March 2022

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

This month we celebrate International Women’s Day (March 8), which brings critical attention to the achievements of women and the importance of advancing gender equality. We are proud to work with and support the research of many outstanding female scientists across the globe, three of whom are profiled in this issue. One of these scientists, Dr. Chinenyegwa-Ugwah-Oguejiofor at Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto in Nigeria, recently initiated an antimalarial drug discovery collaboration with Dr. Isaac Attah at University of Cape Coast in Ghana. I invite you to read about this exciting Global South-South partnership below.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Mwelecele Ntuli Malecela, Director of the World Health Organization (WHO)’s Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases. Dr. Malecela was one of the most well-known and respected female scientists and public health leaders in Africa. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

WHO has launched a new guideline that provides evidence-based recommendations to countries in their efforts to achieve control and elimination of schistosomiasis as a public health problem, and to move towards interruption of transmission. Multiple WIPO Re:Search collaborations focus on improving schistosomiasis diagnosis and treatment, including small molecule and natural product drug discovery.

As always, please share this Snapshot with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO
BIO Ventures for Global Health
Cornerstones of Collaboration

**African Researchers Partner on Antimalarial Drug Discovery**

Approximately 95% of global malaria cases and 96% of global malaria deaths occur in the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region. Emerging resistance to current antimalarial drugs underscores the need for new treatments. For millennia, people living in malaria-endemic regions have turned to the African continent’s biodiversity to treat the disease and manage symptoms. African researchers are increasingly drawing upon this traditional knowledge to validate ethnobotanical claims and identify novel antimalarial agents. In pursuit of this goal, Dr. Chinenye Ugwah-Oguejiofor at Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto (Nigeria) will send natural product extracts and fractions to Dr. Isaac Attah at University of Cape Coast (Ghana) to screen for antimalarial activity.

**Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany* Shares Open Global Health Library to Catalyze Antimalarial Drug Discovery**

Malaria affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide. As development of resistance to existing drugs is one of the greatest threats to malaria control, it is imperative that new therapeutics with novel mechanisms of action be developed. As part of its commitment to Open Innovation, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will share the Open Global Health Library with Dr. Paul Gilson at the Burnet Institute (Australia). Dr. Gilson will screen the library to identify novel compounds that block malaria parasites from invading human red blood cells.
Member Spotlight

**Celebrating Women in Science**

In honor of International Women’s Day, we are highlighting three of the many talented and driven female scientists we work with.

**Dr. Chiaka Anumudu**

BVGH is thrilled to have partnered with Dr. Chiaka Anumudu of **University of Ibadan** since 2018. Dr. Anumudu is an accomplished Nigerian researcher and educator. Her work currently focuses on the development of a **rapid diagnostic test (RDT)** for schistosomiasis using *Schistosoma* antigens present in urine. Dr. Anumudu enjoys reading, watching films, and cooking.

**Dr. Chinenye Ugwah-Oguejiofor**

Dr. Chinenye Ugwah-Oguejiofor is a natural product pharmacology and toxicology researcher at **Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto**, Nigeria. Her work focuses on the validation of ethnobotanical claims for traditional Nigerian plants, especially those used as fertility, antimalarial, and antivenom agents. (Her new antimalarial drug discovery collaboration with Dr. Isaac Attah at **University of Cape Coast**, Ghana, is spotlighted in this issue of the Snapshot.) Her hobbies include watching television and playing volleyball.

**Dr. Rintis Noviyanti**

Dr. Rintis Noviyanti, a **WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program alumna**, is a Principal Investigator at the **Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology** (now **Eijkman Centre for Molecular Biology/National Research and Innovation Agency**), Indonesia. Collaborating with scientists internationally, she has published over 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals. She is a recipient of many international awards and grants, including from the Australia Development Scheme, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia, ACIAR, SPIN-KNAW, FIND, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her research is focused on genomic and immunological aspects of malaria parasites. She enjoys reading scientific articles, listening to and playing easy music on the piano, and gardening.

**Special Announcements**

**WHO Webinar: One Health: Approach for Action Against Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030**

Join this webinar on March 16, 2022, to learn more about One Health approaches to sustainably prevent neglected tropical diseases. Learn more and register [here](#).
Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute 2022 World Malaria Day Symposium

The Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute 2022 World Malaria Day symposium “Malaria in Africa: Translating Science into Practice” will be on April 25, 2022. Abstracts are due March 28, 2022; learn more and register here.

CDC Center for Global Health 2022 Annual Report

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Global Health 2022 Annual Report is now available.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

ASTMH Alan J. Magill Fellowship

The Alan J. Magill Fellowship was created by the ASTMH Board of Directors in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to honor the life, example, and legacy of Alan J. Magill, MD, FASTMH, a widely recognized and respected leader in the global tropical medicine community. The Magill Fellowship will provide funding of $50,000 USD for a period of up to two years to one recipient to support mentorship, career and/or leadership development projects for ASTMH members in the early-to-middle stage of mid-career in low/low-middle income countries focusing on leadership development in tropical medicine. Magill Fellows will work closely with a mentor (ideally an ASTMH member) who will play a prominent role in the development and execution of the Fellow’s two-year plan of activities. Applications are due March 16, 2022; learn more here.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- ASTMH Donald Krogstad Award for Early-Career Malian Scientists – Application Deadline: March 17, 2022.
- NIH Biological and Emerging Infections Research Resources Program (BEI-RRP) – Application Deadline: March 18, 2022.
- NIAID Emerging Leaders in Data Sciences Fellowship Program – Application Deadline: March 25, 2022.
- ASTMH Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowship in Tropical Medicine – Application Deadline: March 27, 2022.
- TWAS Awards for individual scientists from developing countries in recognition of an outstanding contribution to scientific knowledge – Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2022 (self-nominations will not be considered).
- NIH Biomarker Signatures of TB Infection in Young Children With and Without HIV – Letter of Intent Deadline: May 9, 2022; Application Deadline: June 8, 2022.
- RGHI Annual Fellowship Program – Application Deadline: June 6, 2022.
- NIAID Career Transition Award – Next Application Deadline: June 12, 2022.
- DAAD Scholarship Database – Postgraduate scholarships for academic studies in Germany. Look here for important information for applicants.
- Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) Travel Grants – Applications must be submitted at least six weeks, but not more than six months, before anticipated travel.
- 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.
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 21-25, 2022</td>
<td>British Society for Parasitology Spring Meeting 2022</td>
<td>York, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25, 2022</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins World Malaria Day Symposium</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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<td>June 15-17, 2022</td>
<td>World Health Summit Regional Meeting</td>
<td>Rome, Italy and Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 17, 2022</td>
<td>RSTMH 47th Annual Topics in Infection</td>
<td>London, UK and Virtual</td>
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<td>Week of June 20, 2022</td>
<td>Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>August 1-6, 2022</td>
<td>WorldLeish 7</td>
<td>Cartagena, Colombia</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7-10, 2022</td>
<td>11th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases 2022</td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia, USA</td>
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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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