Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

I am excited to share that a new United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution recognizes the role of WIPO Re:Search, and innovation more broadly, in the continuing fight against malaria. UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims to end the epidemics of malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. As we sit on the cusp of WIPO Re:Search’s 10-year anniversary in 2021, the UNGA resolution is important validation of the work of the Consortium and our Members to support this goal.

Last month also marked the conclusion of Francis Gurry’s 12-year term as WIPO Director General. His enthusiastic and committed support has been critical for the establishment, expansion, and success of WIPO Re:Search. I invite you to read his final interview in WIPO Magazine, in which he discusses openness and collaboration – both key to the success of WIPO Re:Search – as the two most important lessons he learned as Director General. All of us at BVGH look forward to working with new WIPO Director General Daren Tang as we move into 2021 and beyond.

And finally, I congratulate Benjamin Bande, a WIPO Re:Search Fellow and toxinologist from Papua New Guinea, who was recently named as a Country Ambassador for the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH). You can read about his snakebite research as a WIPO Re:Search Fellow at the University of Melbourne. I wish Benjamin great success in his new role.

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
Cornerstones of Collaboration

**A New Therapy for an Ancient Disease**

Leprosy, or Hansen’s disease, is a chronic infectious disease – known to humans since ancient times – that is caused by the same family of bacteria responsible for tuberculosis. Over 200,000 people – including thousands of children – are diagnosed with leprosy each year. If untreated, leprosy can cause permanent damage to skin, nerves, limbs, and eyes, resulting in disability, stigma, and discrimination. The disease is curable if treated early with a three-drug regimen known as multidrug therapy (MDT). However, shorter treatment regimens, particularly for a form of the disease known as multibacillary leprosy, are needed, and patients who cannot tolerate MDT require safe and effective alternatives.

Dr. Tianyu Zhang at Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health (GIBH) in China has developed a new antibiotic (TB47) to treat leprosy. He is partnering with Dr. Flavio Lara at Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) in Brazil through a BVGH-coordinated WIPO Re:Search collaboration to generate preclinical data necessary to advance TB47 into clinical trials. Dr. Lara will assess the efficacy of TB47 against bacterial strains from patients in Brazil, which has one of the highest rates of leprosy in the world and thus, a strong need for better treatments.
IP in Focus

WIPO Releases Vienna Classification Assistant

WIPO has launched a free-of-charge artificial intelligence (AI)-based tool to help users more easily classify trademark images according to the Vienna Classification. By just dropping an image into the Vienna Classification Assistant, the user will be walked through the different selection steps. First, the 29 main categories will be displayed with the relevant ones highlighted together with a relevance rating (******). Next, the user can pick the suggested choice or other options. When an auxiliary section is selected, the tool will notify the user that at least one principal section has to be selected. The image is then classified according to the Vienna Classification.

BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

NAM-HKU Fellowship in Global Health Leadership

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine (NAM) have established the NAM-HKU Fellowship in Global Health Leadership, which provides a two-year training for early- to mid-career scholars to learn and work at HKU School of Public Health and NAM in areas under the umbrella of global health leadership. The application deadline is November 30, 2020 (Hong Kong time). For more information, click here.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- Dioraphte Foundation Call for Research Proposals on Skin-Related Neglected Tropical Diseases – Deadline: December 1, 2020.

For more information about BVGH FundFinder, please email Cathy Manner.
Member News

University of Washington Professor Receives NIAID Emerging Infectious Diseases Grant

Congratulations to Prof. Wes Van Voorhis of the University of Washington on receiving a major National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) award entitled “United World Antiviral Research Network,” as one of the Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID)! In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NIAID, according to Director Anthony Fauci, is establishing the CREID network to enable the detection of early warnings of emerging diseases, allowing for more rapid responses. As one of eleven grantees, Prof. Van Voorhis has established international partnerships with Brazil, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, and Taiwan, to be part of a network of multidisciplinary researchers in 30 countries investigating how and where viruses and other pathogens emerge from wildlife and spillover to cause disease in people.

Upcoming Virtual Global Health Events

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 25-27, 2020</td>
<td>World Health Summit</td>
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<td>October 26-29, 2020</td>
<td>European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>November 15-19, 2020</td>
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<td>December 2-4, 2020</td>
<td>Tuberculosis: Science Aimed at Ending the Epidemic</td>
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*The healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany  
**MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA