

# BVGH Partnership Hub Snapshot



March 2022

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

This month we celebrate International Women's Day (March 8), which brings critical attention to the achievements of women and the importance of advancing gender equality. We are proud to work with and support the research of many outstanding female scientists across the globe, three of whom are profiled in this issue. One of these scientists, Dr. Chinenye Ugwah-Ogueji for at **Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto** in Nigeria, recently initiated an antimalarial drug discovery collaboration with Dr. Isaac Attah at **University of Cape Coast** in Ghana. I invite you to read about this exciting Global South-South partnership below.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of [Dr. Mwelecele Ntuli Malecela](#), Director of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases. Dr. Malecela was one of the most well-known and respected female scientists and public health leaders in Africa. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

WHO has [launched](#) a new guideline that provides evidence-based recommendations to countries in their efforts to achieve control and elimination of schistosomiasis as a public health problem, and to move towards interruption of transmission. Multiple WIPO Re:Search collaborations focus on improving schistosomiasis [diagnosis](#) and treatment, including [small molecule](#) and [natural product](#) drug discovery.

As always, please share this Snapshot with your colleagues.

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

### African Researchers Partner on Antimalarial Drug Discovery



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**  
CAPE VARS • UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE



Approximately 95% of global malaria cases and 96% of global malaria deaths occur in the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region. Emerging resistance to current antimalarial drugs underscores the need for new treatments. For millennia, people living in malaria-endemic regions have turned to the African continent's biodiversity to treat the disease and manage symptoms. African researchers are increasingly drawing upon this traditional knowledge to validate ethnobotanical claims and identify novel antimalarial agents. In pursuit of this goal, Dr. Chinenye Ugwah-Oguejiofor at **Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto** (Nigeria) will send natural product extracts and fractions to Dr. Isaac Attah at **University of Cape Coast** (Ghana) to screen for antimalarial activity.

### Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany\* Shares Open Global Health Library to Catalyze Antimalarial Drug Discovery



Malaria affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide. As development of resistance to existing drugs is one of the greatest threats to malaria control, it is imperative that new therapeutics with novel mechanisms of action be developed. As part of its commitment to Open Innovation, **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany** will share the [Open Global Health Library](#) with Dr. Paul Gilson at the **Burnet Institute** (Australia). Dr. Gilson will screen the library to identify novel compounds that block malaria parasites from invading human red blood cells.

\*The business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Electronics in the US and Canada.

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## Member Spotlight

### Celebrating Women in Science

In honor of International Women's Day, we are highlighting three of the many talented and driven female scientists we work with.



#### Dr. Chiaka Anumudu

BVGH is thrilled to have partnered with Dr. Chiaka Anumudu of **University of Ibadan** since 2018. Dr. Anumudu is an accomplished Nigerian researcher and educator. Her work currently focuses on the development of a [rapid diagnostic test](#) (RDT) for schistosomiasis using *Schistosoma* antigens present in urine. Dr. Anumudu enjoys reading, watching films, and cooking.



#### Dr. Chinenye Ugwah-Oguejiofor

Dr. Chinenye Ugwah-Oguejiofor is a natural product pharmacology and toxicology researcher at **Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto**, Nigeria. Her work focuses on the validation of ethnobotanical claims for traditional Nigerian plants, especially those used as fertility, antimalarial, and antivenom agents. (Her new antimalarial drug discovery collaboration with Dr. Isaac Attah at **University of Cape Coast**, Ghana, is spotlighted in this issue of the Snapshot.) Her hobbies include watching television and playing volleyball.



Dr. Noviyanti, top row middle, and her team.

#### Dr. Rintis Noviyanti

Dr. Rintis Noviyanti, a [WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program alumna](#), is a Principal Investigator at the **Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology** (now **Eijkman Centre for Molecular Biology/National Research and Innovation Agency**), Indonesia. Collaborating with scientists internationally, she has published over 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals. She is a recipient of many international awards and grants, including from the Australia Development Scheme, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia, ACIAR, SPIN-KNAW, FIND, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her research is focused on genomic and immunological aspects of malaria parasites. She enjoys reading scientific articles, listening to and playing easy music on the piano, and gardening.

