

# Partnership Hub

## Snapshot

April 2017

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### Letter from Jennifer

Dear WIPO Re:Search Members and Friends,

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** will celebrate the publication of the *Fourth WHO Report on Neglected Tropical Diseases* this month at the WHO Global Partners Meeting on Neglected Tropical Diseases. It is encouraging to see the strides the world has made in the fight against NTDs. For instance the number of new human African trypanosomiasis cases has decreased 89% since 2000. Only 25 cases of dracunculiasis were detected last year, and yaws has been eliminated in India. Many of our WIPO Re:Search Members have been critical contributors to this important progress.

Still there is a great deal of work that must be done. The suffering of nearly two billion individuals across the world who are infected with a soil-transmitted helminth must be alleviated. The lost productivity resulting from 390 million dengue fever cases occurring each year must be prevented. WIPO Re:Search is a key component of the global movement to make important new product discoveries that will save lives and eliminate the devastation caused by neglected infectious diseases.

Katy Graef will be attending the [NTD Summit 2017](#) hosted by Uniting to Combat NTDs. If you will be attending and would like to meet, please reach out to [Katy](#).

Congratulations to WIPO Re:Search Members, **Merck KGaA, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), Novartis**, and the **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)**, for receiving awards for their communications efforts at this year's International Society for NTDs (ISNTD) [Festival](#).

I am pleased to welcome our newest Members, the **Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé**; **Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research**; and the **Structural Genomics Consortium**.

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



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## Special Announcement

**Save the Date:** WIPO will be hosting the WIPO Re:Search Biennial Member Meeting at its headquarters on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. The WIPO Re:Search Five-Year Strategic Plan will be officially launched during the meeting.

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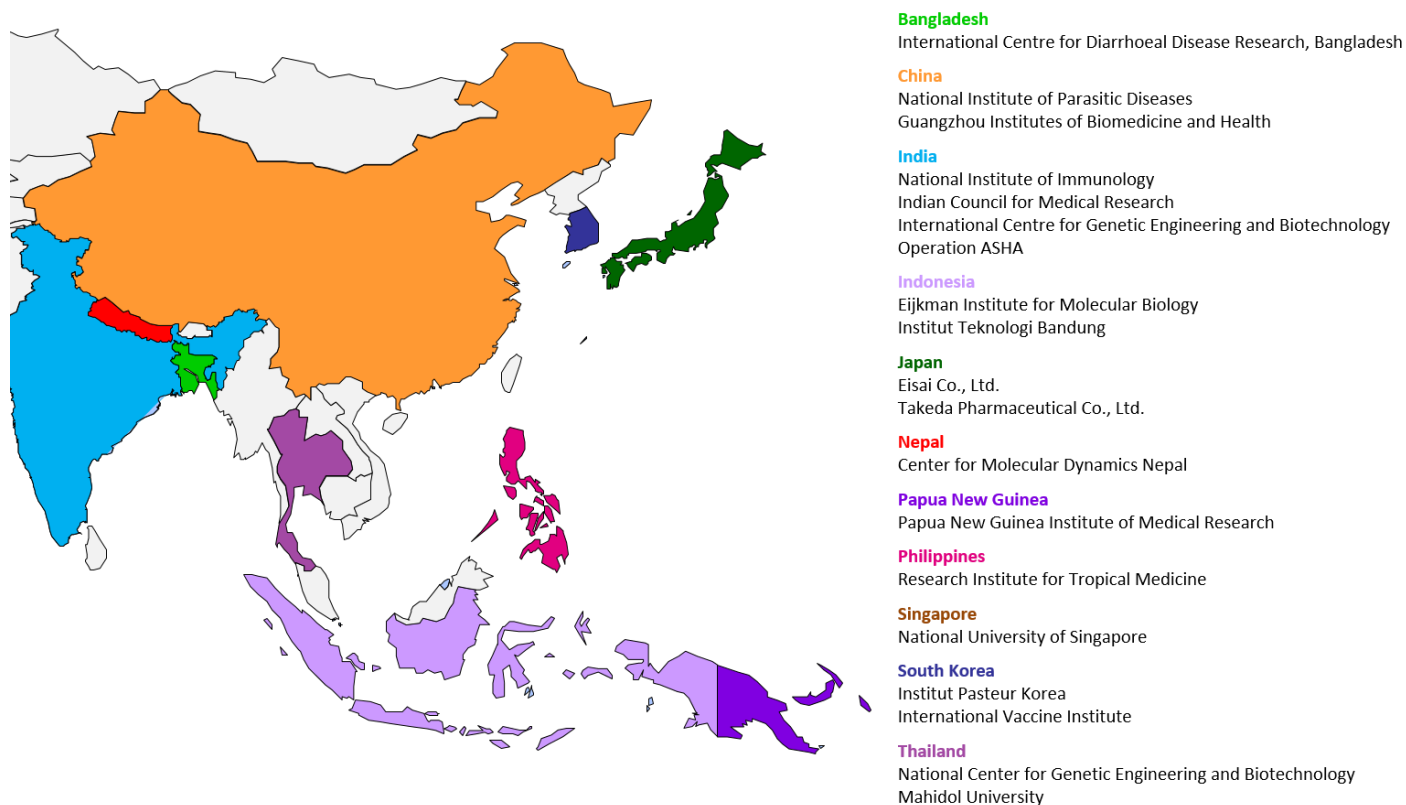
## WIPO Re:Search Statistics



To view a current summary of the WIPO Re:Search agreements by disease and stage of development, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view a complete list of WIPO Re:Search Members.

