

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



July 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

In June we commemorated the Day of the African Child and the [International Day of the Tropics](#), which collectively provided important reminders of the challenges, opportunities, and promise in the fight against neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis. We could not be more proud of our WIPO Re:Search investigators and [fellows](#) based in tropical countries who are combatting these diseases through a variety of innovative approaches—including [unleashing the medicinal power of the tropics' natural biodiversity](#).

The cornerstone of WIPO Re:Search is, and always has been, sharing intellectual property assets and know-how across sectors and geographies to catalyze innovation, build research capacity, and ultimately improve health. In that spirit, the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, World Health Organization, and World Trade Organization will build capacity and provide technical assistance to countries relating to their COVID-19 needs. Read their joint statement [here](#).

**WIPO, AUTM, Licensing Executives Society International**, and the International Chamber of Commerce will host a virtual seminar titled “Harnessing Public Research for Innovation in the Time of COVID-19 and Beyond—The Role of Knowledge Transfer Policies,” on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Since its inception in 2011, WIPO Re:Search has stimulated cross-sector knowledge transfer through R&D collaborations ([nearly 170 to date](#)) and our [Fellowship Program](#) (supported by the Government of Australia through WIPO Funds-in-Trust). To learn more and register for this seminar—which features WIPO Director General Daren Tang, as well as speakers from **Novartis** and WIPO Member States active in WIPO Re:Search (including [Brazil](#) and [China](#))—click [here](#) and enter code 33WSMBV521.

We are pleased to welcome **Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia**—the first WIPO Re:Search Member in Peru—to the Consortium.

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 Announcements

### RSTMH Announces *International Health* Call for Papers

*International Health* "aims to stimulate scientific and policy debate and provide a forum for analysis and opinion sharing for individuals and organizations engaged in all areas of global health." Request for papers is ongoing. Learn more [here](#).

### NTD Network Offering Travel and Research Bursaries

NTD Network is offering two bursaries for early-career researchers, preferably Ph.D.s or postdoctoral research associates, working on leishmaniasis or Chagas disease. Application deadline: November 30, 2021. Learn more [here](#).

### London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) Offering Online Courses

LSHTM offers a broad curriculum of [online courses](#). Two additions of note are [Eliminating Trachoma](#) and [The Global Challenge of Vector Borne Diseases and How to Control Them](#) (offered in partnership with ARCTEC, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and IVCC). Many courses are self-paced.

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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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## Cornerstones of Collaboration

### Novartis Facilitates *Mycobacterium Abscessus* Drug Discovery



To support the search for new, effective drugs against *Mycobacterium abscessus*, the **Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR)** shared a targeted collection of compounds through WIPO Re:Search with Prof. Thomas Dick, Member of the Center for Discovery and Innovation, Hackensack Meridian Health, and Professor at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, to screen for activity against the bacterium. Novartis also recently shared structures and

resupplied quantities of a subset of effective compounds for Prof. Dick to conduct further validation and dose-response studies at his institution.

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## New Member Announcement

### Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia



Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) is a leading higher education institution in Lima, Peru. For 60 years, UPCH has contributed to world-class knowledge in tropical medicine, high-altitude medicine and physiology, public health, and basic sciences with the highest research standards and ethics. Research and innovation are fundamental pillars, and the university consistently ranks among the top Peruvian institutions in research and international partnerships. UPCH's Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt studies diseases including tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, malaria, and HIV, in Lima as well as at field sites such as Iquitos, Cuzco, and La Merced.

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## IP in Focus

### Trilateral Distance Learning Course Dates Announced

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have prepared an **Executive Course on Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation (DL-701)**, which is administered by the WIPO Academy. The purpose of this course is to give an overview of the factors that shape access to, and influence innovation of medical technologies. The course describes how these two policy objectives are shaped by a diverse range of factors that span the policy fields of public health, IP, and international trade. The course is offered in a tutored version with experienced tutors who provide academic support. In addition, the WIPO Academy offers a self-paced, non-tutored version of this course. The target audience for this course primarily includes technical professionals such as patent examiners, health policymakers and their assistants, drug procurement specialists, IP specialists and senior students.

This course requires approximately 10 hours of study time over a period of 3-4 weeks and is offered in a range of languages. Registration times differ for each class with the first registration period opening August 31, 2021. Registration will be announced on the WIPO Academy web page [here](#).

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## BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

### Cures Within Reach

The [ReGRoW program](#) of [Cures Within Reach](#) (CWR) provides repurposing research grants to investigators in [low- and middle-income countries](#) (LMICs). Year two of ReGRoW is officially underway, with a new funding opportunity Request for Proposals (RFP). At least three grants of up to USD \$50,000 each will be awarded. Projects can focus on any unsolved disease facing patients in LMICs and must repurpose an existing off-patent drug, nutraceutical, or indigenous medicine that already has appropriate regulatory approvals or is otherwise safe and readily available for human use. Eligible institutions must be "research ready." Application Deadline: August 6, 2021.

CWR is also accepting submissions to their [CureAccelerator platform](#) through August 6, 2021. Open RFPs include: 1) [Repurposing Research Led by a US-Based Racial/Ethnic Minority PI](#), and 2) [Repurposing Research to Address Racial / Ethnic Health Disparities in the Greater Chicago Area](#).

## Additional Funding Opportunities

- [NIH Launching Future Leaders in Global Health \(LAUNCH\) Research Training Program \(D43 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: July 21, 2021; Application Deadline: August 20, 2021.
- [The World Academy of Sciences \(TWAS\) Seed Grant for New African Principal Investigators \(SG-NAPI\)](#) – Application Deadline: July 27, 2021.
- [NIH Advancing Vaccine Adjuvant Research for Tuberculosis](#) – Application Deadline: August 10, 2021.
- [Wellcome International Master's Fellowships](#) – Application Deadline: August 24, 2021.
- [Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany 2021 Research Grants](#) – Application Deadline: August 31, 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: October 16, 2021.
- [AfOx Travel and Starter Grants](#) for collaborations between researchers at African institutions and the University of Oxford – Applications are open year-round.

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



## Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event	Location
September 7-9, 2021	<a href="#">NTD NGO Network Conference 2021</a>	Virtual
September 28 – October 1, 2021	<a href="#">ECTMIH Conference 2021</a>	Virtual
October 11-12, 2021	<a href="#">RSTMH 2021 Meeting</a>	Virtual
November 8-10, 2021	<a href="#">COR-NTD 2021 Meeting</a>	Virtual
November 17-21, 2021	<a href="#">ASTMH 2021 Meeting</a>	National Harbor, MD, USA, and Virtual



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\*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.

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