



Partnership Hub Snapshot

February 2016

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Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

You should have received my letter yesterday with a link to BVGH's 2015 Partnership Hub Annual Report. If you would like a hard copy of the report, please reach out to [Jasmine Clark](#) and we will get one or more in the mail to you.

Last week the BVGH team took advantage of **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)** and **University of South Florida (USF)** scientists' visits to Seattle to meet and discuss collaboration interests. If you or your colleagues come to Seattle, please let us know. We would be pleased to welcome you to our office to discuss your research and partnering needs.

In order to manage the growing number of WIPO Re:Search collaborations effectively, BVGH is implementing new partnering processes. Chief among these processes is the development of key documentation including a set of [collaboration guidelines](#) and [collaboration outline](#) and [close-out form](#) that Members are requested to complete prior to and after their collaboration has been established, respectively. We invite all Members to review the documents and provide feedback.

I am pleased to welcome our newest Member, **Malaria Consortium**, 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
President, BVGH



Special Announcement

The 2015 BVGH Partnership Hub Annual Report is now available. Click [here](#) to download a copy of the report.

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.



Cornerstones of Collaboration

Building on their prior relationship established through WIPO Re:Search, Prof. Alexander Odaibo, Head, Parasitology Research Unit, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, **University of Ibadan**, will collaborate with Prof. Wei Hu, Head, Joint Laboratory of Genetics and Ecology of Parasite-Vector, **National Institute of Parasitic Diseases (NIPD)**, Chinese CDC/Fudan University, to work on serum samples from Nigerian schistosomiasis patients. The aim of the collaboration is to identify potential *Schistosoma mansoni* and *S. haematobium* antigens to incorporate into a schistosomiasis rapid diagnostic. Prof. Hu will also host a University of Ibadan post-doctoral scientist during this project.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will provide Dr. Fidelis Cho-Ngwa, Associate Professor, **University of Buea**, with a subset of highly potent Hsp90 inhibitors to screen against *Onchocerca* worms, and identify compounds that selectively kill both microfilariae and adult *O. volvulus*, without adverse effects to *Loa loa* microfilariae.

New Member Announcement

We are pleased to announce that **Malaria Consortium** has joined WIPO Re:Search.

Malaria Consortium, headquartered in London, UK, was established in 2003 to develop sustainable, evidence-based programs to combat malaria and other communicable diseases. In addition to providing technical and operational support for national malaria control programs, Malaria Consortium analyzes and implements innovative solutions and technologies to identify malaria cases. Malaria Consortium also focuses its efforts on disease mapping, community drug delivery, and design and implementation of national control programs for dengue fever, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis.

Partnership Hub Central

Dr. Minelik Alemu Getahun, Assistant Director General for Global Issues, **WIPO**, co-hosted with Egyptian Ambassador H.E. Amr Ramadan a briefing for 19 Ambassadors and Deputy Chiefs of Mission from Africa. The briefing highlighted WIPO Re:Search's progress since its launch, the number of African Members, and the financial support for research sabbaticals for scientists from the African continent. This briefing will be repeated later in the year for country representatives who could not attend, and represents part of WIPO's targeted outreach to the Geneva policy community.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Funding Announcement

IZUMI Foundation Grants

The IZUMI Foundation looks for organizations with promising and practical innovations that improve the health outcomes for people living in the most impoverished areas of Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Funded research programs must fall within one of five program areas: infectious diseases, neglected tropical diseases, malnutrition, maternal& neonatal health, and healthcare infrastructure.

Funding amount: Typically \$45,000 - \$100,000 over two years

Funder: IZUMI Foundation

Deadline: Ongoing, but letters of inquiry are accepted during April, May, and June

Eligibility: Organizations within the United States must have IRS designated tax-exempt status to be eligible to apply to the Foundation; organizations outside of the United States must have legally-recognized non-profit status to be eligible to apply to the Foundation.

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email [Roopa Sriram](mailto:Roopa.Sriram@bvgh.org).



Member Spotlight

Researchers at the Center for Discovery and Innovation in Parasitic Diseases, **University of California, San Diego (UCSD)** and **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)*** recently published the results of their WIPO Re:Search collaboration. Through this collaboration, the researchers used GSK's Published Kinase Inhibitor Set 1 (PKIS1) and Set 2 (PKIS2) to investigate the *Schistosoma mansoni* polo-like kinase 1 (SmPLK1) as a possible drug target. Click [here](#) to read the paper.

*The team of GSK scientists that developed PKIS1 and PKIS2 recently moved to the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill. GSK licensed PKIS1 and PKIS2 to UNC Chapel Hill. Interested parties can reach out to the UNC scientists with questions about the kinase inhibitor sets (sgc-unc@unc.edu).

Highlighted Contributions

Featured this month is a contribution submitted by **Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)** to the **WIPO Re:Search Database**.

New, cheaper production process for mefloquine hydrochloride (ID: 2001)

A new method for synthesizing mefloquine hydrochloride has been developed. This new method can reduce production costs of antimalarial drugs that include mefloquine, such as artesunate-mefloquine (ASMQ).

For more information or to discuss potential collaborations regarding this technology, please contact [Ujwal Sheth](#).

[WIPO Re:Search In the News](#)

WIPO Wire published an [announcement](#) of the Institut Pasteur's new membership in WIPO Re:Search.

Tom Bombelles, Head, Global Health, **WIPO**, referenced WIPO Re:Search in his remarks on IP, innovation, and global health at the UN High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines. Click [here](#) to read more.



Photo credit: *Intellectual Property Watch*

Experts at the briefing (left to right): Lynn Gentile, Tom Bombelles, Antony Taubman, and Christoph Spennemann

[Upcoming Global Health Events](#)

Dates	Event Name	Location	Web Link
Feb. 28 – Mar. 3	Keystone Symposium: Tuberculosis Co-Morbidities and Immunopathogenesis	Keystone, Colorado	Website
Mar. 2-5	17 th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID)	Hyderabad, India	Website
Mar. 29-31	World Vaccine Congress 2016	Washington, DC	Website



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



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