July 2016

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**Letter from Jennifer**

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

It’s hard to believe we are already halfway through 2016. I am pleased to share the *2016 BVGH Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report* with you. This report presents BVGH’s accomplishments towards our 2016 WIPO Re:Search goals and deliverables. In the first half of 2016, BVGH established six new agreements, recruited four new Members, and publicized WIPO Re:Search and its achievements through various conferences and media.

During the second half of 2016, BVGH will continue to establish new agreements and support the other ongoing and advancing collaborations. Currently, there are five collaborations in advanced stages of negotiations. Many more are in early negotiations between Members. We look forward to another productive and fruitful half-year ahead.

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**
The 2016 BVGH Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report is now available. This report presents BVGH’s WIPO Re:Search accomplishments during the first half of 2016. Click here to download the report.

**WIPO Re:Search Statistics**

![Agreements and Members](image)

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 Current Stage of Development**

*Active collaborations

**Cornerstones of Collaboration**

**Janssen Research & Development** will provide Dr. Jennifer Keiser, Head, Helminth Drug Development Unit, **Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute** (Swiss TPH) with a targeted set of small molecule receptor agonists to screen against hookworms *in vitro*. 

[Image] [Image]
**Alnylam Pharmaceuticals** will provide Prof. Stefan Kappe, Director for Translational Science, and Dr. Ryan Steel, Postdoctoral Scientist, **Center for Infectious Disease Research** (CID Research), with a set of siRNAs targeting a hepatocyte receptor. The siRNAs will be used to assess the result of knocking down the receptor on *P. falciparum* invasion of hepatocytes *in vivo*.

Dr. Ravi Selvaganapathy, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, **McMaster University**, met with collaborators at **PATH** last month. During his visit to Seattle, Ravi met with BVGH and described his current research projects and innovations. Check out this Snapshot’s "**Member Highlight**" section to learn about one of Ravi’s innovative microdevices.

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**New Member Announcement**

We are pleased to announce that the **Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Medicale** (FCRM) has joined WIPO Re:Search.

The Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Medicale (FCRM) was established in 2008 to support research, public health, and higher education in Brazzaville, the Republic of the Congo. Researchers at FCRM focus on *Plasmodium* genetic diversity, epidemiology, and drug resistance; natural products discovery; molecular mechanisms of host immune response to *P. falciparum*; tuberculosis; HIV/AIDS; and bacterial, viral, and parasitic diarrhea.

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**Partnership Hub Central**

Dr. Ujwal Sheth, Associate Director, BVGH, gave a global health seminar on WIPO Re:Search at the **Center for Infectious Disease Research** (CIDR) in Seattle. Following the event she met with several group leaders to learn more about their NTD research and partnering interests.

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**BVGH FundFinder Featured Funding Announcement**

**Career Development Fellowships**

This call for proposals will provide funding to initiatives that aim to support junior to mid-career researchers to train and develop their clinical research skills. The objectives are:
1. To promote career development and retention of postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate medical researchers in the research field and in sub-Saharan Africa
2. To equip the fellows with the ability to establish themselves as independent researchers and with the skills to initiate and manage their own research and team at host organizations in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Funding amount:** €150,000 over a maximum of three years  
**Funder:** European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)  
**Deadline:** Opens October 3, 2016, closes February 28, 2017  
**Eligibility:** Applicant must be employed at an established entity in sub-Saharan Africa and intend to remain at this organization for two years after expiration of the grant. Applicant must have a PhD and up to five years’ relevant postdoctoral experience or a medical doctor with up to five years’ research experience.

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

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**Member Spotlight**

Dr. Ravi Selvaganapathy, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, McMaster University, has developed an inexpensive nanoliter well assay that increases the speed of detection of bacteria within a sample. A sample is spread on the device, which has thousands of individual nanoliter wells. By partitioning a sample into small wells, the device effectively creates a concentration of bacteria that is several fold higher than that of the original sample. Ravi’s group has demonstrated that the device can detect bacterial growth from a 10⁴ cfu/ml sample in ~1 hour. Click here to learn more.

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**Highlighted Contributions**

Featured this month are two contributions submitted by Eskitis Institute to the WIPO Re:Search Database.

**Natural Products and Bioaffinity Screening (ID: 2581)**

The Nature Bank is an integrated drug discovery platform based on natural products from Australia, China, and Papua New Guinea. It comprises over 45,000 samples of plants and marine invertebrates, over 200,000 semi-purified fractions, over 3,250 pure compounds, and over 400 naturally-occurring fragments. The Nature Bank is enhanced for drug-like characteristics in accordance with Lipinski’s rules and can be screened against a variety of drug target proteins including those from parasite proteomes.

**Bioaffinity Mass Spectrometry (ID: 2601)**

The Eskitis Institute has established a mass spectrometry-based medium-throughput screening platform capable of identifying compounds binding to proteins, delivering drug leads and potential pathways to crystallization and structure-based design. Proteins can be analyzed in their folded, native state without labelling.

For more information or to discuss potential collaborations regarding this technology, please
WIPO Re:Search In the News

The Office of the United States Trade Representative's 2016 Special 301 Report highlighted WIPO Re:Search as a best practice in the area of intellectual property rights protection and enforcement.


Upcoming Global Health Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Web Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>2016 International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria</td>
<td>Brisbane, Australia</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-22</td>
<td>(ICTMM)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance (IMED)</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<td>4-7</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>American Society of Tropical Medicine &amp; Hygiene (ASTMH) 65th</td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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*Known as EMD in the US and Canada  | **Known as Merck in the US and Canada