

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



June 2018

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

Malaria is inarguably one of the world's leading global health challenges. Despite the incredible advances (global malaria deaths are down from 839,700 in 2000 to 445,000 in 2016), we find ourselves at a critical junction. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation [reports](#) that if we continue with our current control efforts, the number of new malaria cases per 1,000 people will only decrease from 29 to 28 by 2030. At present, there is no existing mechanism for the myriad of stakeholders to congregate and join forces in cooperative action against malaria. The inaugural [Malaria World Congress](#), with its initiatives underscoring collaborative action and malaria elimination, aims to address this gap.

BVGH has organized two main activities at the 1st Malaria World Congress: an invite-only Funds in Trust (FIT2) colloquium, and an open-invitation [FIT2 panel session](#). These events will involve key stakeholders from the Government of Australia, WIPO, BVGH, and WIPO Re:Search Member institutes. Through presentations, panel sessions, and networking, attendees will share ideas and explore partnership opportunities. Read on to learn more about these events.

Novartis recently released a malaria-centered special edition [newsletter](#). Read the newsletter to learn how Novartis has [committed to malaria elimination](#); why Patrice Matchaba, Head of Global Health and Corporate Responsibility at Novartis, believes that [malaria can be wiped out for good](#); and how [scientists in Mali are overcoming hurdles](#) to test experimental antimalarials.

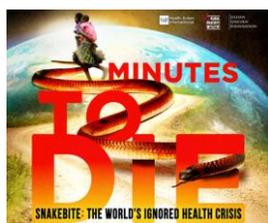
We hope to see you at the 1st Malaria World Congress next month! Please reach out to [Cathy Manner](#) if you are interested in setting up a WIPO Re:Search partnering meeting at the Congress.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH



Special Announcements

[Available now: Free streaming of the new documentary *Minutes to Die*](#)



WIPO Re:Search Members are invited to a private, online screening of the documentary *Minutes to Die*, an eye-opening account of the neglected crisis of snakebite in impoverished communities around the world. Directed by James Reid and produced by the Lillian Lincoln Foundation, *Minutes to Die* takes viewers to the homes and hospitals of snakebite victims, meetings of public health officials from the World Health Organization, and labs where scientists are manufacturing antivenom and new antidotes. Snakebite envenoming kills nearly as many people in one month as the entire 2014-2015 Ebola virus disease crisis did in two years. Socially responsible organizations and partners are vitally needed now to give a voice to these voiceless victims.

Click [here](#) to stream *Minutes to Die* (**Password:** BVGH). The film stream will be available until June 30th, 2018.

Completed FIT2 Fellowships

In 2016 the Government of Australia contributed funding to WIPO (Funds in Trust 2 [FIT2]) to support the training of East African and Indo-Pacific researchers at research institutes. In 2017 BVGH matched trainees with host organizations and developed plans for their research projects and training. Thus far six FIT2 fellowships have been completed. Meet these FIT2 fellows and their hosts below.



Cornerstones of Collaboration



Onchocerciasis affects 18 million people in tropical countries. Current treatments kill the first-stage larvae (microfilariae), but there are no existing treatments against the adult larvae (macrofilariae). As onchocerciasis is the second leading cause of infectious blindness, it is imperative to develop a novel treatment that fills critical gaps in the pipeline. Professor Fidelis Cho-Ngwa – a FIT1 fellow who visited **Novartis** for three months – at the **University of Buea**, is working toward the discovery and development of novel drugs that target *Onchocerca* macrofilariae. To support Fidelis’ efforts, **Eisai Co., Ltd.** agreed to share several classes of inhibitors, including kinase inhibitors and calcium channel blockers, with Fidelis to screen against macrofilariae.



FIT2 fellow Dr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam from the **International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b)** recently completed his six-month FIT2 sabbatical with Professors Vicky Avery and Kathy Andrews at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD), **Griffith University**, in Australia. Through his sabbatical, Shafiul gained new skills towards the discovery and development of compounds targeting different *Plasmodium* lifecycle stages. During his sabbatical, Shafiul gave a seminar at GRIDD entitled “Current malaria situation in Bangladesh: relevance to new antimalarials.”



Partnership Hub Central



[Malaria World Congress FIT2 Panel Session – Wednesday, July 4th from 10:30am-12:30pm](#)
Accelerating Malaria R&D through International Collaborations

The Funds in Trust (FIT2) research sabbatical program brings together government entities, a United Nations agency, a nonprofit organization with ties to the pharmaceutical industry, and academic research institutes from across the globe. Aligning with the 1st Malaria World Congress’ vision and objectives, this [FIT2 session](#) will demonstrate the value of cross-sector partnerships, highlight collaboration best practices, and present how attendees can get involved in collaborative efforts that advance their – and others’ – research activities.

Chaired by Ms. Patricia Kelly, Director General, IP Australia, the panel session will feature presentations from FIT2 fellows and hosts.

BVGH encourages anyone who is attending the 1st Malaria World Congress to come to this important event.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Award

[Royal Academy of Engineering: The 2019 Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation](#)

The 2019 Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation encourages sub-Saharan African engineers to develop scalable solutions to local challenges, underscoring engineering as an enabler of improved quality of life and economic development. Applications are invited from innovators in sub-Saharan Africa who have developed an innovative service or product that can provide scalable solutions, with an emphasis on sustainable social and economic development. Shortlisted applicants will receive an eight-month package of tailored support to help them achieve commercial success, consisting of three week-long immersion sessions and supplemented by remote support. For more information, click [here](#).

Funder: The Royal Academy of Engineering

Funding Amount: The top applicant will be awarded £25,000, and three runners-up will receive £10,000 each.

Deadline: July 23, 2018

Eligibility: Applicants must have developed (or co-developed), or be in the process of developing (or co-developing) a new technological innovation. Applicants should anticipate leading the creation of a new business to commercialize their innovation. Click [here](#) for a list of eligible countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



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

Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
July 1 - 5	1st Malaria World Congress	Melbourne, Australia
September 3 - 7	International Vaccine Institute 18th International Vaccinology Course	Seoul, South Korea
October 17 - 20	Keystone Symposium: 21st-Century Drug Discovery and Development for Global Health (S3)*	Berlin, Germany

* Graduate student and postdoctoral fellow scholarship deadline is June 19th, click [here](#) for more information.



**



* Known as EMD in the US and Canada | ** Known as Merck & Co., Inc. in the US and Canada



Copyright © 2018 BVGH, All rights reserved.
Mailing address: 401 Terry Avenue N., Seattle, WA 98109