

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



October 2022

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

Last month we commemorated 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 Members who are seeking to revolutionize snakebite envenoming treatment by developing less costly, [small-molecule therapies](#) that block the toxic effects of snake venom.

We congratulate Malawi on the [elimination of trachoma as a public health problem](#). This success was made possible through strong partnerships, including access to **Pfizer's** antibiotic azithromycin. Sharing of intellectual property, resources, and expertise across sectors and geographies remains crucial for winning the fight against devastating infectious diseases worldwide. I invite you to read below about one such cross-sector, Global North-South partnership, which focuses on leveraging natural biodiversity to improve management of schistosomiasis.

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

Accelerating Schistosomiasis Drug Discovery from Ghanaian Natural Products



Swiss TPH



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An estimated 90% of the 237 million people requiring treatment for schistosomiasis live in Africa. For decades, praziquantel, the only approved drug for schistosomiasis, has been used for both prevention and treatment of the disease. Over time, reliance on one drug increases the risk that resistance will develop. To create new pharmaceutical alternatives for schistosomiasis, Prof. Elvis Ofori Ameyaw, Associate Professor at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at **University of Cape Coast** (Ghana), conducts drug discovery activities to study native medicinal plants with antischistosomal properties. His team aims to identify the yet unknown active ingredients in these plants and to eventually develop them into new drugs. With support from **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany***—as part of the company's commitment to Open Innovation and to elimination of schistosomiasis—Prof. Jennifer Keiser, Professor of Neglected Tropical Diseases at **Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute**, will screen selected natural product extracts collected by Prof. Ameyaw 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.

Special Announcement

Abstract, Scholarship, and Travel Award Submissions Now Open: International Conference on Antiviral Research (ICAR)

[ICAR](#)—the main annual event of the [International Society for Antiviral Research \(ISAR\)](#)—is an interdisciplinary meeting that attracts the interest of chemists, biologists, and clinicians. At ICAR, scientists working throughout the world in basic, applied, and clinical research meet in a collaborative and collegial atmosphere to review recent developments in all areas of antiviral drug discovery and development. ICAR provides a variety of networking opportunities to allow members to reconnect with old friends and colleagues and establish new scientific relationships with leaders in the antiviral field. Both in-person (Lyon, France) and virtual programming options will be available. Invited and confirmed speakers—including Prof. Christian Happi, Director of the [African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases \(ACEGID\)](#) at Redeemer's University in Nigeria—are listed [here](#). Submit [abstracts for short oral presentations and posters](#), and applications for [The Chu Family Foundation \(TCFF\) Scholarship for Women Scientists](#) and [Travel Awards](#) before the deadlines listed below.

[Important Upcoming Deadlines](#)

Abstract Submission Deadline for Early Visa Notifications	November 1, 2022
Abstract Submission Deadline	November 18, 2022
TCFF Scholarship Application Deadline	November 18, 2022
Travel Award Application Deadline	November 18, 2022
Second Abstract Submission Opens (Posters Only)	November 28, 2022
Registration Opens	December 1, 2022
Second Abstract Submission Deadline (Posters Only)	January 18, 2023
Early Bird Registration Rate Deadline	February 3, 2023
ICAR (Lyon, France and Virtual)	March 13-17, 2023

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) Visiting Fellowship Programme

The AfOx Fellowship provides exceptional African researchers with an opportunity to work on a project of their choice in collaboration with Oxford-based scholars while benefitting from the resources available at Oxford University for research, writing, and strengthening research leadership skills. The Fellowship is open to researchers across all academic fields. Fellows will be affiliated with the University of Oxford for 12 months, including 10 months of virtual engagement and a 2 month in-person visit to Oxford during Trinity Term. To apply for a fellowship, all applicants must have an Oxford-based researcher named as their collaborator on their application. Applications are due October 21, 2022. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [NIAID Contract Opportunity to Develop a Novel Vaccine Adjuvant](#) – Application Deadline: October 14, 2022.
- [The American University in Cairo African Graduate Fellowships](#) – Next Application Deadline: October 17, 2022.

- [Wellcome Early-Career Awards](#) – Application Deadline: October 18, 2022.
- [NIH Fogarty International Center Emerging Global Leader Award](#) – Next Application Deadline: November 3, 2022.
- [NIH-NSF Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Program](#) – Next Application Deadline: November 16, 2022.
- [NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Program for Clinical Researchers \(LRP-CR\)](#) – Application Deadline: November 17, 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.
- [Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowship](#) – Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; fellowships are awarded quarterly.

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



Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event	Location
October 11-12, 2022	RSTMH Annual Meeting	Liverpool, UK
October 16-18, 2022	World Health Summit	Berlin, Germany and Virtual
October 21, 2022	Conference on Control Strategies for Schistosomiasis in Madagascar	Antananarivo, Madagascar
October 24-28, 2022	20th International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria	Bangkok, Thailand
October 28, 2022	Future of Malaria Research Symposium	Baltimore, Maryland, USA and Virtual
Oct. 30-Nov. 3, 2022	ASTMH Annual Meeting	Seattle, Washington, USA
Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2022	7th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Bogota, Colombia and Virtual
November 7-11, 2022	7th World One Health Congress	Singapore and Virtual
November 8-9, 2022	10th International Conference on Parasitology, Microbiology, and Infection Control	Paris, France
November 8-11, 2022	21st International Leprosy Congress	Hyderabad, India and Virtual
March 13-17, 2023	International Conference on Antiviral Research	Lyon, France and Virtual



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