### WIPO Re:Search Members in Asia



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## Cornerstones of Collaboration

**Janssen Research & Development** will provide Professor Andrew Fraser, **University of Toronto** with its Jump-stARter library, a set of 80,000 chemically diverse, high-quality compounds that have been carefully selected to represent chemical diversity. Professor Fraser's lab will screen the library against *C. elegans* to identify inhibitors of a unique metabolic pathway found in parasitic worms.



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## New Member Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the **Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé**; **Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research**; and the **Structural Genomics Consortium** have joined WIPO Re:Search.

The **Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé** (IRSS) is one of four institutes of the National Center for Scientific and



Technological Research (CNRST) in Burkina Faso. Researchers at IRSS are developing malaria transmission-blocking vaccines, conducting studies on *Plasmodium*-host interactions, and studying how these interactions affect vaccine efficacy. Additional studies of medicinal plants are also ongoing.

The **Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research** (PNGIMR) was established in 1968. While headquartered in Goroka, PNGIMR has five branches spread across Papua New Guinea and two additional study sites. The institute's programs focus on health problems of most importance to the country including malaria, filariasis, and dengue. Specific research interests of PNGIMR include the immune response to malaria during infancy, childhood, and pregnancy; identification of novel *Plasmodium* vaccine antigens; and entomology.



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
INSTITUTE OF  
MEDICAL RESEARCH**

The **Structural Genomics Consortium** (SGC) is a public-private partnership that catalyzes research in human biology and drug discovery by focusing on less well-characterized areas of the human genome. Through its open access policy, the SGC provides its research outputs to the global scientific community. Within its Structural Parasitology division, scientists express, purify, crystalize, and perform chemical screens against parasite proteins. Parasitic diseases of interest include malaria, leishmaniasis, and human African trypanosomiasis.



## Partnership Hub Central



“Merck joined WIPO Re:Search because it is one of the most realistic, tangible, and practical projects on the global health scene.” – **Dr. Stefan Oschmann, Merck KGaA**

Be sure to watch WIPO’s new [WIPO Re:Search video](#) featuring interviews with Dr. Peter Hotez, WIPO Re:Search Advisory Committee Chair, and President, **Sabin Vaccine Institute**; Dr. Sanaa Botros, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, **Theodor Bilharz Research Institute**; Dr. Olaoluwa Pheabian Akinwale, Director of Research (Neglected Tropical Diseases), **Nigerian Institute of Medical Research**; and Dr. Stefan Oschmann, CEO, **Merck KGaA**. Learn how WIPO Re:Search is having a direct impact on the research organizations participating in this global initiative.

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## BVGH FundFinder Featured Funding Announcement

### Long-Term Fellowships

The EMBO Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to two years and support post-doctoral research visits to laboratories throughout Europe and the world. International exchange is a key feature in the application process. All fellowships must involve movement between countries.

**Funding amount:** Funding includes a stipend to cover the cost of living in the host country, travel allowance, and other support. Fellowships are awarded for a period of 12-24 months.

**Funder:** EMBO

**Deadline:** No deadlines but there are two annual evaluation dates in February and August

**Eligibility:** Applicants must hold a doctoral degree. Proposed host institute or applicant’s nationality must be from one of the [EMBC Member States](#).

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



## Member Spotlight

The Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) is seeking proposals from those seeking to serve as the host organization for the AUTM Asia 2018 conference. Click [here](#) to learn more about AUTM's request for proposals from host organizations.



Reflecting the current status of the antimalarial pipeline, the changing landscape of malaria – including the emergence of multi-drug resistant malaria in the Greater Mekong sub-region, and the challenges of malaria eradication, Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) has published updated antimalarial target candidate profiles (TCPs) and target product profiles (TPPs). The updated TPPs include profiles for the treatment of children or adults and chemoprotection. The TCPs profile molecules to clear asexual parasitemia, with activity against hypnozoites, for chemoprotection, and those with transmission-blocking activities. Click [here](#) to read the review.

The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), PATH, and the TB Alliance are hosting a World Health Assembly side event entitled, “Investing in R&D from AMR to Zika: Laying the foundation for sustainable development.” To register for the event, which will take place on Wednesday, May 24th in Geneva, click [here](#).

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## Highlighted Contributions

Dr. Doudou Sow, Assistant Professor, Department of Parasitology-Mycology, **Cheikh Anta Diop University**, curates a schistosomiasis sample bank composed of urine samples collected from regions in Senegal with a high prevalence of urinary schistosomiasis. Dr. Sow is willing to explore opportunities to share these samples. Furthermore, Dr. Sow's laboratory has the capacity to collect additional field samples – including both urine and stool samples from adults and children – upon request by collaborators.



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

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## Upcoming Global Health Meetings

Dates	Event Title	Location	Web Link
April 19-22	Neglected Tropical Diseases Summit	Geneva, Switzerland	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 25-30	Gordon Research Conference: New Approaches, New Chemical Entities and New Targets for Tuberculosis Drugs	Barga, Italy	<a href="#">Website</a>
Sept. 3-8	Molecular and Cellular Biology of Helminth Parasites	Hydra, Greece	<a href="#">Website</a>



\*Known as EMD in the US and Canada | \*\*Known as Merck in the US and Canada



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