

# CLEAR VIEW



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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**August 1 - 7**  
**World Breastfeeding Week**

**August 10 - 12**  
InterAction Forum 2011  
*Washington, DC, USA*

**August 14 - 17**  
2011 National HIV  
Prevention Conference  
*Atlanta, GA, USA*

**August 29 - 30**  
South African Health  
Informatics Association  
(SAHIA)  
*Johannesburg, South Africa*

**September 8 - 9**  
Public Health  
International  
Conference 2011  
*London, UK*

**September 15 - 17**  
1st International  
Congress on Pathogens  
at the Human-Animal  
Interface  
*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

**September 19 - 20**  
United Nations High-  
level Meeting on Non-  
communicable Disease  
Prevention and Control  
*New York, NY, USA*

**September 29**  
**World Heart Day**

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATIONS



Small businesses are globally recognized as a very effective way of igniting the world's economy. Unfortunately, individuals owning small businesses usually are rich in ideas but may not necessarily have the funding to turn their ideas into a profit generating enterprise. Opportunities for raising funds for small businesses vary for seed funding to boot-strapping financing to venture capitalists and business loans.

In the United States, there are opportunities that are offered from state agencies such as the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) that are meant to stimulate technological innovation, strengthen the role and participation of small business in meeting the US government's research needs, increase private sector commercialization of innovations developed by small businesses. Programs such as those offered by TEDCO are helpful in fostering and encouraging participation by socially and economically disadvantaged small and women-owned businesses in the United States.

The process of applying for TEDCO funding is quite simple. Through one of their programs called the Joint Technology Transfer Initiative (JTTI), small businesses are paired with an interested US agency for the development of an innovative technology or product. TEDCO has contracts with the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) to facilitate transfer of technology.

Technology development projects are considered within the scope of the JTTI if the company can show how the proposed technology will meet the needs of DHS and/or USAMRMC and/or the commercialization of DHS or USAMRMC technologies. Funding for the JTTI is provided by United State Congress. JTTI awards of up to \$75,000 are made to for-profit small businesses in support of technology development projects that fall within the scope of the JTTI. Assistance in identifying whether or not a technology meets DHS or USAMRMC needs and in forming technology transfer collaborations is available. Applicants that do not have a collaborator and would like assistance in finding one may submit a white paper describing the technological opportunity. Proposals for JTTI funding may be submitted once the company has a collaborator for the potential JTTI project and a formal tech transfer document has been agreed to.



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## STAFF CORNER:



**Sylvie Kwedi Nolna,  
MPH, MSc  
Founder & President**

Recently the Deputy Director for Site Development and Epidemiology at Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation. She headed capacity building activities for the conduct of TB vaccine research in several African countries and Asia. Mrs. Nolna has also worked with the American Red Cross as a Project Manager for the development of blood derived therapeutics.



**Cherise Scott, Ph.D., MPH  
Founder & Director**

Dr. Scott has worked in vaccine development preparing clinical research sites to conduct clinical trials with Sabin Vaccine Institute and the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation. Dr. Scott has extensive experience in GXP's and vaccine development, as well as the implementation of quality management systems in organizations in various African countries, South America, Australia and Asia.

## GLOBAL HEALTH NEWS UPDATE



### **Are we close to having a Malaria free future?**

Over ten years ago, malaria was taking the lives of almost 3000 people daily, mostly African women and children, yet it was nowhere on the global health agenda. Many at risk of acquiring malaria did not have access to mosquito nets or effective malaria drugs. The main malaria drug, chloroquine had become ineffective against malaria's deadliest strain, and the will power to commit resources to develop new drugs, vaccines and other tools to control malaria was doubtful. An aggressive malaria eradication plan was undertaken through innovative public and private partnerships and drastic changes have been observed mainly in Africa, where insecticide-treated mosquito nets have been delivered to cover 76 percent of the people at risk. Also, 11 countries have reduced malaria cases and deaths by more than 50 percent. Even with these remarkable results, there are some weak cracks in the system that could obliterate years of work to fight malaria. There is growing drug and insecticide resistance, as well as, delays in or lack of access to malaria diagnostic and treatment facilities. Controlling the malaria pandemic, will require increased political and financial support and multi-faceted approaches by international and national entities, such as the Global Malaria Action Plan and the United Nations.

