Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

The end of 2015 is upon us – and what a year it has been. We started the year by establishing a collaboration between the University of Washington (UW) and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR). WIPO Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, met with three Australian WIPO Re:Search Members in February and I met with WIPO Re:Search Members at the 2015 Milken Institute Global Conference in April. The second half of 2015 began as we established our 90th WIPO Re:Search collaboration. Two new leading biopharmaceutical companies – Takeda Pharmaceutical Company and Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson – joined in the fall. The year came to a close as we surpassed 100 Members and published our second biennial WIPO Re:Search storybook. The outcomes and impacts of these and our other efforts in 2015 are expected to result in new, exciting opportunities in 2016.

I am pleased to welcome Janssen to WIPO Re:Search. Janssen is the tenth company to join the Consortium and brings a strong commitment to improving global health along with important new assets and contributions to share with our Members.

All of us at BVGH wish you a happy holiday season and wonderful New Year!

As always, please forward this Snapshot to your colleagues and reach out to us with any partnering requests or ideas.
Special Announcement

Are you preparing a manuscript based on the results of your WIPO Re:Search collaboration? If so, please help to raise awareness of the Consortium by acknowledging WIPO Re:Search in your article. Please let Katy Graef know when the article is published and we will feature it in an issue of the Partnership Hub Snapshot.

WIPO Re:Search Statistics

![Agreements and Members Chart]

To view a current summary of the WIPO Re:Search agreements by disease and stage of development, click here.

Click here to view a complete list of WIPO Re:Search Members.

![2015 WIPO Re:Search Collaborations by Disease Chart]
Cornerstones of Collaboration

Dr. Justin Boddey, Laboratory Head, Division of Infection and Immunity, *Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research* (WEHI) gave a seminar on the biology of malaria at *MSD* last month. During his visit, Justin discussed recent drug discovery data and next steps of his collaboration with MSD. Justin and his colleagues at WEHI have been screening a targeted set of MSD compounds against *Plasmodium falciparum*.

*Left to right: Charles Garlisi (MSD), Tanweer Khan (MSD) David B. Olsen (MSD), Chris J. Culberson (MSD), and Justin Boddey (WEHI)*

Dr. Jair Lage de Siqueira-Neto, Assistant Adjunct Professor, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, *University of California, San Diego* (UCSD), will produce a set of *Trypanosoma cruzi* antigens that Dr. Daniel Ratner, Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering, *University of Washington* (UW), will incorporate into a silicon chip-based Chagas disease diagnostic.

*Known as Merck & Co., Inc. in the US and Canada*
New Member Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, has joined WIPO Re:Search. As part of shared ambitions to spearhead innovative research, Janssen is joining WIPO Re:Search and its Members to advance global efforts against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and other pressing health challenges.

Janssen is working to address unmet medical needs in oncology, immunology, neuroscience, infectious diseases and vaccines, and cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. As part of its portfolio of medicines targeting infectious diseases, Janssen is developing new antibiotics, such as for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), and novel applications of its medicines in areas such as prophylaxis and long-acting injectable formulations for HIV. Janssen is working to make its pentavalent vaccine, Quinvaxem® (DTwP-HepB-Hib), which protects children against five deadly childhood infections, available through a simplified injection system developed by Janssen in partnership with Beckton, Dickinson and PATH.

As a signatory of the London Declaration on NTDs, Janssen is developing novel therapies, including reformulated flubendazole to combat elephantiasis and lymphatic filariasis, as well as chewable mebendazole against intestinal worms. Through Children Without Worms, the company is donating up to 200 million doses of mebendazole annually to over 30 countries through 2020.

In joining WIPO Re:Search, Janssen will help support the development of promising therapies in collaboration with WIPO and BVGH, in conjunction with the Consortium’s Members. This partnership builds on the company’s existing efforts to advance research into NTDs, including its founding membership as part of the Macrofilaricide Drug Accelerator against adult parasitic worms. As part of WIPO Re:Search, Janssen will contribute its capabilities in R&D to help advance health outcomes for patients and communities globally.

Partnership Hub Central

Jennifer Dent moderated a panel session on the development of scalable and sustainable health innovations at the 5th African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) Stakeholders Meeting. The Meeting fostered discussions about partnerships and financing for transformative, accessible, and sustainable health technologies in Africa.

Tom Bombelles, Head, Global Health, WIPO, met with the Wellcome Trust and UK Intellectual Property Office to brief the organizations on WIPO Re:Search and its progress and achievements.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Funding Announcement
**Drug Development Fund**
Due to significant government and private sector support over the past two decades, Korea has emerged as a hub for world-class research in Asia. To further strengthen its leadership on the international stage, the government of the Republic of Korea launched the Korea Drug Development Fund (KDDF) in September 2011. Our vision is to transform Korea into the global leader for new drug development using three core strategies. We will focus on the creation of successful drug development business models, while developing human resources for sustainable growth and build effective partnerships between government, industry, and academia.

**Funding amount:** No limit, but amount should be aligned with project costs  
**Funder:** Korea Drug Development Fund (KDDF)  
**Deadline:** Applications are accepted Monday through Friday on the 4th week of even-numbered months (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec).  
**Eligibility:** The principal institute and principal investigator must be Korean, but international partners are welcome.

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Roopa Sriram.

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**Highlighted Contributions**
Featured this month is a contribution submitted by the University of California, Berkeley to the WIPO Re:Search Database.

**Mycobacterial sulfation pathway proteins and methods of use (ID: 1961)**
The University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) is willing to provide mycobacterial sulfation pathway nucleic acid compositions, proteins, and related polypeptides. Methods of inhibiting growth and/or virulence of a pathogenic mycobacterium and methods of treating disease conditions associated with a pathogenic mycobacterium – particularly by administering an inhibitor of a mycobacterial sulfation pathway protein – may also be provided. UC Berkeley is also willing to provide genetically modified mycobacteria having a defect in a sulfation pathway enzyme gene. Click here to learn more.

For more information or to discuss potential collaborations regarding this technology, please contact Ujwal Sheth.

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**Global Health News**
Pfizer CEO, Ian C. Read, posted a blog on LinkedIn that highlighted the importance of corporate philanthropy and described Pfizer’s efforts to eliminate trachoma.
### Upcoming Global Health Events

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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24-28</td>
<td>Keystone Symposium: “Drug Discovery for Parasitic Diseases”</td>
<td>Tahoe City, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 3-4</td>
<td>Symposium for International Research and Innovations in Schistosomiasis</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 9-12</td>
<td>Anthelmintics: From Discovery to Resistance II</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Website</td>
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*Known as EMD in the US and Canada  |  **Known as Merck in the US and Canada

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