

BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



September 2019

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce the release of our [BVGH Partnership Hub Mid-Year Report 2019](#)! Over the first half of the year, BVGH established 14 collaborations, recruited two new Members, and shared WIPO Re:Search successes globally through peer-reviewed publications ([one of which](#) was recently reprinted in a book, [Prospects for Schistosomiasis Elimination](#)) and social media. Read the Report to learn how the BVGH team is well on its way to achieving and surpassing its 2019 goals and deliverables.

This year marks the establishment of the 150th WIPO Re:Search collaboration. WIPO published an [article](#) commemorating this important milestone and showcasing the efforts of our Members—including **Eisai** and **MSD***— to develop better treatments for malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases. An [interview](#) with Amy Dietterich, Director of the Global Challenges Division at WIPO, highlights the critical role of the WIPO Re:Search intellectual property-sharing platform in catalyzing new solutions for diseases of poverty.

Joseph Hargan-Calvopiña will be representing BVGH and coordinating a WIPO Re:Search panel session at the [European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health](#) in Liverpool, UK, this month. The session is titled *Neglected Disease R&D Through the Lens of a Public-Private Partnership Model*. Please [email](#) Joseph if you would like to schedule a time to meet at the conference.

As always, please share this Snapshot with your colleagues and reach out to us with any partnering requests or ideas.

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH*



*MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA

WIPO Re:Search Statistics



Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search Members.

Click [here](#) for a list of WIPO Re:Search collaborations.

Click [here](#) to view the WIPO Re:Search Collaboration Pipeline.

IP in Focus

WIPO Patent Drafting Training Program

WIPO offers [tailor-made workshops](#) to help inventors and other users of the patent system improve their patent drafting skills and techniques. These events are organized in collaboration with member states, national and regional intellectual property offices and institutions.

Scheduled Workshops:

- [WIPO Sub-Regional Patent Drafting Workshop](#) (Amman, Jordan)
October 13-17, 2019
- [WIPO National Patent Drafting Workshop](#) (Mexico)
October 21-25, 2019



WIPO-WHO-WTO Trilateral Symposium (October 31, 2019; Geneva, Switzerland)

The [8th Joint Technical Symposium](#) will address the importance of innovation in, and access to, cutting-edge health technologies to ensure progress towards universal health coverage and the achievement of the health-related UN Sustainable Development Goals. The draft program is available [here](#). Online registration is available [here](#).

Cornerstones of Collaboration

Academic-Industry Partnership Pursues Schistosomiasis Drug Discovery



Praziquantel was discovered 40 years ago and remains the only available treatment for schistosomiasis, a disease that affects 240 million people globally. Through WIPO Re:Search, investigators from **Seattle Children’s Research Institute (SCRI)** and the NIAID-funded **Seattle Structural Genomics Center for Infectious Disease (SSGCID)** are working to solve the crystal structure for *Schistosoma* HMG-CoA reductase (*SmHMGR*), a promising drug target. To support these efforts, **MSD*** scientists developed and shared codon-optimized *SmHMGR* gene constructs for expressing the *SmHMGR* protein and solving its crystal structure. With a crystal structure, Dr. Conor Caffrey at the **University of California, San Diego** plans to carry out rational drug design and optimization of *SmHMGR* inhibitors.



Maria Kornienko, an Associate Principal Scientist in the Screening and Protein Science division at MSD*, played a key role in generating the codon-optimized gene constructs to support SSGCID’s structural elucidation efforts for the *SmHMGR* protein.

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Partnership Hub Central

[Novartis Next Generation Scientist Fellow Receives Travel Grant to Attend ASTMH 2019](#)

Dr. Peter Mubanga Cheuka, a lecturer and malaria researcher at the University of Zambia, was awarded an American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) travel grant to attend the organization’s annual meeting in November. Dr. Cheuka, who participated in the **Novartis** Next Generation Scientist Program, will be presenting his research at the meeting.

Dr. Cheuka received [recognition](#) of this achievement from his institution’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Luke Evuta Mumba.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

NTD Support Center – African Researchers’ Small Grants Program



The African Research Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ARNTD) with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and UK aid from the UK government, through the Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD), is seeking [proposals](#) for both operational and social science research on “Emerging challenges facing NTD program implementation in Africa.” This third edition of the Small Grants Program (SGP III) is to support African researchers in both early and mid/late career to undertake operational research aligned with the goals established in the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Amount: Up to US \$25,000 per award

Organization: NTD Support Center

Deadline: September 30, 2019

Eligibility: Researchers and academics based in research institutions or universities in Africa

Additional Funding Opportunities

- [EDCTP Pediatric Drug Formulations for Poverty-Related Diseases](#) – Deadline: October 10, 2019
- [EDCTP Strategic Actions on Product-Related Implementation Research](#) – Deadline: October 10, 2019
- [NIH Planning Grant for Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program](#) – Deadline: Letter of intent due on October 12, 2019
- [EDCTP New Drugs and Vaccines for Priority Pathogens in Antimicrobial Resistance](#) – Deadline: November 7, 2019
- [EDCTP Strategic Actions Supporting Large-Scale Clinical Trials](#) – Deadline: November 7, 2019
- [EDCTP Ethics and Regulatory Capabilities 2019](#) – Deadline: November 21, 2019
- [EDCTP Career Development Fellowships](#) – Deadline: November 27, 2019
- [EDCTP Preparatory Fellowships: Joint Call with the Africa Research Excellence Fund \(AREF\)](#) – Deadline: November 27, 2019

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



Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
Sept. 16-20, 2019	European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health*	Liverpool, UK
Sept. 26-28, 2019	East African Research in Progress	Moshi, Tanzania

Oct. 17-20, 2019	<u>IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference*</u>	Seattle, WA, USA
Oct. 27-29, 2019	<u>World Health Summit</u>	Berlin, Germany
Oct. 31, 2019	<u>WIPO-WHO-WTO Trilateral Symposium</u>	Geneva, Switzerland
Nov. 9-10, 2019	<u>Woman Leaders in Global Health Conference</u>	Kigali, Rwanda
Nov. 20-24, 2019	<u>ASTMH Annual Meeting*</u>	National Harbor, MD, USA

* BVGH anticipated to attend



Johnson & Johnson

Merck KGaA*
Darmstadt, Germany



MSD**
INVENTING FOR LIFE



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