



Partnership Hub Snapshot

October 2017

Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, BVGH is intensifying its planning and preparation for 2018 and beyond. During the WIPO General Assemblies last week in Geneva, BVGH and WIPO met with representatives of the WIPO Re:Search Advisory Committee to discuss the implementing activities of the [WIPO Re:Search Strategic Plan](#). Securing funding for WIPO Re:Search collaborations and sabbaticals as well as new company Member recruitment will be prioritized in 2018. BVGH is enthusiastic to be working with our partners to expand the impact and global visibility of WIPO Re:Search.

I encourage you to review this month's BVGH [FundFinder Featured Award](#) from the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, which supports therapeutic discovery through repurposed, targeted pharmaceutical libraries. Please reach out to us if you would like to explore a WIPO Re:Search partnership around this funding opportunity.

The [66th ASTMH Annual Meeting](#) is just around the corner and our team are looking forward to meeting with many of our WIPO Re:Search Members there. In addition to ASTMH, BVGH will be attending Janssen's R&D symposium on [Chagas Disease: Current Status and Future Therapeutic Directions](#). If you are interested in attending the Chagas meeting, click [here](#) to register. Please email [Cathy Manner](#) or [Mary Chaffee](#) to arrange a meeting at either of these events.

Next month, WIPO, the Access to Medicine Foundation, and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** will be hosting a [seminar](#) on accelerating innovation and access to vaccines. Please click [here](#) to register for this event.

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

Tres Cantos Open Lab Foundation: accelerating the discovery of medicines for diseases of the developing world



The Tres Cantos Open Lab Foundation (TCOLF) is a charity that supports drug discovery-oriented projects in malaria, tuberculosis, kinetoplastids, and *Shigella* infections. TCOLF will fund collaborative research projects between applicants and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Diseases of the Developing World Medicines Development Campus in Tres Cantos, Spain. Grantees will have access to GSK's scientific knowledge and resources (screening, medicinal chemistry, and *in vitro* and *in vivo* disease models including BSL-3 labs) to advance their research. Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis. The next evaluation meeting will be held on November 20, 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

Get involved and make a difference in your research!

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



Through *in vitro* screens, Professor Fabrice Boyom, Head, Antimicrobial and Biocontrol Agents Unit (AmBcAU), **University of Yaoundé I**, has identified several Cameroonian fungi and medicinal plant fractions and pure compounds with promising activity and selectivity against *M. ulcerans*, *Leishmania spp.*, *T. brucei*, and *S. mansoni*. To help advance these products' development as potential drugs, Professor Bill Baker, Chemistry Department, **University of South Florida (USF)**, will attempt to isolate, characterize, and elucidate the structures of these natural products.

IP in Focus

Patent Information Initiative (Pat-INFORMED)

WIPO is pleased to introduce the Patent Information Initiative for Medicines or "Pat-INFORMED", a multi-stakeholder platform established in cooperation with the [International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations \(IFPMA\)](#) and 20 of its leading global research-based pharmaceutical company members. Pat-INFORMED aims to improve access to patent information for registered medicines by offering the tools and information that health professionals need for specific products and countries.

Health policy advocates and national authorities have long called for making patent information more accessible, especially for the purpose of facilitating the procurement of medicines. Up until now, this information has been stored in the registers of national and regional patent offices or through third-party databases, which are complex and difficult to access for non-specialists, as well as limited in territorial scope.

As announced October 3, 2017 during the General Assemblies of WIPO, Pat-INFORMED will share patent information on a public database. In addition to this, participating companies agree to provide more detailed information in response to requests from procurement agencies. During the first phase of this initiative, the public database will focus on small molecule products related to oncology, hepatitis C, cardiovascular, HIV, diabetes and respiratory therapy areas, and any product on the [WHO Model List of Essential Medicines](#) not within these areas. The second phase will seek to expand this information to all therapy areas for small molecules.

"Pat-INFORMED will make it easier for procurement experts to assess the patent status of medicines, underlining how a well-designed and implemented patent system incentivizes innovation while making available and accessible key information about patented inventions," said WIPO Director General Francis Gurry.

For more information about this exciting new initiative, please contact [Thomas Bombelles](#), Head, Non-Governmental Organizations and Industry Relations Sections.

