

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



November 2021

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

This month we are excited to launch a three-part webinar series with the [Bayh-Dole Coalition](#), focusing on the important role of robust IP systems in catalyzing the development of and access to new solutions for diseases prevalent in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs):

- **November 10:** How IP Protections Can Bolster Technology Transfer and Commercialization Opportunities in Developing Countries. Register [here](#).
- **January 20:** Driving R&D and Access to Products for Diseases of Poverty. Stay tuned for registration details.
- **March 10:** Delivering Demand-Driven Access to Cancer Medicines and Sharing Knowledge to Save Lives in Africa. Stay tuned for registration details.

This new webinar series aligns with and reinforces the major themes of last month's WIPO Re:Search 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary regional event, which showcased the power of IP and innovation to drive health and economic development in Africa. We were proud to feature a distinguished line-up of African scientists participating in WIPO Re:Search collaborations, additional regional partners, and WIPO Re:Search Member companies committed to advancing research and improving global health.

A key message from the Africa Regional Event was the importance of training in IP management for innovators and leaders in LMICs. To address this need, our partners at **WIPO** have launched the [Young Experts Program](#) to nurture the next generation of global IP leaders. Additionally, [WIPO Academy](#) continues to offer a large portfolio of general and specialized courses on IP—many available online—for diverse audiences.

We are pleased to welcome the **National Hansen's Disease Program (NHDP)** to the WIPO Re:Search 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 Announcement

### Webinar: How IP Protections Can Bolster Technology Transfer and Commercialization Opportunities in Developing Countries



Co-organized by BVGH and the [Bayh-Dole Coalition](#), this panel—the first of a three-part series—discusses how R&D partnerships that protect IP rights can build commercialization and manufacturing capacity in developing countries, making them full partners in collaborations that will create needed therapies and health solutions. With an emphasis on technologies to fight infectious diseases and diseases of poverty, the panel will present examples of successful licensing and collaboration between public and private actors, and between institutions and businesses in developed and developing countries. Panelists will discuss the pivotal role IP protections play in engaging public, non-profit, and private institutions and driving the development and deployment of new health solutions for low-and-middle-income countries. Register for the November 10 panel [here](#), and save the dates for the other two panels in the series:

- **January 20, 2022:** Driving R&D and Access to Products for Diseases of Poverty
- **March 10, 2022:** Delivering Demand-Driven Access to Cancer Medicines and Sharing Knowledge to Save Lives in Africa

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## WIPO Re:Search Statistics

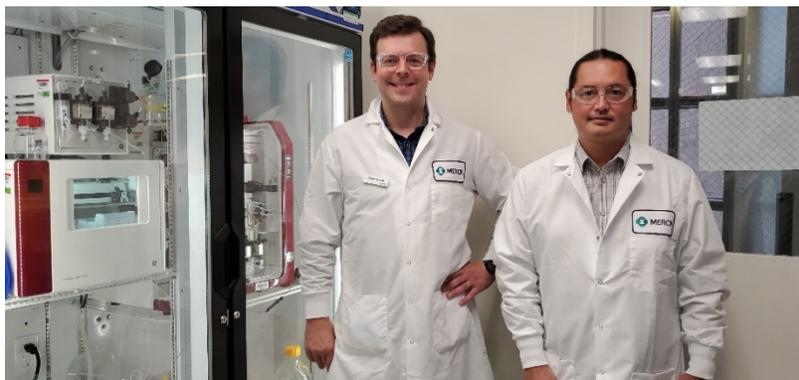


Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search Members.  
Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search collaborations.  
Click [here](#) to view the WIPO Re:Search Collaboration Pipeline.

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## Cornerstones of Collaboration

### Sharing Expertise to Advance Schistosomiasis Drug Discovery



MSD scientists James Dutko (left) and Michael Eddins (right).

Knowledge exchange, and the sharing of expertise between the public and private sectors, not only leverages different R&D perspectives, but can be a key component in overcoming obstacles for neglected disease drug development. To support an ongoing collaboration for schistosomiasis drug discovery, **MSD**<sup>1</sup> scientists Drs. Stephen Soisson, Alexei Brooun, James Dutko, Michael Eddins, and David Olsen engaged in discussions with investigators from **Seattle Children's Research Institute (SCRI)** and the **Seattle Structural Genomics Center for Infectious Disease (SSGCID)**<sup>2</sup> to troubleshoot and provide advice and expertise in support of SSGCID's structural elucidation efforts for *Schistosoma* HMG-CoA reductase, a drug target for schistosomiasis.

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<sup>1</sup> MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA.

<sup>2</sup> SSGCID is funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHSN272201700059C.

