Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

Beyond the partnering and alliance management activities that are central to our WIPO Re:Search responsibilities, the BVGH team has been busy planning research training sabbaticals. Last year WIPO Re:Search received additional funding, through IP Australia’s Funds in Trust (FIT) to WIPO, to develop sabbatical exchanges for Asian-Pacific researchers at Australian research institutes. BVGH and WIPO subsequently met with Australian researchers and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to agree on plans for the WIPO Re:Search sabbatical program. Since that initial meeting, BVGH has engaged potential participants, matched participants to host organizations, and framed plans for the research and training to be undertaken through these sabbaticals. I am pleased to report that we have made good progress; BVGH has confirmed the participation of host labs and matched them with their research fellows. The specific training programs and research projects for each fellow are being finalized and the first sabbaticals are scheduled to begin in mid-2017. If you would like to learn more about the WIPO Re:Search training sabbatical program, please email Ujwal Sheth.

I am pleased to welcome our two newest Members, James Cook University and Makerere University.

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 2016 WIPO Re:Search Partnership Hub Annual Report is now available. Click here to download a copy. If you would like a hard copy of the report, please reach out to Erica Jones and we will send one or more copies to you in the mail.

WIPO Re:Search Statistics

To view a current summary of the WIPO Re:Search agreements by disease and stage of development, click here.

Cornerstones of Collaboration

The National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, China CDC (NIPD) will sequence the K13 gene of Plasmodium falciparum parasites found within malaria patient blood samples obtained by the Centre Pasteur du Cameroun (CPC). The researchers seek to assess the development of artemisinin resistance in Plasmodium parasites circulating in Cameroon, and to compare parasite genotypes with the patients’ responses to treatment – specifically the rate of parasite clearance.
New Member Announcement

We are pleased to announce that James Cook University and Makerere University have joined WIPO Re:Search.

A leading institution focused on the tropics, James Cook University in Australia conducts internationally-recognized research in marine sciences, biodiversity, and tropical ecology and medicine. Researchers at its Australian Institute of Tropical Health & Medicine focus on host-pathogen interactions of Plasmodium and Mycobacterium tuberculosis, helminth vaccinology, vector-based approaches to dengue fever control, anti-parasitic discovery, and more.

Makerere University, located in Kampala, Uganda, is one of Africa’s oldest universities. Researchers at the university are focused on the molecular biology and clinical pharmacology of malaria. The Infectious Disease Institute at the College of Health Sciences performs an array of research projects including those focused on HIV/AIDS and clinical assessment of tuberculosis diagnostics.

Partnership Hub Central

Tom Bombelles (WIPO) presented an overview of IP and global health issues, including WIPO Re:Search, to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, Switzerland. The HRC convened a historic session on innovation, IP, and global health issues, within the context of the 2016 UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel report on access to medicines.

Participants of the UN Human Rights Council session
BVGH FundFinder Featured Funding Announcement

**International Research in Infectious Diseases, including AIDS**
The purpose of this opportunity is to encourage the submission of applications from institutions in eligible foreign countries to conduct studies in infectious disease research. These grants will serve to build independent research capacity by providing direct funding to investigators who do not currently have NIH-funded grant or contract awards for research projects. The intent of these activities is to advance the development of local scientific expertise. Topics of interest are limited to research on infectious diseases including tuberculosis; malaria; diarrheal, respiratory, and enteric diseases; parasitic diseases; and vector-borne diseases. Studies may be proposed on any aspect of infectious disease research, except clinical trials. Development of basic, immunological, microbiological, biostatistical, epidemiological, data management, and clinical research capacity is encouraged.

Collaborative projects involving investigators and institutions from international sites and the U.S. are particularly encouraged; however, a U.S. partner is not required.

**Funding amount:** $125,000/year for up to five years  
**Funder:** National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
**Deadline:** Letter of intent due April 22, 2017  
**Eligibility:** Applicant’s organization must be headquartered in foreign (non-U.S.) resource-constrained countries (i.e. low-income economies, lower-middle-income economies, and upper-middle-income economies by World Bank definition).

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.

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**Highlighted Contributions**

Featured this month are three contributions submitted by the University of Lagos to the WIPO Re:Search Database.

### Malaria diagnostics quality assurance services (ID: 2721)
The University of Lagos has the capacity to provide quality assurance services for malaria diagnostics and maintains panels these services.

### Malaria slide bank (ID: 2741)
The University of Lagos has a bank of malaria microscopy slides. Each slide is characterized by *Plasmodium* species, lifecycle stage, and parasitemia.

### Malaria biobank (ID: 2703)
The University of Lagos maintains a semi-characterized biobank with detailed informed consent for future use. The biobank consists of malaria parasites characterized by microscopy in dry blood spots, whole blood, plasma, and serum.

For more information or to discuss potential collaborations regarding this technology, please contact Ujwal Sheth.
# Upcoming Global Health Meetings

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 19-22</td>
<td>Neglected Tropical Diseases Summit</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26-28</td>
<td>6th International Giardia &amp; Cryptosporidium Conference</td>
<td>Havana, Cuba</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16-20</td>
<td>6th World Congress on Leishmaniasis</td>
<td>Toledo, Spain</td>
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*Known as EMD in the US and Canada | **Known as Merck in the US and Canada

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