



Partnership Hub Snapshot

December 2017

Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

As 2017 draws to a close, BVGH celebrates with you, the WIPO Re:Search community, the many exciting achievements this year has brought. WIPO Re:Search membership has grown to include more than 130 organizations representing 40 countries. In 2017 alone, we welcomed 25 new Members to the Consortium. BVGH established 14 new targeted collaborations this year, with many more under discussion.

In the [World Malaria Report 2017](#), World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautions that although global malaria cases have decreased since 2010, the rate of decline has decelerated, and even reversed in some regions. The report highlights the causes of this deceleration, including the lack of consistent funding and the emergence of antimalarial resistance, which jeopardize our progress towards elimination. We cannot afford to lose more ground and cede progress made. In order to regain a foothold against malaria, we must bolster research and funding towards the development of new diagnostics, vaccines, and antimalarials. I encourage you to read this Snapshot's "Highlighted Contributions" section, which features several compound classes with demonstrated repurposing potential for malaria. If you are interested in assessing these – or other – inhibitor types against *Plasmodium* parasites, please reach out to [Cathy Manner](#).

I am pleased to welcome our newest WIPO Re:Search Member, the **Centre for Plant Medicine Research**.

Have you presented or published the results of your WIPO Re:Search collaboration in 2017? If so, please let [Katy Graef](#) know so that we can feature your efforts in the *2017 WIPO Re:Search Annual Report*, as well as in an upcoming issue of the Snapshot.

As we look forward to 2018, the BVGH team thanks you for your ongoing support and participation in WIPO Re:Search. We wish you the very best over the holiday season and into the New Year.

Sincerely, Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH

Special Announcement

Gates Open Research: Immediate & Transparent Publishing

In 2017, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation underscored its commitment to transparency through the announcement of its new initiative, [Gates Open Research](#). Gates Open Research provides Gates-funded investigators with the option to accelerate the publication of their research findings. Over ten articles have already been released since Gates Open Research launched last month.

Are you a Gates-funded researcher interested in utilizing this resource? Submit your research [here](#).

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



GlaxoSmithKline



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Building on an existing collaboration, funded by the Tres Cantos Open Lab Foundation (TCOLF), Dr. Yossi Av-Gay, Professor of Infectious Disease at the **University of British Columbia** (UBC), screened **GlaxoSmithKline** (GSK) compounds against *M. tuberculosis* (MTB) in host macrophages. Through the screen, Dr. Av-Gay identified a set of small molecules that had activity against MTB within macrophages, but did not directly kill the bacteria in culture. Through WIPO Re:Search, GSK will now collaborate with Dr. Jeffery Cox, C.H. Li Chair of Biochemistry & Molecular Endocrinology and Professor of Immunology & Pathogenesis at the **University of California, Berkeley** (UCB) who will use novel microscopic assays to assess whether the compounds activate autophagy – a host pathway involved in controlling MTB infection.

There is great need to develop new therapeutics against Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, and leishmaniasis. To support drug development efforts, **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany*** will provide Prof. Jim McKerrow, Director, and Prof. Jair Siqueira-Neto, Kinetoplastid and High Throughput Screening Facility Core Director, [Center for Discovery and Innovation in Parasitic Diseases](#) (CDIPD), **University of California, San Diego (UCSD)**, with a targeted library of phosphoinositide-3-kinase (PI3K) inhibitors. Drs. McKerrow and Siqueira-Neto will use *in vitro* assays to screen the inhibitors for activity against *T. cruzi*, *T. brucei*, and *Leishmania*.

*Known as EMD in the US and Canada



FIT2 fellow Dr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam from the **International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b)** began his sabbatical with Professors Vicky Avery and Kathy Andrews at the [Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery \(GRIDD\)](#), **Griffith University**, Australia. The sabbatical is supported by funding from IP Australia to WIPO through Funds in Trust (FIT). Through his sabbatical, Dr. Alam will be gaining new skills towards the discovery and development of compounds targeting different *Plasmodium* lifecycle stages. In November, Dr. Alam gave a [seminar](#) at GRIDD entitled "Current malaria situation in Bangladesh: relevance to new antimalarials." During his seminar, Dr. Alam discussed about the malaria endemicity, control initiatives, and emergence of artemisinin resistant malaria in Bangladesh.



Left: Dr. Alam presenting his seminar at GRIDD
Right: Dr. Alam selecting natural product biota to screen from the [Griffith University NatureBank](#)

New Member Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the **Centre for Plant Medicine Research** has joined WIPO Re:Search.

[The Centre for Plant Medicine Research](#)

The Centre for Plant Medicine Research (CPMR) was established by the Government of Ghana in 1975, and is currently based in Mampong-Akuapem. The CPMR has several research departments of relevance to WIPO Re:Search including Microbiology, Phytochemistry, and Clinical Research departments. Research activities ongoing at CPMR include the screening of natural products to identify anti-infectious agents, isolation and identification of active components from medicinal plants, clinical studies of herbal medicines, and the formulation of herbal medicines into proper dosage forms. Among other facilities, CPMR has a herbarium of Ghanaian medicinal plants, and a 750 acre arboretum containing select medicinal plant species.



