

# Partnership Hub Snapshot

## August 2017

### Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

I am pleased to share the [2017 BVGH Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report](#) with you! This report highlights BVGH's activities and accomplishments towards our 2017 WIPO Re:Search goals and deliverables. Over the first half of the year, BVGH established seven new collaborations and one follow-on collaboration and recruited 19 new Members. Eight research training sabbaticals were coordinated and the [WIPO Re:Search Strategic Plan, 2017-2021](#) was published. We continued to raise awareness of WIPO Re:Search through various communication channels and conferences.

The BVGH team have been busy updating the [BVGH website](#) and our [brochure](#), which features WIPO Re:Search. Please send any comments to [Mary Chaffee](#) and let us know if you would like to schedule a time to update on WIPO Re:Search or any other topic.

I am pleased to welcome our newest WIPO Re:Search Members, the **International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh**; the **National Institute for Medical Research**; and the **University of Dschang**.

As always, please forward this Snapshot and our *2017 BVGH Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report* to your colleagues and reach out to us with any partnering requests, ideas, or feedback.

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

## Special Announcement

The [Kectil Program](#) is a web-based mentoring program dedicated to nurturing highly-talented youth in developing countries who have the potential to make an impact on their communities and countries. The program consists of 12 sessions, divided into five sections: introduction and mission, leadership skills, innovation and entrepreneurship, case studies, and wrap-up and what's next. The program is open to youth (aged 17-26) based in a developing country. The application for the Kectil Program will open on August 15, 2017.

## 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

**Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.** will provide Dr. Judy Sakanari, Adjunct Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)**, with four preclinical/clinical-stage compounds to screen against *Brugia pahangi*.



# New Member Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the **International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh**; the **National Institute for Medical Research**; and the **University of Dschang** have joined WIPO Re:Search.



Originally established as the South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) Cholera Research Laboratory in 1960, the organization was renamed the **International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh** (icddr,b) in 1978 and its research directive was expanded to

include the major public health threats facing Bangladesh and other countries in the global South. Research performed at icddr,b includes assessing *P. falciparum* drug resistance and malaria point-of-care diagnostics, epidemiology of drug resistant *M. tuberculosis*, improving tuberculosis infection control practices, and identifying new tuberculosis vaccine candidates.

Based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the **National Institute for Medical Research** (NIMR) is a parastatal organization functioning under the Tanzanian Ministry of Health. As the largest health research institution in Tanzania, NIMR staff perform research on a variety of topics relevant to WIPO Re:Search including human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) epidemiology; drug sensitivity and characterization of *T. brucei* isolates; maintenance of a *T. brucei* specimen bank; natural products studies; malaria transmission-blocking drug discovery; and schistosomiasis and filariasis drug discovery.



Located in western Cameroon, the **University of Dschang** is one of Cameroon's eight state universities. The University's goal is to provide training to its ~35,000 students that meets the country's development needs. Researchers within the Faculty of Science perform human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) drug discovery, HAT and African animal

trypanosomiasis (AAT) control and "one health" research, and tuberculosis drug discovery, among others.

## IP in Focus

The **World Intellectual Property Organization** (WIPO) provides innovators in business and academia a range of **cost-effective services** to protect their invention, brands, and designs in multiple countries.

A newly launched initiative in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, is the **Inventor Assistance Program** (IAP) – the first global program of its kind. IAP matches developing country inventors with limited financial means from both public and private sector institutions, with patent attorneys willing to provide pro bono legal assistance to secure national and regional patent protection for their inventions. Knowledge of the patent system and corresponding administrative procedures is crucial in order to obtain patent rights for one's invention. Therefore, to navigate the patent system effectively, expert advice is often key.

The IAP has been launched in Colombia, Morocco, and the Philippines and measures are being taken to expand the program to other countries. Researchers in public sector organizations and small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries may receive the necessary support to protect their intangible assets thanks to this new initiative. To date, more than 15 inventors have benefited from this program and 59 patent attorneys have joined. The IAP counts with the sponsorship of several institutions and corporations including the Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIPI), the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA), **Novartis**, **Qualcomm**, **Pfizer**, the European Patent Institute (EPI), and the United States Federal Circuit Bar Association (FCBA).

A recent **WIPO Magazine** article offers additional information about how this service supports national innovation goals and enhances the national patent systems, thus contributing to economic growth.

## BVGH FundFinder Featured Award

### Beckman Young Investigator (PYI) Program

The Beckman Young Investigator (BYI) Program provides research support to the most promising young faculty members in the early stages of their academic careers in the chemical and life sciences, particularly to foster the invention of methods, instruments, and materials that will open up new avenues of research in science. Projects proposed for the BYI Program should be truly innovative, high-risk, and show promise for contributing to significant advances in chemistry and the life sciences. They should represent a departure from current research directions rather than an extension or expansion of existing programs. Proposed research that cuts across traditional boundaries of scientific disciplines is encouraged.

**Funding amount:** ~\$600,000 over four years

**Funder:** Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation

**Deadline:** Letter of Intent due August 14, 2017

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be within the first three years of a tenure-track position at the time of application. The BYI Program is open to citizens or permanent residents of the United States of America.

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email [Cathy Manner](#).



## Highlighted Contributions

Do you have a screening assay for malaria, tuberculosis, or NTD drug discovery? Would you like to access and screen any of the following inhibitors?

5-Lipoxygenase (LOX)  
Angiotensin II  
Calcium channel blockers  
Carbonic anhydrase  
Dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR)  
Glutamate antagonist  
Intracellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1)  
Kinase (including receptor tyrosine kinase)  
Monoamine oxidase (MAO)  
Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR)

Phosphodiesterase (PDE) V  
Platelet activating factor  
Poly ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP)  
Protease-activated receptor PAR-1  
Proteasome  
Sodium channel antagonist  
Squalene synthase  
Thromboxane A2 synthase 1 (TBXAS1)  
TLR4 agonist

If so, please contact [Ujwal Sheth](#) to learn more about these assets and to discuss your research idea.

# Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location	Web Link
Sept. 4-8	26 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	<a href="#">Website</a>
Nov. 5-9	American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) 66th Annual Meeting	Baltimore, Maryland	<a href="#">Website</a>
Mar. 1-4	18th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">Website</a>



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



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