

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



February 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce the release of our [2019 WIPO Re:Search Partnership Hub Annual Report](#). Last year, we catalyzed 16 new WIPO Re:Search collaborations in the fight against malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). These collaborations are targeting Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis, and soil-transmitted helminthiases. Most of the new collaborations involve partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and academic researchers, highlighting the importance of the private sector's contributions to addressing the unmet medical needs of over a billion people around the world.

Chagas disease affects six to seven million people globally, killing 10,000 each year. Two WIPO Re:Search collaborations launched in 2019 are working to tackle this disease, which is endemic to Central and South America and spreading elsewhere. **Novartis** is providing access to its proprietary compounds, facilities, and expertise to help Dr. Artur Cordeiro at the **Brazilian Biosciences National Laboratory** move his drug discovery program forward. **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany** is sharing its Mini Library with Prof. Vicky Avery at the **Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery, Griffith University** to advance her drug discovery programs for Chagas disease and other NTDs.

On the funding front, our friends at Unitaid issued a [call for proposals](#) for new projects that can help eliminate congenital infection of Chagas disease through better diagnosis and treatment. Unitaid expects to award one to two grants totaling up to US\$15 million.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO

BIO Ventures for Global Health



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## 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.

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## Cornerstones of Collaboration

### Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and GRIDD Collaborate on Drug Discovery

**Merck KGaA** \*  
Darmstadt, Germany



**Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany** will be sharing its Mini Library with Prof. Vicky Avery at **Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD), Griffith University** for Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, and leishmaniasis drug discovery.

\*Known as EMD in the USA and Canada

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## Partnership Hub Central

### Creating Synergies to Beat NTDs

On the occasion of the [first-ever World NTD Day](#), Thomas Cueni, Director General of **IFPMA** (a WIPO Re:Search Supporter Member), [writes in Life Science Leader](#) about the progress being made by WIPO Re:Search pharmaceutical company Members in the fight against neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis.

### Free Online Course on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

[Registration is open](#) for the “Role of Diagnostics in the AMR Response.” The online course, developed by the **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine** (a WIPO Re:Search Member), is free to anyone with an internet connection. The course features translations of key content into French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

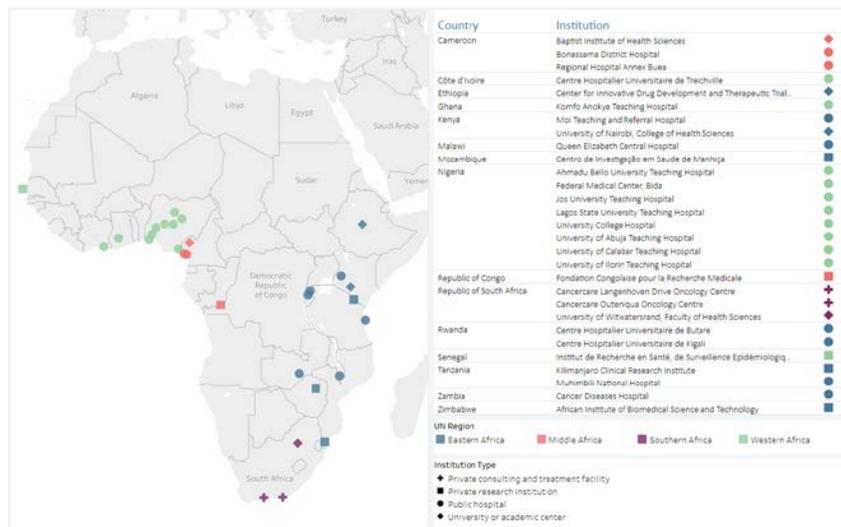
### Applications Due February 15 for Patents for Humanity Awards

The **United States Patent and Trademark Office** (USPTO; a WIPO Re:Search Supporter Member) is accepting applications for its [Patents for Humanity awards](#), a competition recognizing innovators who use game-changing technology to meet global humanitarian challenges. Winners receive an acceleration certificate to expedite select proceedings at the USPTO, as well as public recognition of their work.

