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Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

It has been just four years since WIPO Re:Search was established and we are already celebrating our 100th Member. We are excited by the Consortium's growth and successes. In four years, BVGH has established 95 research collaborations spanning 13 diseases. Of these collaborations, 48 are still ongoing and eight have advanced to the next stage of development.

BVGH presented these achievements and our objectives for 2016 at this year’s WIPO Re:Search Annual Meeting, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The second edition of BVGH's WIPO Re:Search Partnership Stories was officially released during the Annual Meeting. The storybook features 26 collaborations and messages from Dr. Francis Collins, Director, US National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO; and James Greenwood, President & CEO, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). If you have not downloaded your copy of the storybook yet, please click here.

I am pleased to welcome our newest Member, Medical Research Institute – Alexandria University (MRI), to WIPO Re:Search.

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

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
Special Reminder - Member Surveys

If you haven’t completed a WIPO Re:Search Member survey, there is still time. Please click here to take the User & Provider Member survey and here to take the Supporter survey. The survey deadline is December 15, 2015.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Katy Graef.

Special Announcement

WIPO Director General, Francis Gurry, joined Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim and Senegal Prime Minister Mahommmed Boun Abdallah Dionne in highlighting how intellectual property (IP) incentivizes innovation and creativity and how well-developed IP systems can help Africa boost its economic growth at the African Ministerial Conference 2015: Intellectual Property (IP) for an Emerging Africa. Click here to read more about the conference.

Image credit: WIPO

Conference attendees

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**

Researchers from Stanford University and the University of Lagos published the results of their WIPO Re:Search collaboration in the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. Through this collaboration, the researchers evaluated the sensitivity and specificity of a malaria multiplex nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) using serum and plasma samples from febrile Nigerian patients. Click [here](#) to read the article.

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**New Member Announcement**

We are pleased to announce that the Medical Research Institute – Alexandria University (MRI) has joined WIPO Re:Search.

The Medical Research Institute – Alexandria University (MRI) was established to address health problems of concern to Egypt. The Institute integrates research, education, and clinical care to provide standardized, science-based solutions to healthcare needs. Scientists at MRI focus on several diseases of relevance to WIPO Re:Search including schistosomiasis and fascioliasis.
Partnership Hub Central

BVGH presented at and attended several key global health and pharmaceutical R&D meetings during the last week of October. Jennifer Dent gave a plenary talk that featured several WIPO Re:Search collaborations at the 2015 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Meeting and Exposition. Ujwal Sheth represented BVGH at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) 64th Annual Meeting where she met with WIPO Re:Search Members. Jennifer and Katy Graef presented BVGH’s WIPO Re:Search achievements for 2015 and its 2016 goals at the 2015 WIPO Re:Search Annual Meeting.

Jennifer presented a plenary talk at the 2015 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition
Dr. Peter Hotez, President, Sabin Vaccine Institute, gave the 2015 WIPO Re:Search Annual Meeting keynote address.

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**BVGH FundFinder Featured Funding Announcement**

**Connect Africa Scholarships**
The Connect Africa Scholarships aim to leverage the recently-expanded KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) research facilities in Durban, South Africa to offer young African scientists (undergraduates, postgraduates, post-doctoral research fellows, and junior faculty) the chance to further develop as researchers. The scholarships provide opportunities to gain international exposure, learn new techniques, attend conferences and scientific courses, take part in teaching opportunities, build new scientific research collaborations, and develop global and intra-Africa partnerships by providing travel grants to K-RITH and other international sites.

Two categories of scholarships will be awarded: Intra-Africa and Intercontinental. The Intra-Africa Award is open to scientists who wish to travel to K-RITH and affiliated sites in KwaZulu-Natal. The Intercontinental Awards are open to scientists based at K-RITH and affiliated sites who wish to travel outside of Africa.

**Funding amount:** Scholarships of up to $2,000 USD typically awarded  
**Funder:** KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH)  
**Deadline:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis  
**Eligibility:** Open to young African scientists

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

The Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI) recently published an article in BMC Infectious Diseases describing IDRI’s Leishmania Antigen Detect™ ELISA test for visceral leishmaniasis. The Leishmania Antigen Detect™ ELISA demonstrated >90% sensitivity using urine samples from visceral leishmaniasis patients. This new diagnostic can be used to detect antigens during acute Leishmania donovani infection and monitor parasite clearance upon cure. IDRI is interested in further refining its test using additional visceral leishmaniasis urine samples from endemic regions. If you have samples you are interested in sharing, please email Katy Graef.

Highlighted Contributions

Featured this month is a contribution submitted by the University of British Columbia to the WIPO Re:Search Database.

Methods for Synthesizing Vinyl Sulfones (ID: 3001)

The University of British Columbia is willing to share its efficient and affordable regioselective methods for the synthesis of vinyl sulfones – in particular, methods for synthesizing (E)-vinyl sulfones for use in the synthesis of the protease inhibitor, K777, and various analogs thereof. Compounds prepared by these methods may be useful for the treatment of cancers and infectious diseases including Chagas disease and other diseases caused by Trypanosoma parasites. These compounds may also be useful for treatments requiring the inhibition of polo-like kinase 1 (Plk1), MAP kinases, and cysteine proteases.

K777 has been shown to be safe and efficacious in animal models of acute and chronic Chagas disease.

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

WIPO Re:Search in the News

Intellectual Property Watch published an overview of a WIPO Re:Search event that was organized alongside the WIPO General Assembly.

Upcoming Global Health Events

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<td>Jan. 24-28</td>
<td>Keystone Symposium: &quot;Drug Discovery for Parasitic Diseases&quot;</td>
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