COHRED Meeting on Fair Research Contracting

Balancing pressure to produce results with capacity building needs in LMICs

Jennifer Dent
BIO Ventures for Global Health
Product development versus capacity building?

**Prioritize Product R&D**
- Focus and fund product research and development including repurposing of drugs and improving formulations
- Use experienced researchers versus training new personnel

**Build R&D Capacity**
- Share IP, know-how and knowledge with LMICs
- Host and mentor developing country scientists
- Foster North-South & South-South collaborations

- Investing in both product development and capacity building initiatives is critical in LMICs
- Funders and partnering organizations must find the right balance while supporting both priorities
- WIPO Re:Search catalyzes partnerships that allow organizations to pursue both paths in parallel
BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH)

- BVGH works to create an enabling environment for the biopharmaceutical industry to engage in global health
- Connecting innovators with critical information and resources
- Facilitating collaboration and neglected tropical disease product development through WIPO Re:Search
- Assessing state-of-the-art science and technology and its application to global health product development
What is WIPO Re:Search?

- Led by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in collaboration with BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) and its Members.
- The Consortium includes leading pharmaceutical companies, academic and nonprofit research institutions, governmental, and non-governmental organizations.
- More than 60 Members worldwide.
- A platform that facilitates neglected tropical disease collaboration around the sharing of intellectual property, know-how, expertise, capacity building and other related resources.
WIPO Re:Search provides a searchable, public database of intellectual property, know-how and other resources made available by Members, including:

- Compounds
- Compound libraries
- Technologies
- Know-how and expertise
- Hosting and mentoring scientists at various research and development sites
Select Member Contributions

- **AstraZeneca (AZ)**
  - Host and mentor researchers working on NTD targets at AZ facilities
  - Screening of targets against AZ compound libraries

- **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)**
  - Contributed full antimalarial dataset (13,500 compounds)
  - Tres Cantos Open Lab Program – hosting scientists working on NTD projects

- **UCSF**
  - Hosting LMIC scientists to support capacity building and knowledge sharing
  - Accessing compounds and libraries for NTD screening

- **University of Kansas**
  - Hosting and training LMIC scientists in drug development processes and formulation development
  - Leveraging relationship with the Eisenhower Foundation to secure capacity building support
WIPO Re:Search is focused on 19 Neglected Tropical Diseases, Malaria and TB

- Buruli Ulcer
- Chagas disease
- Cysticercosis
- Dengue fever
- Dracunculiasis
- Echinococcosis
- Endemic treponematoses (Yaws)
- Foodborne trematode infections
- Human African Trypanosomiasis
- Leishmaniasis
- Leprosy
- Lymphatic filariasis
- Onchocerciasis
- Rabies
- Schistosomiasis
- Soil transmitted helminthiasis
- Trachoma
- Podoconiosis
- Snakebite
How does WIPO Re:Search work?

WIPO Re:Search is a voluntary Consortium governed by its Members and a set of Guiding Principles.

Members fall into three categories:
- Providers—contribute IP, know-how and capacity building support
- Users—access IP and resources
- Supporters—support mission

BVGH facilitates partnerships between members to drive R&D results and build capacity in LMICs.
How does BVGH meet Member needs?

- Partnership Hub activities include:
  - Fielding specific requests from Members regarding **access to IP, expertise or capacity building**
  - **Building knowledge** of Member contributions, research programs and experience needs
  - **Proactively identifying partnership opportunities** by matching contributions and resources with Member’s needs
  - **Facilitates collaboration** around product development and hosting of scientists between Members
  - **Organizing** meetings, teleconferences
  - Acting as a **conduit and resource** for collaborators
  - Continually presenting **new partnership ideas**
**Partnership Hub**
*Connecting the Spokes*

**PROVIDERS**
- Contribute IP & share expertise
- Collaborate
- Host & Mentor

**USERS**
- Search WIPO Re:Search database
- Identify & communicate resource needs
- Collaborate

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**Partnership Hub Administrator**
- Identify collaboration opportunities
- Connect Users & Providers
- Support Members