Anatole Krattiger
Director, Global Challenges Division, WIPO

Partnership Hub Central

Jennifer Dent and Edward Kwakwa, Senior Director, Department for Traditional Knowledge and Global Challenges, WIPO, introduced WIPO Re:Search and its training sabbatical program during an Australian Funds in Trust (FIT) side event during the 57th WIPO General Assembly. The event, which was opened by Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO, and Patricia Kelly, Director General, IP Australia, also featured presentations of two additional Australian FIT projects, FIT Technology Transfer Initiative and Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) project.



Patricia Kelly, Director General, IP Australia, (left) met with Jennifer Dent following the Australian FIT side event.

WIPO Director General Francis Gurry addresses the participants of the FIT side event during the 57th WIPO General Assembly.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Award

Repurposing Target-Based Pharmaceutical Libraries for Discovery of Therapeutics against Eukaryotic Pathogens (R21/R33)

The purpose of this opportunity is to support whole cell and/or high-throughput screening of target-based pharmaceutical libraries to identify potential therapeutics against select eukaryotic pathogens, and their subsequent preclinical development. Pathogens of interest include, but are not limited to: *Leishmania spp.*, *Plasmodium spp.*, *Trypanosoma spp.*, and helminths. Priority will be given to projects that focus on one or more pathogens for which therapeutic options are limited or compromised by antimicrobial resistance. Projects focused on *Plasmodium spp.* are restricted to therapeutics against multiple-drug-resistant forms.

Funding amount: \$275,000 over the two-year R21 phase (maximum of \$200,000/year). \$300,000/year for up to three years for the R33 phase.

Funder: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Deadline: Letter of intent due December 12, 2017

Eligibility: U.S. and foreign organizations



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

Member Spotlight

The **United States Patent & Trademark Office** (USPTO) is accepting applications for its [Patents for Humanity](#) award. This award recognizes patent holders who are pioneering innovative ways to provide affordable, scalable, and sustainable solutions for the less fortunate. Winners receive public recognition of their work and an acceleration certificate to expedite certain matters before the USPTO: a patent application, *ex parte* re-exam, or an *ex parte* appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Highlighted Contribution

Soil-transmitted helminths

Soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections afflict an estimated **1.5 billion people worldwide** (over 20% of the world's population). In poverty-stricken regions of Africa, India, South America, and Southeast Asia, as many as 66% of children are infected. Infection can occur when children ingest eggs after playing in contaminated soil and put their hands in their mouths without washing them. STH infections can lead to both physical and cognitive impairment.

Although treatments exist, anthelmintic resistance (AR) is of growing concern. Over the last four years, mass drug administration (MDA) coverage for STHs has **doubled from 30 to 60%**. This widespread drug administration increases the risk of AR, as drugs used for MDA initiatives rely on a single mode of action and are administered in suboptimal doses. As such, there is a great need for the development of alternative drugs with novel mechanisms of action.

In recognition of World Handwashing Day (October 15th), this Snapshot highlights compounds that have demonstrated repurposing potential against soil-transmitted helminths.

- [Cathepsin inhibitors](#)
- [Histamine I receptor antagonists](#)
- [Inhibitors of microtubule polymerization](#)
- [Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonists](#)
- [5-lipoxygenase inhibitors](#)

For more information or to discuss accessing these compounds, please contact [Mary Chaffee](#).

WIPO Re:Search in the News

57th WIPO General Assembly

At the 57th WIPO General Assembly in Geneva last week, WIPO Director General Francis Gurry highlighted WIPO's involvement in public-private partnerships, as encouraged by the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). During the address, Dr. Gurry called special attention to [SDG 17](#), which underscores the importance of revitalizing global partnerships to strengthen overall SDG implementation, citing [WIPO Re:Search](#) as one of WIPO's key public-private partnerships contributing to achieving this SDG. Director General Gurry's opening remarks were featured in [Intellectual Property Watch](#).

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Upcoming Global Health Events

| Dates | Event Name | Location | Link |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nov. 5 - 9 | 66 th American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) Annual Meeting | Baltimore, Maryland | Website |
| Nov. 8 | Global Challenges Seminar on Vaccines: Accelerating Innovation and Access | Geneva, Switzerland | Website |
| Dec. 5 | Chagas Disease: Current Status and Future Therapeutic Directions | San Diego, California | Website |
| Jan. 30 - Feb. 2 | Anthelmintics III: From Discovery to Resistance | Indian Rocks Beach, Florida | Website |



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



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