### Developing Alternatives to Praziquantel for Schistosomiasis Treatment

Schistosomiasis affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, mostly in the world's poorest countries. Praziquantel (PZQ) is the only medication currently used in mass drug administration programs, raising the risk of drug resistance. There is a critical need to develop new therapeutics that target essential pathways that are not affected by PZQ. Two new WIPO Re:Search collaborations are taking different approaches to address this need:



**AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY**  
Zaria-Nigeria.

- Dr. Emmanuel Oluwadare Balogun at **Ahmadu Bello University** (Nigeria) will screen the [Open Global Health Library](#) of **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany** to identify antischistosomal compounds with novel mechanisms of action.



Swiss TPH



- Prof. Fabrice Boyom at the **University of Yaoundé I** (Cameroon) is interested in leveraging the therapeutic properties of local plants and other natural products to treat parasitic diseases. With support from **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**, Dr. Jennifer Keiser at **Swiss TPH** will screen selected natural product extracts collected by Prof. Boyom for antischistosomal activity.

\*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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## New Member Announcement

### National Hansen's Disease Program (NHDP)

The **National Hansen's Disease Program (NHDP)**, part of the US Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), is the epicenter of Hansen's disease (leprosy) care, research and information in the US. The US Government established the predecessor of the NHDP, the National Leprosarium, in Carville, Louisiana, in 1917. Outpatient clinics were established in 1981. The National Hansen's Disease Laboratory Research Branch, located at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine in Baton Rouge, conducts and supports research in the diagnosis, transmission, prevention, and treatment of leprosy. The Laboratory Research Branch has developed and implemented many of the newer sophisticated molecular biology tools used today to study leprosy. It plays an integral role in NHDP's quest for a more complete understanding of Hansen's disease and the translation of basic research findings into an internationally coordinated program designed to improve diagnosis and treatment. The causative agent of leprosy is *Mycobacterium leprae*, an acid-fast, Gram positive bacterium. *M. leprae* is non-cultivable on laboratory medium and must be grown in animal models. Recently, a second leprosy causing bacterium, *M. lepromatosis*, has been identified. The Laboratory Research Branch has unique expertise in the propagation of leprosy bacilli, including the only colony of *M. leprae*-infected armadillos in the world.

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## IP in Focus

### WIPO Launches New "Young Experts Program"

WIPO's new Young Experts Program (YEP) is aimed at forging the next generation of IP leaders. Successful applicants will join a two-year program hosted at WIPO designed to expose young people with high potential, particularly from developing and least developed countries as well as countries in transition, to the technical and policy aspects of IP. The program aims to gear them up for leadership positions within the innovation and creative ecosystems of their home countries and regions. Applications are being accepted through **November 19, 2021**. More information can be found [here](#).

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## BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

## Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) Travel Grants

Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) travel grants are awarded for research stays of up to three months. They support junior scientists who want to learn clearly defined methods useful for their ongoing research and their current laboratory by visiting another laboratory, or attending research-oriented courses with the practical part making up at least 50% of the course. The grants can also be used by Ph.D. candidates and their potential supervisors to evaluate the scientific and personal fit before the start of a Ph.D. project in another country, by funding a research stay of one to three months in the supervisor's laboratory.

Applicants must be either from Europe or traveling to Europe; applications must be submitted at least six weeks, but not more than six months, before anticipated travel. Learn more [here](#).

## Additional Funding Opportunities

- [NIH Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers \(MOSAIC\) Institutionally-Focused Research Education Award to Promote Diversity \(UE5 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) – Next Application Deadline: December 14, 2021.
- [NIH Systems Biology for Infectious Diseases \(U19 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: December 15, 2021; Application Deadline: January 14, 2022.
- [NIAID Research Education Program Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce \(R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) – Next Letter of Intent Deadline: December 26, 2021; Next Application Deadline: January 25, 2022.
- [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine NRC Research Associateship Programs](#) – Next Application Deadline: February 1, 2022.
- [Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study \(STIAS\) Iso Lomso Fellowship](#) – Application Deadline: February 15, 2022.
- [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: February 16, 2022.

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



## Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event	Location
November 15-16, 2021	<a href="#">Women Leaders in Global Health Conference</a>	Virtual
November 17-21, 2021	<a href="#">ASTMH 2021 Meeting</a>	Virtual
November 24-26, 2021	<a href="#">Canadian Conference on Global Health 2021</a>	Delta, Ottawa, Canada and Virtual
December 6-8, 2021	<a href="#">Typhoid and Other Invasive Salmonellosis 2021 International Conference</a>	Virtual
December 14-16, 2021	<a href="#">International Conference on Public Health in Africa</a>	Virtual
March 6-9, 2022	<a href="#">11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases 2022</a>	Atlanta, Georgia, USA and Virtual



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.

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