

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



June 2020

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

I am pleased to announce that WIPO Re:Search Member **DNDi** was [awarded](#) the Grand Prix at the inaugural WHO Health for All Film Festival in May. The short film, [A Doctor's Dream: A Pill for Sleeping Sickness](#), tells the story of Dr. Victor Kande, a Congolese researcher who led a team to develop [fexinidazole](#), a revolutionary all-oral treatment for human African trypanosomiasis (HAT). I invite you to watch this moving and inspirational film.

The battle against HAT continues today, with [WIPO Re:Search Members](#) and others working to develop even better treatment options that are effective, safe, affordable, and easy to use. For example, Prof. Fabrice Boyom at the **University of Yaoundé I** is screening metabolic pathway inhibitors generously provided by **Eisai Co., Ltd.** through a [BVGH-coordinated WIPO Re:Search collaboration](#), with the promise of finding new drugs to reduce the burden of HAT in endemic countries and save lives.

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

### Fiocruz and Seattle Children's Research Institute Collaborate on Chagas Disease Drug Discovery



Dr. Stenio Fragoso, Head of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of Trypanosomatids at **Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)**, is interested in testing inhibitors against recombinant *T. cruzi* Topoisomerase II. To initiate these studies, Dr. Fragoso and investigators from **Seattle Children's Research Institute** and the NIAID-funded **Seattle Structural Genomics Center for Infectious Disease** (SSGCID; contract HHSN272201700059C) are collaborating to develop constructs to express and purify *T. cruzi* Topoisomerase II. Once the protein is purified, it will be incorporated into an in vitro assay to identify new drugs for Chagas disease.

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## IP in Focus

### WIPO Launches WIPO PROOF to Help Creators and Innovators Protect Assets

WIPO has [launched](#) a new online service, [WIPO PROOF](#), that helps creators and innovators safeguard their valuable intellectual assets by creating tamper-proof evidence of the existence of a digital file at a specific point in time. WIPO PROOF serves as a sort of “digital notary” for the digitized world. [Watch](#) Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General, introduce WIPO PROOF.

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## BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

### EDCTP 2020 Open Calls for Proposals

European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) awards funding to collaborative clinical research projects conducted in sub-Saharan Africa on poverty-related infectious diseases. The EDCTP2 programme is supported under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research & Innovation. Click [here](#) to review open calls. Deadlines: July-August, 2020.

### Additional Funding Opportunities

- [NIH Technology Accelerator Challenge: Non-invasive Diagnostics for Global Health](#) – Deadline: June 16, 2020
- [Grand Challenges Africa Round 11 Transition to Scale Innovation Call 2](#) – Deadline: June 30, 2020
- [EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme Implementation Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty](#) – Deadline: June 30, 2020
- [PAHO/TDR Operational Research to Support the Elimination of Communicable Diseases in the Latin American and Caribbean Region](#) – Deadline: July 31, 2020

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



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## Member News

### Novartis, Fiocruz, and LNBio Collaborate on Chronic Chagas Cardiomyopathy

As a founding WIPO Re:Search Member, **Novartis** is committed to being a part of the global solution to combat neglected tropical diseases, including Chagas disease. Chagas disease affects approximately six million people, mainly in Latin America. Less than 1% of affected individuals receive proper antiparasitic treatment. As a member of the **Global Chagas Disease Coalition**, an alliance to increase awareness and promote access to diagnosis and treatment, Novartis, in collaboration with the **World Heart Federation**, recently developed an [end-to-end roadmap to address Chagas disease](#) through a holistic care model. With that mission, Novartis recently started the first clinical study in people with chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy – which causes the majority of deaths and disability from the disease. Additionally, Novartis is partnering locally through healthcare system strengthening initiatives across Latin America, and collaborating with investigators at **Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)** and **Laboratório Nacional de Biotecnologia (LNBio)** – the latter [facilitated by BVGH through WIPO Re:Search](#) – to diversify and expand the product development pipeline for this neglected disease.

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## Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

Dates	Event Name
June 15-16	<a href="#">Vaccinology in the Age of Pandemics: Strategies Against COVID-19 &amp; Other Global Threats</a>
June 16	<a href="#">GARDP: Bringing new treatments for drug-resistant infections to all who need them</a>
June 24	<a href="#">Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare Facilities: Accelerating Action to Meet Urgent Need</a>
June 25	<a href="#">GARDP: Putting children first in the fight against antibiotic resistance</a>



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