

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



August 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

This month we observe World Mosquito Day, an opportunity to commemorate the international community's progress in the fight against mosquito-borne diseases and reaffirm commitments to eliminate them once and for all. We are proud of our WIPO Re:Search Members who are battling malaria—one of the most common mosquito-borne diseases—on multiple fronts, including [molecular surveillance of antimalarial resistance](#) and development of [new drugs](#) with [novel mechanisms of action](#) to outpace such resistance.

August also brings [International Youth Day](#), a time to celebrate the potential of young people as partners in global society, both today and in the future. We are inspired by WIPO Director General Daren Tang's [focus on engaging and empowering youth](#) to utilize the IP system to transform their innovation and creativity into solutions for global challenges as well as economic development in their countries.

WIPO Re:Search Member **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany** has expanded its commitment to eliminate schistosomiasis through a contract manufacturing agreement in Kenya for a new pediatric medication. To learn more about the initiative click [here](#).

We are pleased to welcome the **Institute of Science and Technology (INSTech)** 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



Special Announcements

Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) Grant Writing Workshop

AREF is offering a grant writing workshop for scientists from underserved countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop takes place in October and November 2021. Application Deadline: August 20, 2021. Learn more [here](#).

NIAID Eligibility Extended for Some Postdoctoral Researchers

Postdocs eligible for NIAID Career Transition Awards (K22) and NIH or NIAID Pathway to Independence Awards (K99/R00) may have a temporary extension of that eligibility due to COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).

WIPO Re:Search Statistics

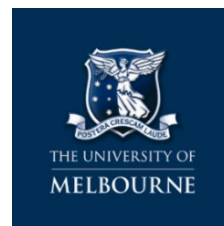


Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search Members.
Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search collaborations.
Click [here](#) to view the WIPO Re:Search Collaboration Pipeline.

Cornerstones of Collaboration

Johnson & Johnson Supports Anthelmintic Drug Discovery Effort by University of Melbourne

The Johnson & Johnson logo is displayed in its characteristic red, cursive script.



Johnson & Johnson provided its Jump-stARter library to the anthelmintic drug discovery effort led by Dr. Aya Taki and colleagues in the Gasser Laboratory at **University of Melbourne**. The developed high-throughput whole organism assay and screening results contributed to a publication in *Pharmaceuticals*, "[High-Throughput Phenotypic Assay to Screen for Anthelmintic Activity on *Haemonchus contortus*](#)." The results demonstrate the benefits and promise of the high-throughput

assay format to be applied to other socioeconomically important parasitic nematodes to more effectively identify small molecules with high repurposing or development potential. Multiple small molecules were identified as hits; the team plans to conduct critical assessment of the potential of the selected hits as candidates for subsequent optimization.

New Member Announcement

Institute of Science and Technology (INSTech)



The **Institute of Science and Technology (INSTech)** is a private scientific, cultural, and technical institution in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Established in December 2015, INSTech aims to (1) train technicians and engineers capable of participating in the economic development of Burkina Faso and elsewhere, and (2) contribute to scientific and technological research and the promotion of research results. INSTech collaborates nationally, regionally, and internationally. Collaborators include Burkina Faso's National Malaria Control Program (PNLP), the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**, **Medicines for Malaria Venture**, and **University of California, San Francisco**. Infectious disease research facilities include parasitology, mosquito infectivity, bacteriology, hematology/serology, and chemistry and natural substances laboratories.

IP in Focus

Registration Open for Executive Course on Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation

The **Executive Distance Learning Course on Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation (DL-701)**—co-developed by WIPO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO)—is [open for registration](#) until September 14, 2021. The course, which is part of the technical assistance and capacity building offered under WIPO's [COVID-19 Recovery Package](#), combines the expertise of all three organizations and is aimed at technical professionals, such as IP specialists, health policymakers, drug procurement specialists, and senior students.

DL-701—offered at no charge as a self-study course—will run from September 15, 2021, to October 17, 2021, and is offered in several languages.

Second Edition of *Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation* Now Available in English, French, and Spanish

The study—co-authored by WIPO, WHO, and WTO—examines the intersection between health, intellectual property, and trade and how they affect medical innovation and access to medical technologies. [The second edition](#) is an update of the original 2013 study and reviews key developments.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

World Bank Group Africa Fellowship Program

The Africa regions of the World Bank Group (WBG) announce the opening of the application for the [2022 WBG-Africa Fellowship Program](#) for Ph.D. candidates and recent Ph.D. graduates (within three years of Ph.D. completion) who are Sub-Saharan Africa nationals. Fellows will spend six months getting hands-on experience at World Bank Group headquarters in Washington D.C. or country offices. They will work on research, economic policy, technical assistance, and lending operations that contribute to the World Bank Group's goal of eliminating poverty and increasing shared prosperity. Women are encouraged to apply. Application Deadline: August 23, 2021.

Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) Research Development Fellowships

[AREF's Research Development Fellowships](#) support emerging Sub-Saharan African scientists. Fellowships include three- to nine-month placements at leading research institutions in Europe or Africa, with additional support at home institutions before and after the placement, up to a maximum of £40,000. Application Deadline: September 23, 2021.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [Wellcome International Master's Fellowships](#) – Application Deadline: August 24, 2021.
- [African Researchers' Small Grants Program \(SGP V\)](#) – Application Deadline August 30, 2021.
- [Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany 2021 Research Grants](#) – Application Deadline: August 31, 2021.
- [NIH Planning Grant for Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program \(D71 - Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: September 28, 2021; Application Deadline: October 28, 2021.
- [Women for Africa Foundation Visiting Senior Research Fellowships](#) – Application Deadline: September 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: 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](#).



Member News

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and Partners Identify Novel Antischistosomal Compounds

Schistosomiasis affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, mostly in the world's poorest countries. Using a novel method for culturing juvenile *Schistosoma mansoni* worms, scientists at **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**, in collaboration with researchers at **Technische Universität München (Germany)**, **Theodor Bilharz Research Institute (Egypt)**, and **National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (National Institutes of Health, USA)**, have screened molecules against schistosomiasis under 3R principles and identified compounds with promising antischistosomal activity. This research was recently [published](#) in the peer-reviewed journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*.

Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event	Location
August 18, 2021	RSTMH Webinar: Understanding Schistosomiasis Hotspots	Virtual
August 25, 2021	COR-NTD Webinar: NTD Research in the COVID-19 Context	Virtual
September 7-9, 2021	NTD NGO Network Conference 2021	Virtual
September 28 – October 1, 2021	ECTMIH Conference 2021	Virtual
October 11-12, 2021	RSTMH 2021 Meeting	Virtual
November 8-10, 2021	COR-NTD 2021 Meeting	Virtual
November 17-21, 2021	ASTMH 2021 Meeting	National Harbor, MD, USA, and Virtual



*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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