



# Partnership Hub

## SNAPSHOT

February 2014

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### A Note from Jennifer

#### Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

The 2014 Winter Olympics are upon us and like the Games, which bring together the best and brightest athletes in the world, WIPO Re:Search convenes many of the globe's most innovative and talented NTD, malaria, and tuberculosis researchers. Like the billions of Olympic spectators, WIPO and BVGH are cheering on our WIPO Re:Search Members.

Last month, two new WIPO Re:Search agreements were finalized. This brings the number of agreements to 46.

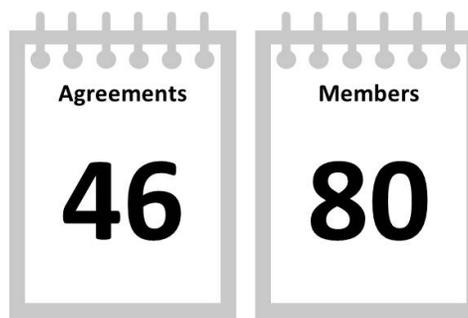
WIPO has completed and uploaded video interviews of two WIPO Re:Search Member researchers who participated in sabbatical opportunities at Novartis. These videos may be viewed on the WIPO Re:Search website and on YouTube.

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

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Dent  
President, BVGH



## WIPO Re:Search Statistics



## Cornerstones of Collaboration



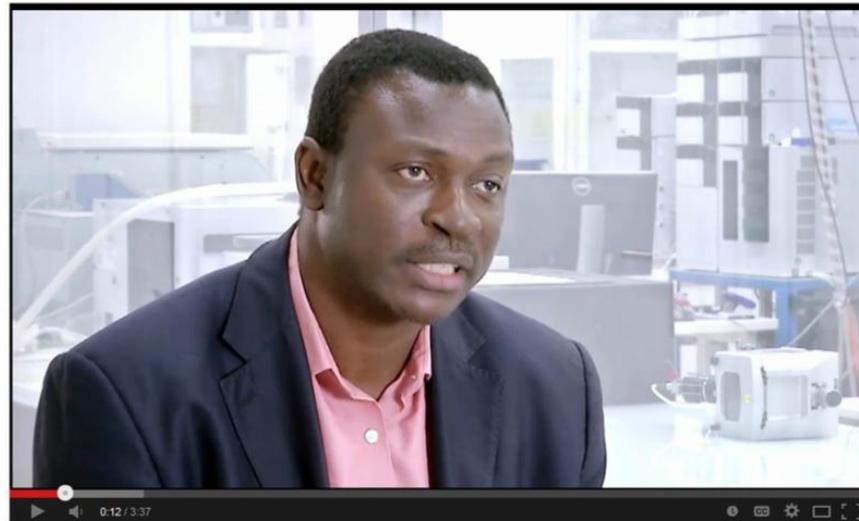
Last month, the **Eskitis Institute, Griffith University**, in Australia, agreed to provide **Swiss TPH Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute** (Swiss TPH) with a selection of natural products to screen against soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomes.



Four researchers from WIPO Re:Search Member institutions participated in sabbatical opportunities at three WIPO Re:Search Members' locations last year. With financial support from the Japanese government, WIPO created video interviews of the researchers. The videos of Wellington Oyibo, Associate Professor, College of Medicine, **University of Lagos**, and Fidelis Chongwa, Associate Professor of Biochemistry, **University of Buea**, are available on the WIPO Re:Search [website](#) and on YouTube. Both Wellington and Fidelis participated in three-month sabbaticals at **Novartis'** site in Basel, Switzerland.



Dr. Oyibo, Malaria Researcher from Nigeria



Dr. Cho-Ngwa, River Blindness Researcher from Cameroon

## Member Announcement

This month, we regrettably inform you that **AstraZeneca** (AZ) will no longer be a Member of WIPO Re:Search.

