7-9, 2021	<a href="#">NTD NGO Network Conference 2021</a>
September 28 – October 1, 2021	<a href="#">ECTMIH Conference 2021</a>
November 8-10, 2021	<a href="#">COR-NTD 2021 Meeting</a>



Johnson & Johnson



MSD

INVENTING FOR LIFE

\*\*



NOVARTIS



\*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.



BIO Ventures for Global Health

Copyright © 2021 BVGH, All rights reserved.

**Mailing Address:**

2101 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121