

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



April 2022

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

Last month marked [World Tuberculosis Day](#), an opportunity to reflect upon the progress that has been made, as well as what remains to be done to vanquish this ancient disease. As discussed in [IP to Beat TB](#), our article with the United States Chamber of Commerce published in *IPWatchdog*, public-private R&D partnerships that leverage the respective strengths of industry and academic, non-profit, and government organizations are critical for winning the battle against tuberculosis. We celebrate our Members who are collaborating on novel approaches to fight TB, including [repurposing of pharmaceutical industry compounds](#) to [develop better treatments](#).

The theme for this year's [World Malaria Day](#) (April 25) is "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives." The World Health Organization (WHO) is calling for investments and innovation that bring new tools to speed the pace of progress against malaria. We are proud of our many Members who are answering this call in a variety of ways, including drug discovery projects that leverage [natural biodiversity](#) as well as [pharmaceutical company libraries](#). I invite you to read below for exciting updates on one such project, involving **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)** and **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)**.

As always, please share this Snapshot with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO
BIO Ventures for Global Health



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

Harnessing the Potential of Natural Products as Novel Drugs for Schistosomiasis



Swiss TPH



Praziquantel is the only approved treatment for schistosomiasis. Reliance on a single agent for treatment and control increases the risk that resistance will develop. Additional antischistosomal drugs with novel mechanisms of action are needed. Prof. Christian Agyare, Professor of Pharmacy at **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST; Ghana)**, is working toward the discovery and development of novel antischistosomal drugs derived from Ghanaian natural products. With support from **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**, Prof. Jennifer Keiser, Professor of Neglected Tropical Diseases at **Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute**, will screen selected natural product extracts collected by Prof. Agyare for antischistosomal activity.

Developing Small-Molecule Snakebite Treatments



An estimated 5.4 million snakebites occur each year, resulting in as many as 2.7 million cases of life-threatening disease (snakebite envenoming). To circumvent the high cost and limited stability of traditional antivenoms, Prof. Nicholas Casewell's team at the **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine** will screen small-molecule enzyme inhibitors provided by **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**—as part of the company's commitment to Open Innovation—to identify novel compounds that block the toxic effects of snake venom.

UCSF Researchers Advance Antimalarial Drug Discovery through Project with GSK



New antimalarial drugs with novel mechanisms of action are needed to address the growing problem of resistance to current medications. Dr. Adam Renslo, a Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)**, screened inhibitors of a human enzyme (a homolog of a key *Plasmodium falciparum* enzyme) from **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)** through the Consortium and identified several hits with promising antiplasmodial activity. GSK has provided Dr. Renslo and his team with additional quantities of the hits for validation studies, as well as structural data to inform chemical optimization of the hits to improve activity and drug-like properties.

*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.

Special Announcements

New Funding Announced for the RSTMH Early Career Grants Programme

New RSTMH Early Career Grants Programme funding partners focus on trachoma and scabies. Learn more [here](#).

L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programs

L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science national and regional programs can be seen on their interactive map. View the map and learn more about available funding [here](#).

Webinar: Leveraging Non-Dilutive Small Business Funding Opportunities from the NIH and NIAID

Register for the April 19, 2022, webinar [here](#) to learn more about the SBIR/STTR application review process.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

NIH International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award

The Fogarty International Bioethics Training Program aims to increase the number of research intensive institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) that can provide advanced education in international research ethics. This funding opportunity announcement will support innovative LMIC master's level research ethics education programs proposing integrated activities to develop culturally appropriate foundational research ethics curriculum, research ethics career skills development courses, ethics research or practicum experiences, and effective mentoring approaches. Education programs supported by this initiative should equip scientists, health professionals and academics in these countries with in-depth knowledge of the ethical principles, processes and policies related to international research. Programs should be designed to strengthen the critical competencies needed to provide research ethics education, ethical review leadership and expert consultation to LMIC researchers, their academic or research institutions, governments and international health research organizations to enhance the application of research ethics principles. Next letter of intent deadline May 7, 2022; next application deadline June 7, 2022. Learn more [here](#).

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [NIAID Research Education Program Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce](#) – Next Letter of Intent Deadline: April 25, 2022; Next Application Deadline: May 25, 2022.
- [RSTMH 2022 Early Career Grants Programme](#) – Application Deadline: April 29, 2022.
- [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.
- [NIH Technology Development for Single-Molecule Protein Sequencing](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: May 16, 2022; Application Deadline: June 15, 2022.
- [RGHI Annual Fellowship Program](#) – Application Deadline: June 6, 2022.
- [NIH Improved Drug Susceptibility Testing for Tuberculosis](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: June 8, 2022; Application Deadline: July 8, 2022.
- [NIAID Career Transition Award](#) – Next Application Deadline: June 12, 2022.
- [NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program](#) – Application Deadline: June 24, 2022.
- [NIH Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program](#) – Next Letter of Intent Deadline: July 4, 2022; Next Application Deadline: August 3, 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](#).



Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event	Location
April 19, 2022	World Chagas Disease Day 2022	Virtual
April 25, 2022	Johns Hopkins World Malaria Day Symposium	Virtual
June 15-17, 2022	World Health Summit Regional Meeting	Rome, Italy and Virtual
Week of June 20, 2022	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting	Kigali, Rwanda
August 1-6, 2022	WorldLeish 7	Cartagena, Colombia
August 7-10, 2022	11th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases 2022	Atlanta, Georgia, USA



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