## Partnership Hub Central

While in Geneva last week, Jennifer Dent met with several Members and updated them on the status of WIPO Re:Search partnerships. Eduardo Pisani, Director General, and Andrew Jenner, Executive Director, Corporate Strategy and Legal Affairs, **International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations** (IFPMA), discussed the important impact that WIPO Re:Search is having on the advancement of R&D for neglected diseases. The IFPMA recently published a report, ***Pharmaceutical R&D Projects to Develop New Cures for Patients with Neglected Conditions***, that describes IFPMA member participation in neglected disease R&D. WIPO Re:Search is highlighted on page 9 of the January 2014 report - "WIPO Re:Search: a collaborative platform to boost R&D". The report also lists several of the partnerships established through WIPO Re:Search.

**WIPO** Director General, Francis Gurry, met with Lila Feisee, Vice President, International Affairs, **Biotechnology Industry Organization** (BIO), and representatives from Abbvie, Johnson & Johnson, and Roche, to speak about his upcoming plenary session at the 2014 BIO International Convention in San Diego. During these discussions, Francis encouraged the companies to join WIPO Re:Search.

Tom Bombelles, Head, Global Health, WIPO, attended the *WIPO Conference on Open Innovation: Collaborative Projects and the Future of Knowledge* in Geneva, last month. Tom represented WIPO Re:Search on a panel session that included individuals from the Wellcome Trust, the **World Health Organization** (WHO), the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (MIT), and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Additional conference attendees included numerous representatives from national governments.

Roopa Ramamoorthi and Katy Graef attended the *Anthelmintics: From Discovery to Resistance* meeting in San Francisco last week. The event provided the opportunity to interact with several Members, including Jennifer Keiser, Assistant Professor and Head of Helminth Drug Development Unit, Swiss TPH, John Rogers, Program Officer, Preclinical Parasite Drug Development, **US National Institutes of Health** (NIH), and Ronald Kaminsky, Head of Parasitology, Animal Health, Novartis, as well as engage potential new Members. During the conference, Roopa presented WIPO Re:Search and the agreements and collaborations involving helminth infections that BVGH has facilitated.



Roopa presents WIPO Re:Search during the Anthelmintics meeting

## Highlighted Contributions

Featured this month are two contributions submitted by the **University of Ibadan** to the [WIPO Re:Search Database](#).

### **Malaria and soil-transmitted helminth infection diagnostic evaluation services [\(ID: 2762\)](#)**



The University's Parasitology Unit has strong capacity for malaria and soil-transmitted helminthiasis diagnostics evaluations, including hospital- and community-based evaluations. The unit is currently being equipped with facilities for molecular diagnosis of parasitic infection. Dr. Dada-Adegbola has had training both in immunology of parasitic infections and molecular diagnosis of parasitic infections, with an emphasis on malaria parasites and intestinal helminths. Some staff members have been trained to perform molecular diagnoses, and this knowledge is transferred, through training, to other staff.

### **Tuberculosis R&D services [\(ID: 2761\)](#)**

The University of Ibadan has capacity for tuberculosis diagnostic evaluation, case management, and disease control. The University is involved in tuberculosis research and is currently building capacity to carry out clinical trials on tuberculosis diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines in accordance with international standards. The University is willing to partner with other organizations to strengthen tuberculosis R&D in order to reduce disease burden in its community.

For more information or to discuss potential collaborations regarding this technology, please contact [Roopa Ramamoorthi](#).

## **WIPO Re:Search in the News**

WIPO published an article that not only highlights WIPO Re:Search and its successes to date, but also describes the human side of the diseases that the Consortium's Members seek to combat. Click [here](#) to read the article.

*Intellectual Property Watch* published an [article](#), "At WIPO, Global Experts Share Experiences On Open Collaboration," describing the proceedings of the *WIPO Conference on Open Innovation*, which took place last month in Geneva. The article also discusses the connection between open innovation and intellectual property, and the role each play in confronting worldwide challenges, such as global health.

## **Upcoming Global Health Events**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Web Link</b>
Feb. 17-20	4th Zing Drug Discovery Conference	Malaga, Spain	<a href="#">Website</a>
Mar. 5-7	6th ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	<a href="#">Website</a>

***Are you attending a global health event?  
Do you have a Research Request to highlight in the Snapshot?***

***We want to hear from you! Please send feedback and suggestions via [email](#).***

## WIPO Re:Search Pharmaceutical Members



\*known as Merck in the US and Canada

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