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## Special Announcements

### WHO Webinar: One Health: Approach for Action Against Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030

Join this webinar on March 16, 2022, to learn more about One Health approaches to sustainably prevent neglected tropical diseases. Learn more and register [here](#).

## Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute 2022 World Malaria Day Symposium

The Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute 2022 World Malaria Day symposium “Malaria in Africa: Translating Science into Practice” will be on April 25, 2022. Abstracts are due March 28, 2022; learn more and register [here](#).

## CDC Center for Global Health 2022 Annual Report

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Center for Global Health 2022 Annual Report](#) is now available.

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## BVGH FundFinder Featured Awards

### ASTMH Alan J. Magill Fellowship

The Alan J. Magill Fellowship was created by the ASTMH Board of Directors in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to honor the life, example, and legacy of Alan J. Magill, MD, FASTMH, a widely recognized and respected leader in the global tropical medicine community. The Magill Fellowship will provide funding of \$50,000 USD for a period of up to two years to one recipient to support mentorship, career and/or leadership development projects for ASTMH members in the early-to-middle stage of mid-career in low/low-middle income countries focusing on leadership development in tropical medicine. Magill Fellows will work closely with a mentor (ideally an ASTMH member) who will play a prominent role in the development and execution of the Fellow’s two-year plan of activities. Applications are due March 16, 2022; learn more [here](#).

### Additional Funding Opportunities

- [NIH Stimulating Access to Research in Residency](#) – Next Application Deadline: March 15, 2022.
- [ASTMH Donald Krogstad Award for Early-Career Malian Scientists](#) – Application Deadline: March 17, 2022.
- [NIH Biological and Emerging Infections Research Resources Program \(BEI-RRP\)](#) – Application Deadline: March 18, 2022.
- [NIAID Emerging Leaders in Data Sciences Fellowship Program](#) – Application Deadline: March 25, 2022.
- [L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Program](#) – Application Deadline: March 25, 2022.
- [ASTMH Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowship in Tropical Medicine](#) – Application Deadline: March 27, 2022.
- [TWAS Awards](#) for individual scientists from developing countries in recognition of an outstanding contribution to scientific knowledge – Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2022 (self-nominations will not be considered).
- [NIAID Research Education Program Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce](#) – Next Letter of Intent Deadline: April 25, 2022; Next Application Deadline: May 25, 2022.
- [RSTMH 2022 Early Career Grants Programme](#) – Application Deadline: April 29, 2022.
- [NIH Biomarker Signatures of TB Infection in Young Children With and Without HIV](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: May 9, 2022; Application Deadline: June 8, 2022.
- [RGHI Annual Fellowship Program](#) – Application Deadline: June 6, 2022.
- [NIH Improved Drug Susceptibility Testing for Tuberculosis](#) – Letter of Intent Deadline: June 8, 2022; Application Deadline: July 8, 2022.
- [NIAID Career Transition Award](#) – Next Application Deadline: June 12, 2022.
- [NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program](#) – Application Deadline: June 24, 2022.
- [NIH Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program](#) – Next Letter of Intent Deadline: July 4, 2022; Next Application Deadline: August 3, 2022
- [DAAD Scholarship Database](#) – Postgraduate scholarships for academic studies in Germany. Look [here](#) for important information for applicants.
- [Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds \(BIF\) Travel Grants](#) – Applications must be submitted at least six weeks, but not more than six months, before anticipated travel.
- [AfOx Travel and Starter Grants](#) for collaborations between researchers at African institutions and the University of Oxford – Applications are open year-round.

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



## Upcoming Global Health Events

Dates	Event	Location
March 21-25, 2022	<a href="#">British Society for Parasitology Spring Meeting 2022</a>	York, UK
April 25, 2022	<a href="#">Johns Hopkins World Malaria Day Symposium</a>	Virtual
June 15-17, 2022	<a href="#">World Health Summit Regional Meeting</a>	Rome, Italy and Virtual
June 17, 2022	<a href="#">RSTMH 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Topics in Infection</a>	London, UK and Virtual
Week of June 20, 2022	<a href="#">Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting</a>	Kigali, Rwanda
August 1-6, 2022	<a href="#">WorldLeish 7</a>	Cartagena, Colombia
August 7-10, 2022	<a href="#">11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases 2022</a>	Atlanta, Georgia, USA



\*The business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Electronics in the US and Canada.

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



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