

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



September 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce that, to commemorate WIPO Re:Search's 10th anniversary, BVGH and WIPO will be hosting a half-day virtual event on **Thursday, October 28** showcasing how IP and innovation are driving improved health and economic development in Africa. Stay tuned for further details and registration information.

I invite you to read [a recent post from USAID](#) highlighting the important role of women—including female scientists in endemic countries—in the fight to beat NTDs. We celebrate the many female WIPO Re:Search investigators and [fellows](#) who are collaborating worldwide to improve the [diagnosis](#) and [treatment](#) of neglected diseases; [expand cutting-edge R&D programs](#) in low- and middle-income countries; and [train the next generation of researchers](#).

This month we observe International Snakebite Awareness Day, an important opportunity to raise the visibility of one of the world's biggest hidden health crises. The only effective treatments for snakebite envenoming are antivenoms. However, antivenoms are expensive to manufacture, and different antivenoms are required to treat the bites of different snake species. We are proud of our WIPO Re:Search Members who are seeking to [revolutionize snakebite envenoming treatment by developing less costly, small-molecule therapies that inhibit toxins in venom](#).

We are pleased to welcome **University of Rwanda** as our first WIPO Re:Search Member in the country.

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

Save the Date: WIPO Re:Search 10th Anniversary Africa Regional Event!

WIPO Re:Search is celebrating its 10th anniversary! On **October 28, 2021**, we will host a half-day virtual event showcasing how IP and innovation are driving improved health and economic development in Africa. Hear from African scientists participating in WIPO Re:Search collaborations, other regional partners, and WIPO Re:Search company Members investing across the continent. Details and registration information coming soon.

Webinar: Strengthening Capacity for Health Innovation in Africa – Launch of the H3D Foundation and IFPMA Partnership

Join **IFPMA** on September 28 for a 90-minute session on Strengthening Capacity for Health Innovation in Africa and learn about IFPMA's new partnership with [H3D Foundation](#). View the agenda and register [here](#).

Seeding Labs' Instrumental Access Program

Seeding Labs' mission is to empower every scientist to transform the world. The next application deadline for the [Instrumental Access](#) program is October 15, 2021.

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

Profiling Antimalarial Drug Resistance Markers in Nigeria

Dr. Jun-Hu Chen at the **National Institute of Parasitic Diseases (NIPD)** in China uses PCR assays and sequencing to identify resistance-causing mutations in malaria parasite genes. Through WIPO Re:Search, and with funding from NIPD, Dr. Uche Igbasi, then a graduate student in the laboratory of Prof. Wellington Oyibo at **University of Lagos** in Nigeria, spent two months at NIPD to receive training in molecular genotyping and to apply this technique to identify resistance marker genes to sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) in isolates of *Plasmodium falciparum* from Nigerian patients. WHO recommends SP for prophylactic use in pregnant women in the second trimester, to prevent adverse effects of malaria on the fetus and mother. However, SP is currently widely used in the general population as drug combination therapy. The

collaborators recently published their results in a paper titled "[High multiple mutations of *Plasmodium falciparum*-resistant genotypes to sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine in Lagos, Nigeria.](#)" This work reported a high prevalence of SP-resistant haplotypes (for example, triple mutations in *dhfr* [93.8%]; single haplotype mutations in *dhps* [44.3%]; quadruple *dhfr-dhps* haplotype mutations [42.6%]; octuple haplotype mutations [22.0%]; and some rare mutations), five to eight years after the Federal Ministry of Health disapproved the drug for monotherapy use in the general population in Nigeria. These findings highlight the need for regular surveillance on the utility of the recommended use of SP as a single-drug prophylactic in pregnancy. This is the second joint publication resulting from Dr. Chen's and Prof. Oyibo's WIPO Re:Search collaboration. Read their previous paper [here](#).

New Member Announcement

University of Rwanda



Established in 2013, **University of Rwanda** is committed to graduating the next generation of leaders who are prepared and dedicated to building a more just and sustainable society locally, nationally, and globally. The university is a multi-campus institution, consisting of six academic entities, including the College of Science and Technology and the College of Medicine and Health Sciences. University of Rwanda is recognized for its innovative approaches to teaching, learning, research, and connections with the community, and aims to become a world-class university empowering national economic and social transformation through active participation in the global knowledge economy. The university has extensive experience conducting infectious disease research and experimental medicine to develop improved interventions and strengthen access and community acceptance.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) Iso Lomso Fellowship

The Iso Lomso Fellowship provides a three-year attachment to STIAS to enable early-career African researchers to develop and conduct a long-term research program of their preference. The fellowship is aimed at scholars who have obtained a doctoral degree within the preceding seven years and who hold an academic position at a university or research institution anywhere in Africa. Candidates should have established a research program and have completed a post-doctoral fellowship or equivalent post-Ph.D. program. All disciplines are considered. The current application round closes February 15, 2022. Learn more [here](#).

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [Africa Research Excellence Fund \(AREF\) Research Development Fellowships](#) – Application Deadline: September 23, 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.
- [NIH Brazil Regional Prospective Observational Research in Tuberculosis \(RePORT\) \(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: October 9, 2021; Application Deadline: November 8, 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.
- [Women for Africa Foundation Visiting Senior Research Fellowships](#) – Application Deadline: October 30, 2021.

- [NIH Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers \(MOSAIC\) Institutionally-Focused Research Education Award to Promote Diversity \(UE5 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) – Application Deadline: November 18, 2021.
- [NTDs Support Center Operational Research on "Endgame" Challenges](#) – Application Deadline: Rolling.
- [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 28-October 1, 2021	ECTMIH Conference 2021	Virtual
October 11-12, 2021	RSTMH 2021 Meeting	Virtual
November 2-4, 2021	2nd LEAP Scientific Conference	Virtual
November 8-10, 2021	COR-NTD 2021 Meeting	Virtual
November 17-21, 2021	ASTMH 2021 Meeting	National Harbor, MD, USA, and Virtual



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