IP in Focus

The WIPO Academy

A key ingredient that enables intellectual property (IP) to be used for innovation and creativity is human knowledge and capacity in the field of IP.

The WIPO Academy is the core entity in WIPO for IP education and training that supports human capacity building, particularly for developing countries, least-developed countries (LDCs), and countries in transition. The Academy works with many partners to facilitate access to IP education and training. From distance learning through professional development training, to post-graduate IP courses, the Academy offers a broad range of learning methods in multiple languages. Courses also cover all aspects of IP from basic to advanced topics, such as the Executive Distance Learning Course on “Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation,” which explores the intersections between public health, intellectual property, and trade.

Since its establishment in 1998, over half a million people across the world have benefitted from the Academy’s IP education and training courses. Women are among the beneficiaries, representing 51% of all program participants in 2016. The full details of the WIPO Academy’s achievements in 2016 are available in its [Annual Review](#).

Next year will mark the Academy’s 20th Anniversary, and early in the year, the 2018 course catalogue will be published. To find out what is on offer and how you might participate, please visit the [WIPO Academy website](#) or take a look at the [course catalogue](#). If you are interested in supporting the Academy’s IP education work, whether it be through scholarship funding, or tutoring and lecturing, please get in [touch with us](#) (especially women and those with Arabic, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish language skills).

Anatole Krattiger
Director, Global Challenges Division, WIPO

Partnership Hub Central

Chagas Disease: Current Status and Future Therapeutic Directions

Cathy Manner represented BVGH in San Diego at the Chagas Disease: Current Status and Future Therapeutic Directions symposium, sponsored by **Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson (J&J)**. The event featured several seminars on the Chagas disease research landscape and a roundtable discussion aimed at understanding the gaps and identifying solutions. While in San Diego, Cathy also met with J&J leaders and **University of California, San Diego (UCSD)** researchers to discuss current WIPO Re:Search collaborations and new partnership opportunities.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Award

UCSD Burroughs-Wellcome Fund Collaborative Research Travel Award

The **Burroughs-Wellcome Fund** is awarding travel funds to graduate students and post-doctoral scholars from the parasitic worm research community to galvanize collaborations and technology transfer with the **University of California, San Diego (UCSD)**. The Award is open to all research topics relating to the biology and pathology of parasitic roundworms and flatworms. Candidate selection will be based on scientific merit and suitability of the proposed collaboration. Please click [here](#) for more information about the award, and apply by submitting the following [application](#) to [Anna Altman](#).

Funding amount: \$2,500 for airfare, accommodation, and incidental expenses of the student or post-doctoral researcher. Sponsoring PIs are eligible for \$500 to cover costs of supplies used by the student.

Funder: The Burroughs-Wellcome Fund

Deadline: January 10, 2018

Eligibility: U.S. and foreign graduate students and post-doctoral scholars studying research topics relating to the biology and pathology of parasitic roundworms and flatworms.



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

Member Spotlight

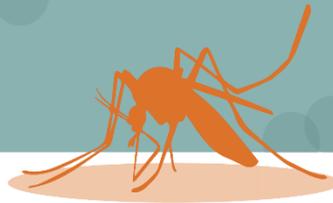


First International Symposium on Biopharmaceuticals: From Bench to Bedside

The **Institut Pasteur de Tunis** hosted the [First International Symposium on Biopharmaceuticals: From Bench to Bedside](#). The symposium aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange, encourage academic-industry collaborations, and present the latest advances and best practices in the field of vaccine and therapeutic protein development. The symposium was well-attended by researchers and key decision makers from across the globe.

Attendees of the First International Symposium on Biopharmaceuticals: From Bench to Bedside

Highlighted Contribution



According to the WHO [World Malaria Report 2017](#), malaria incidence fell by 18% globally between 2010 and 2016. Despite these declines, the WHO has noted significant increases in incidence in the Americas, South-East Asia, Western Pacific, and Africa. In 2016, there were an estimated 445,000 deaths from malaria, with Africa accounting for 91% of these deaths. In support of the ongoing global efforts against malaria, this Snapshot highlights compounds that have demonstrated repurposing potential against *Plasmodium* parasites:

- [Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors](#)
- [HIV protease inhibitors](#)
- [Lysine-specific demethylase \(LSD\) 1 inhibitors](#)
- [Thioredoxin reductase inhibitors](#)

Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location	Link
Jan. 28 - Feb. 1	Keystone Symposium: Emerging Technologies in Vaccine Discovery and Development	Banff, Canada	Website

Mar. 11 - 16	Gordon Research Conference: Driving Antibacterial Discovery and Development to Address the Clinical Demands of the Next Decade	Ventura, California	Website
April 3 - 5	World Vaccine Congress Washington	Washington, D.C.	Website



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