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# Special Announcement

## BVGH Launches Online Platform Showcasing African Clinical Trial Capabilities



The African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC<sup>3</sup>T) is a multi-sector initiative, led by BVGH, to foster and implement cancer clinical trials led by investigators in Africa. AC<sup>3</sup>T is building clinical trial capacity and addressing the cancer data gap in Africa, while increasing access to prioritized cancer diagnostics, medicines, and quality treatment for African cancer patients. AC<sup>3</sup>T's online platform profiling African clinical trial sites has launched and features 29 sites from 15 countries. Visit the [AC<sup>3</sup>T website](#) to explore the platform, see locations of participating sites, and understand sites' capabilities to conduct cancer clinical trials.

WIPO Re:Search Members are among the inaugural group of AC<sup>3</sup>T participants, including the **African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AiBST)**, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (affiliated with Member **Ahmadu Bello University**), the Center for Innovative Drug Development and Therapeutics Trials for Africa (affiliated with Member **Addis Ababa University**), the **Congolese Foundation for Medical Research (FCRM)**, Regional Hospital Annex Buea (affiliated with Member **University of Buea**), and University College Hospital (affiliated with Member **University of Ibadan**). Institutions featured on the platform will benefit by increasing their visibility and showcasing their clinical research capabilities to BVGH's international network of industry, academic, philanthropic, and non-profit collaborators.

To learn more about AC<sup>3</sup>T and how to participate, please email Daniel Seymour ([dseymour@bvgh.org](mailto:dseymour@bvgh.org)).

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# Special Announcement

## Launch of the NUC Diaspora Program

The [Nigeria National Universities Commission \(NUC\)](#) is excited to launch the "NUC Diaspora Program" in the area of Biomedical Sciences. The NUC Diaspora Program focuses on fostering collaborations between Nigeria Academics and Nigerians/Non-Nigerians in the Diaspora who are interested in elevating biomedical research in the Nigerian University System (NUS) through collaborative research, training, exchange programs, short courses, sabbaticals, adopt-a-lab program, etc. Register your interest by completing the [Diaspora Scholars Survey](#).

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# BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

## ReGRoW: Repurposing Grants for the Rest of the World



The [ReGRoW pilot](#) will provide up to three grants — between US\$25,000 and US\$50,000 each — for scientists and clinicians in low and lower-middle income countries (LMICs) who are investigating how currently approved therapies can be repurposed for the treatment of unsolved diseases in their own communities. The proposal deadline is March 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. U.S. Central Time.

### Additional Funding Opportunities

- [EDCTP Senior Fellowships Plus 2019](#) – Deadline: February 18, 2020
- [ASTMH Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowship in Tropical Medicine](#) – Deadline: February 19, 2020
- [EDCTP Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships \(CRDF\) – Joint call with WHO/TDR 2019](#) – Deadline: February 28, 2020
- [GHIT Fund Hit-to-Lead Platform RFP](#) – Intent to Apply Deadline: February 28, 2020 at 10 a.m. Japan Standard Time
- [Leprosy Research Initiative](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: February 28, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Amsterdam Time
- [Wellcome Trust Snakebite Grants: Discovering and Developing New Treatments](#) – Expression of Interest Deadline: March 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. GMT
- [TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences \(Groups\)](#) – Deadline: March 31, 2020

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



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## Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name	Location
Feb. 20-23, 2020	<a href="#">19th International Congress on Infectious Diseases</a>	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Feb. 23-27, 2020	<a href="#">Molecular Approaches to Malaria (MAM) 2020</a>	Lorne, Victoria, Australia
Apr. 18-21, 2020	<a href="#">30th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology &amp; Infectious Diseases</a>	Paris, France
Apr. 27-28, 2020	<a href="#">World Health Summit Regional Meeting</a>	Kampala, Uganda

June 1-12, 2020

6<sup>th</sup> McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and  
Global Health (Now accepting applications)

Montreal, QC, Canada



Johnson & Johnson

Merck KGaA\*  
Darmstadt, Germany



\*Known as EMD in the USA and Canada | \*\*MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc.,  
Kenilworth, NJ, USA.



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**Mailing Address:**

2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121