Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

Intellectual property has been in the spotlight over the past couple of months. The United Nations Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines held an event and hearing in London, which BVGH was invited to participate in. WIPO hosted a workshop on regional IP management in the Philippines and published the results of last year’s global patent filings. Last week WIPO convened a landmark conference on IP and development in Geneva. WIPO Director General Francis Gurry opened the meeting noting that, “The position of IP in the economy is no longer at the periphery of economic systems; it is very much central to the economic systems we see now.”

The use of intellectual property as a means to accelerate and stimulate health innovations is core to WIPO Re:Search. The number of collaborations established, IP assets shared, and research progress made demonstrates the effect WIPO Re:Search is having on product development worldwide and the impact it will have on health.

BVGH is always looking for new opportunities to apply IP assets to neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis product development. If you plan to be in Seattle, please schedule a time to drop by our offices to discuss your research interests and needs.

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
Special Announcement

Will you be attending the 2016 BIO International Convention? If so, stop by the BVGH Africa pavilion (booth #7409) to say hello to our exhibitors representing several African countries. WIPO Re:Search Members will be exhibiting at the pavilion. For more information, please email Katy Graef.

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.

Malaria Collaborations by Product

Drugs: 14
Diagnostics: 7
Basic Research: 11
Cornerstones of Collaboration

Dr. Manu Prakash, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering, Stanford University, will provide Dr. Ricardo Izurieta, Associate Professor, Department of Global Health, University of South Florida (USF), with paper microscopes (Foldscopes). Ricardo will use the Foldscopes to test soil samples for helminth eggs. Ricardo will also send helminth samples to Manu, which he will use during his refinement of the Foldscope.

WIPO, the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) held the “Regional Workshop on IP Management around WIPO Re:Search and WIPO GREEN” in the Philippines. Representatives from Novartis and Takeda described the application of IP to economic and social development during the event.

Mr. Seiji Mori, Head of Operations (IP), IP Department, Takeda, presented WIPO Re:Search at the workshop.

Partnership Hub Central

BVGH was invited to make recommendations to the United Nations Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines. Jennifer Dent highlighted the success of WIPO Re:Search as an example of how the biopharmaceutical industry is sharing its IP to advance the development of products for diseases of poverty. Jennifer’s comments and recommendations shared during an open dialogue session can be viewed here: 1, 2, 3.

Jennifer visited Pfizer to update on the progress of WIPO Re:Search and to gain feedback on the Consortium from Pfizer’s team.
BVGH FundFinder Featured Funding Announcement

**Endemic-Region Challenge Grants to Exploit the MMV Pathogen Box**

MMV is issuing a call for proposals from endemic-country scientists to exploit the rich selection of active compounds within its Pathogen Box and boost neglected disease drug discovery. The goal is to kindle new research in disease-endemic countries, thus Principal Investigators must be based in endemic regions, where the majority of the work will be undertaken. Project proposals are expected to be at the concept stage (i.e. no prior experimental work is required) and work needs to be completed within one year.

**Funding amount:** $50,000 USD  
**Funder:** Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2016 at 12 noon CET  
**Eligibility:** Scientists based in a neglected disease-endemic country

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

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**Highlighted Contributions**

Featured this month is a contribution to be submitted by Janssen to the [WIPO Re:Search Database](http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=72b244883ca5491b11fb6812d&id=09d913fa4c).
Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, is making available its Jump-stARter Library to the WIPO Re:Search database. The library represents 80,000 high quality compounds that have been carefully selected to represent chemical diversity. This library is available for WIPO Re:Search Members for use in screens to aid the small molecule drug discovery for NTDs, tuberculosis, and malaria.

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

### WIPO Re:Search In the News

The Wellcome Trust described the WIPO Re:Search collaboration between Professor Fidelis Cho-Ngwa, Head, ANDI Centre of Excellence for Onchocerciasis Drug Research, University of Buea, and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany in a recent publication on its website. The collaborators were awarded a Pathfinder Award by the Wellcome Trust to support their onchocerciasis drug discovery efforts.

WIPO published the results of last year’s international patent and trademark filings. WIPO Re:Search Member, Novartis, topped the list of organizations filing the most Madrid System applications. WIPO Director General Francis Gurry noted that, “Global intellectual property applications […] provide a good indication of the incidence and location of innovation. We see through this indicator that, while the United States of America maintains its premier position, the geography of innovation continues to shift and to evolve, with Asia, and in particular Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea, forming the predominant geographical cluster.”

### Upcoming Global Health Events

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<td>22-26 Vet Tropical Diseases</td>
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