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### *Letter from Jennifer*

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members,

With half of 2015 completed, BVGH is tabulating our WIPO Re:Search partnering, recruiting, and communications activities. Keep an eye out for our *2015 Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report*, which we will be distributing next week.

We have shared our report highlighting the first sub-Saharan Africa pavilion at the 2015 BIO International Convention, which included representatives from WIPO Re:Search Members **Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)**, **African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology (AiBST)**, and **Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR)**. If you have not read the report, visit BVGH's [website](#) to see some highlights of the Convention or download a copy of the report [here](#).

I am pleased to welcome our two newest Members, **Cheikh Anta Diop University** and Supporter Member, **Operation ASHA**.

Please join me in welcoming Paddy Shivanand and Matthew Tan, our two newest team members, to BVGH. Paddy will be joining Roopa Ramamoorthi and Ujwal Sheth in facilitating collaborations between WIPO Re:Search Members. Matthew will be leading our WIPO Re:Search communications efforts.

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

*Sincerely,*  
*Jennifer Dent*  
*President, BVGH*

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### Special Announcement

Pfizer's participation in WIPO Re:Search was featured today on the [Pfizer 365](#) website.

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## WIPO Re:Search Statistics



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.

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## Cornerstones of Collaboration

The Michael Pollastri laboratory at **Northeastern University** provided **Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative** (DNDi) with data from compound-screening assays obtained against cutaneous leishmaniasis. Based on these data, DNDi is assessing the compounds against a pan-kinetoplastid panel.

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## New Member Announcement

We are pleased to announce that **Cheikh Anta Diop University** has joined WIPO Re:Search.



Cheikh Anta Diop University, also known as the University of Dakar, is one of the oldest academic establishments in French-speaking Africa. Research at its Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Odontology includes malaria immunology, modeling microbial survival and growth, *Leishmania* biology, schistosomiasis, and *Plasmodium* co-infections.

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## Partnership Hub Central

The External Relations Division at WIPO hosted WIPO Re:Search Members **Pfizer**, **Institut Pasteur de Tunis**, and **Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR)** at the [United Nations Global Compact +15: Business as a Force for Good](#). WIPO's guests, which also included Johnson & Johnson/Janssen and the University of Pennsylvania, participated in a roundtable discussion of how WIPO Re:Search is addressing global health concerns. The recommendations from this and other

discussion groups at the meeting were compiled and presented during the meeting's plenary session, and will be included in the event's report.



Joe Bradley, Deputy Director, External Relations Division, WIPO and Dr. Regina Appiah-Opong, Head, Clinical Pathology Department, NMIMR

Following her participation at the UN Global Compact meeting, Dr. Regina Appiah-Opong, Head, Clinical Pathology Department, NMIMR, traveled to the **University of Washington, Bothell (UWB)** to meet with Dr. Sue Kraemer, Faculty, The School of STEM, UWB. Earlier this year, Regina and Sue initiated a WIPO Re:Search collaboration to identify polymorphisms in the CYP genes of West African and Ghanaian populations. During her visit to UWB, Regina gave a lecture to Sue's undergraduate students and a departmental seminar.

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## **Funding Announcement**

### **Humboldt Research Fellowships**

The Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Foundation grants research fellowships to scientists and scholars from abroad with above-average qualifications to sponsor long-term research stays at research institutions in Germany. The purpose of the research fellowships is to carry out a research project, chosen by the research fellows themselves, in cooperation with an academic host who must provide the

necessary research facilities at the host institute and act as a mentor for the project.

**Funding amount:** \$87,700 USD maximum

**Funder:** Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Foundation

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year-round

**Eligibility:** International post-doctoral scientists and researchers who completed their doctorate less than 12 years ago may apply.

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## **Member Spotlight**



The Malaria Host-Pathogen Interaction Center (MaHPIC) is a systems biology endeavor, initiated by investigators from **Emory University**, the University of Georgia, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The MaHPIC is developing large datasets and integrated approaches for the study of malaria. The team investigates *Plasmodium* infections in non-human primates, and humans across a variety of endemic settings around the world, to understand the changes in biological pathways and networks underlying the development and recovery from disease. Longitudinal studies of infections in NHPs involve the analysis of clinical, parasitological, and immunological responses, as well as transcriptomics, proteomics, lipidomics, and metabolomics, while aiming to create comprehensive molecular descriptions and mathematical models that relate *Plasmodium* infection and the disease the parasite causes. Data produced by MaHPIC's investigators are being made available to the broader scientific community concomitant with publications. To learn more click [here](#).

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## **Highlighted Contributions**

Featured this month are two contributions submitted by the **Walter Reed Army Institute of Research** (WRAIR) to the [WIPO Re:Search Database](#).

### **Plasmodium vivax malaria vaccine antigens (ID: 2181)**

WRAIR has developed and patented a novel hybrid molecule containing both Type 1 (VK210) and Type 2 (VK247) *Plasmodium vivax* repeats. This molecule (VMP001) induces a potent immune response to both Type 1 and Type 2 sporozoites in animal models. In addition to the repeat region, the recombinant molecule contains the N- and C-terminal regions of CS protein including several T and B cell epitopes.



### **Codon harmonization technology (ID: 2161)**

Codon harmonization combines bioinformatics, protein chemistry, and genetic engineering to produce novel re-coded gene sequences for expressing recombinant antigens. Codon harmonization addresses several problems inherent to expressing proteins in heterologous hosts such as protein folding and insolubility. Codon harmonization engineers recombinant genes with the best approximated codon usage frequencies in the gene's native host and adjusts these for use in a heterologous host. WRAIR

has applied this technique to several malaria parasite genes including PfMSP1-42 3D7, PfMSP1-42 FVO, PfMSP1-42 CAMP-FUP, PfLSA1, and PfCeITOS.

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## WIPO Re:Search In the News

BVGH published an [article](#) on open innovation in the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Medicines Development Sciences*. The article, “Open Innovation to Bolster Research and Development for Neglected and Emerging Infectious Diseases,” featured WIPO Re:Search and research collaborations involving **MSD\***, **Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI)**, the **University of British Columbia (UBC)**, **Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)**, **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)**, the **Center for World Health & Medicine (CWHM)**, the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, **Institut Pasteur de Tunis**, **PATH**, and **Centre Pasteur du Cameroun**.

\*Known as Merck in the US and Canada

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## Upcoming Global Health Events

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Web Link</b>
July 26-31	Gordon Research Conference: Translating Malaria Research to the Field	Girona, Spain	<a href="#">Website</a>
Oct. 25-29	American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene 64 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<a href="#">Website</a>
Oct. 26-28	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Cost Action Meeting on Antiparasitic Chemotherapy	Belgrade, Serbia	<a href="#">Website</a>

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\*Known as EMD in the US and Canada | \*\*Known as Merck in the US and Canada

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