**Africa: *Can the Partograph Save More Mothers in Uganda?*** The partograph is a simple tool that can help reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in many limited-resource areas. This one-page form can be used to monitor the changes in the cervix dilation, the descent of the baby, including the vital signs of the mother and child and other complications such as obstetric fistula. In Uganda, EngenderHealth is training health care providers to effectively use this lifesaving tool. [http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com/guest\\_blog/revitalizing\\_the\\_partograph/](http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com/guest_blog/revitalizing_the_partograph/)

**Europe: *Rising Hospital Waiting Times in England*** The National Health Care Service reports that financial hardships can lead to a rise in hospital waiting times in England, which are currently at 18 weeks <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14034835>

**Americas: *The Greying Revolution in Latin America*** Life expectancy in Latin America has increased by 22 years over the last 50 years and its population is dominated by working-age adults with fewer children and now the continent faces a rapid aging population. Many low and middle-income countries cannot afford meeting the healthcare, pension and other needs for their elder population, especially given the tough economic situation, unlike high-income countries. [http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com/top\\_stories/latin\\_america](http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com/top_stories/latin_america)

**Asia-Pacific: *Lack of Access to Sanitation in Asia Causing Preventable Diseases*** Though Asia's economies have quickly rebounded from the 2008-2009 global recession, there remain many sanitation facilities in poor condition are allowing the emergence and propagation of preventable diseases especially among the poor. Babar Kibir, director of Bangladesh-based BRAC's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme, or WASH, said people exposed to poor sanitary conditions are more vulnerable to illnesses – including diarrhea, malnutrition, dysentery, typhoid, and hepatitis – which can prevent them from finding regular employment and cause them to spend a large proportion of their small incomes on health care. <http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2011/May/02/GH-050211-News-Roundups.aspx>

## HIGHLIGHT A PARTNER—CEDOREX

Cedorex is a Maryland-based biopharmaceutical development company committed to identifying and fulfilling unmet biomedical needs in the infectious disease arena. In addition, Cedorex is utilizing its expertise in biomanufacturing to develop technologies and products that will add value to therapeutics as they progress from discovery through clinical trials and into the market.

The team at Cedorex has developed Vonbio ([www.vonbio.com](http://www.vonbio.com)), a soap with natural ingredients that have insect repellent properties. Vonbio is produced in a controlled Good Manufacturing Practice environment from soap flakes containing natural plant-based grease obtained by saponification with added raw materials traditionally used as mosquito repellent and skin moisturizing ingredients. Vonbio is designed to provide long-lasting, effective and convenient personal protection against mosquito bites.

The development of Vonbio as a Malaria vector control product provides the opportunity to further the global malaria control research agenda. This product will prove to be of interest to countries where malaria is endemic. Non-endemic countries will also benefit from this product by using it for travelers that go to areas where Malaria vector activity is intense. An easy to use, cost effective product such as Vonbio will provide outdoor protection from mosquitoes and prevent morbidity.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATIONS—CONTINUED



**Amadu Kamara, MAF**  
**Founder & Director**

Mr. Kamara has worked for the Tax Accounting and bookkeeping fields. Mr. Kamara has extensive experience with not-for-profit businesses and individual tax return preparation. He is a member of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPAs).



**Atlang Mompe, BA**  
**Intern**

Ms. Mompe recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Gettysburg College. Ms. Mompe has a deep interest in public health issues, especially the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She is currently working for the Social and Scientific System as a Research Associate I.



**Rodrigue Ntone**  
**Business Administrator**

Mr. Ntone is a Business Law Major at the University of Douala, Cameroon. He has skills in business management and has ambition to pursue Project Management Training. He has worked on establishing the official structure of CLEAR in Cameroon by taking care of all the administrative tasks. He aspires to pursue a Master's in Business Law.

In Africa, similar initiatives are in place to boost capacity building for research and development. There are research centers that are making considerable impact on bridging the health research gap. Clinical trials and pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity has been sprouting throughout the continent although most activities are concentrated in South Africa. To encourage and fund innovative technology and product development, the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) promotes African-led product research and development innovation through the discovery, development and delivery of affordable new tools, including those based on traditional medicines. Initiated in 2008, ANDI is now hosted at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A task force guides the strategic and business plan through a broad consultative process and helps establish the funding mechanisms to advance ANDI's mission.

ANDI works to create sustainable funding mechanisms to support investment in African-based R&D initiatives through an African Innovation Fund. The network advocates for facilitation of investments and translation of research to implementation of products and policies in Africa including those based on traditional medicines.