**WIPO Re:Search**
Collaborations: divide and conquer

- Facilitate LMIC’s access to expertise, tools, and capabilities
  - eg) iThemba and AstraZeneca collaboration

- BVGH connects Members with LMIC researchers and organizations
  - PATH and KCCR
  - UCSF and KCCR

- Expanding WIPO Re:Search membership in LMICs is a priority for WIPO and BVGH
  - Currently have 13 Members from LMICs enrolled
KCCR-Stanford Collaboration on Helminthes

**Background:**
- Researcher team at Stanford University are developing a diagnostic for soil-transmitted helminthes.
- Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research (KCCR) joined WIPO Re:Search in July 2012.
- BVGH facilitated conversations between KCCR and Stanford researchers.
- Stanford research team interested in obtaining stool samples from KCCR and Kwame Nkrumah University (Kumasi, Ghana) to support development of their point-of-care diagnostic.
- KCCR connected to PATH to explore capacity building arrangements.

**Status:**
- Agreement in place to share samples and jointly publish results of the collaboration
Merck-UCSF Collaboration on Schistosomiasis

- Background:
  - Dr. Conor Caffrey inquired about gaining access to HMGCoA reductase inhibitors (Statins) to screen against Schistosoma mansoni, the causative parasite of schistosomiasis.
  - BVGH connected Dr. Caffrey with Merck scientists to explore a possible collaboration.
  - Terms of collaboration agreement in which Merck will provide a library of compounds for repurposing as anti-parasitic agents agreed upon.

- Status:
  - Confidentiality disclosure agreement in place.
  - Research agreement and terms agreed upon – contract under development.
Funding – supporting R&D and capacity building

- Many researchers are open and willing to collaborate but lack the necessary grants to proceed
- Funders provide much needed support for both R&D collaborations and capacity building arrangements
- Access to information about funding is key
  - BVGH has developed a Funders Database to assist Members in easily locating grant opportunities relevant to NTD research
- WIPO engages with Supporter members to encourage capacity building funding support including:
  - Australian Government Funding to support capacity building
BVGH Funders Database

- **Goals of Database:**
  - Provide WIPO Re:Search members a valuable source of funding information
  - Web accessible, user-friendly, and global in scope
  - Support NTD product development and capacity building

- **Database Content:**
  - Currently have 53 opportunities in the database
  - Represents approximately 20 individual funding agencies
  - Each record contains several descriptive categories (see table)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Who is/are the sponsor(s)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Area(s)</td>
<td>Does the grant focus on a specific disease(s)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Focus</td>
<td>Is the grant restricted to certain types of products, e.g., vaccines, medical devices?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage of Research</td>
<td>What stage is the research, e.g., basic, clinical?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Information</td>
<td>How much funding is available? How long is the grant period?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Level</td>
<td>Categorized into one of ten funding levels to allow efficient identification of grant funding. All currencies are converted to EURO for direct comparison of maximum funding levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Details from sponsor website or program guide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible Entities</td>
<td>Highlights the types of entities, e.g., individual researchers, research institutions, small-to-medium entities (SMEs) eligible for funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Region(s)</td>
<td>Are there geographic restrictions to the funding?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Are collaborations required or encouraged?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time frame</td>
<td>When are applications due and/or reviewed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>Who should members contact for more information or with questions?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links</td>
<td>Web links to program details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachments</td>
<td>Relevant files, i.e., applicant guidelines, call for proposals, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funders provide much needed support for both research and development collaborations and capacity building arrangements.

Easy access to funding resources and eligibility criteria.

The Funders Database allows WIPO Re:Search members to identify funding opportunities and then leverage the Partnership Hub to facilitate collaborations that establish eligibility for funding:

- USCF researcher is interested in hosting LDC scientists to work on NTD projects together.
Thank you!