### REFERENCES

<http://apps.who.int/tdr/svc/publications/tdrnews/issue-81/african-network>

<http://www.marylandtedco.org/>

## THE SCIENTIST'S REPUTATION

*Our Thanks to Dr. Odile Ouwe Missi Oukem who sparked the idea for this article.*

Any scientist worthy of that name is under constant pressure to publish. Whether it is to further or sustain a career, to gain tenure-track faculty positions in academia, to increase profile for successful fund raising (i.e. grants or awards) or to improve visibility in their chosen field, publishing new work constantly is compulsory in the world of science. Successful publications bring attention to scientists and their sponsoring institutions. It also helps to ensure steady progress through their field and attract funding. Scientists who do not publish or do so infrequently cannot build a significant reputation.



There are some advantages in subscribing to the school of "Publish or Perish". For instance, the pressure to produce cutting-edge research motivates scientists early in their careers to focus on research advancement, and learn to balance its achievement with the other responsibilities of the professorial role. However, this phenomenon could be detrimental as the emphasis on publishing may force scientists to scramble to publish work that is undeserving of wide and public dissemination. Many research institutions (academia, private industry or others) focus on scientists' ability to attract funds and thereby may contribute to the pressure to publish.

The scientist's reputation is priceless. It can lift the scientist to high places. When there is lack of results or success measured in quality and quantity of work published, it can also drag a reputation down into the abyss. This reputation is a treasure that needs to be tended to carefully and protected conscientiously.

In an article titled "Ten Simple Rules for Building and Maintaining a Scientific Reputation" (Bourne & Barbour, 2011, the authors took a "tongue-in-cheek" approach in highlighting the importance of a reputation to a scientist. The rules that are listed are pertinent and should be heeded to stay afloat in the competitive world of Science.

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## LITTLE KNOWN FACTS



We exercise at least 30 muscles when we smile.

**Source:** *Amazing Medical Facts of the Body* <http://www.medindia.net/facts/index.asp#ixzz1RLuQh7ha>



The average red blood cell lives for 120 days.

**Source:** *Amazing Medical Facts of the Body* <http://www.medindia.net/facts/index.asp#ixzz1RLuX9v1n>



Nerve Impulses travel at over 400 km/hr (25 mi/hr).

**Source:** *Amazing Medical Facts of the Body* <http://www.medindia.net/facts/index.asp#ixzz1RLv1qY6r>

## HIGHLIGHT A PARTNER—CEDOREX —CONTINUED

According to the Malaria Eradication Research Agenda (malERA) Consultative Group, malaria vector control activities are mainly based on indoor residual insecticide sprays (IRSs) and long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs). Novel approaches are needed that emphasize the cultural and social context of people living in high transmission areas. MalERA recommends “novel tool development and intended objectives from chemical attractants/repellent agents (synthetic and natural) for dwellings and personal applications that would target both indoor and outdoor biting” ([www.ploscollections.org/malERA2011](http://www.ploscollections.org/malERA2011)). The development of a product such as Vonbio fits within this research agenda, not as a replacement of the known effective strategies, but as a cost-effective complement for individual outdoor use.

CLEAR is working together with Cedorex to reach out to organizations and institutions involved in the control of Malaria globally. The companies are working together to present the product development initiative to potential partners and to develop collaborative relationships with partners. Once the partners have been identified, both companies will participate in the pre-clinical and clinical development, registration and commercialization of the product.

## THE SCIENTIST’S REPUTATION—CONTINUED

### 10 Rules:

- Think Before You Act
- Do Not Ignore Criticism
- Do Not Ignore People
- Diligently Check Everything You Publish and Take Publishing Seriously
- Always Declare Conflicts of Interest
- Do Your Share for the Community
- Do Not Commit to Tasks You Cannot Complete
- Do Not Write Poor Reviews of Grants and Papers
- Do Not Write References for People Who Do Not Deserve It
- Never Plagiarize or Doctor Your Data

### REFERENCES

Bourne PE, Barbour V (2011) Ten Simple Rules for Building and Maintaining a Scientific Reputation. *PLoS Comput Biol* 7(6): e1002108. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002108-- <http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1002108>

— Talent Has No Boundaries —



**Mission:** CLEAR seeks to promote global health through the development of independent, sustainable clinical programs and research systems in resource limited settings with stringent compliance to international standards for the conduct of ethical human research and impactful health programs.

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