

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 18 November 2019

Organization: Global Health Innovation Alliance Accelerator

Media Contact: Julia Barnes-Weise, jbw@ghiaa.org

Headline: The Wellcome Trust Funds Tool to Accelerate Global Health Alliances

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC--The Global Health Innovation Alliance Accelerator (GHIAA) is excited to announce that it is receiving support from the Wellcome Trust to further develop its online Master Alliance Provisions Guide (MAPGuide), accelerating the introduction of life-saving global health technologies by streamlining the formation of research and development alliances.

The MAPGuide is an annotated index of actual and template contractual provisions that allows users to compare a wide range of approaches to addressing the key issues that can slow down completion of global health agreements.

This new support from the Wellcome Trust will allow GHIAA to develop a user-friendly online platform that allows practitioners and policy-makers to navigate the MAPGuide's extensive content easily. The online tool will support practitioners in quickly developing optimal alliance agreements by presenting the range of choices available, depending on the stage of development and therapeutic area(s) to be addressed by the partnership. For policymakers, the online MAPGuide will provide a platform to illustrate the breadth of ways often-debated questions about access, IP, and data are translated into practical agreement language, allowing for more productive discussions about the best approaches.

The online MAPGuide facilitates creation of effective global health R&D alliances by supporting practitioners and policymakers in selecting the optimal contractual levers to address key issues such as equitable access, ownership of intellectual property, data sharing, transparency, and other major partnership terms. By providing actual and template contractual provisions comparing a wide range of approaches, the MAPGuide supports alliance partners and policymakers in thoughtfully selecting the best agreement options to govern their collaborations. The MAPGuide's varied and growing database of provisions draws on real-world examples from public, corporate, philanthropic, and multilateral institutions, ranging from the European Union's Innovative Medicines Initiative to CARB-X to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the Medicines Patent Pool, and CEPI among others.

By increasing transparency around both individual agreements and higher-level policy discussions, the online MAPGuide will accelerate development of new solutions to save the lives of vulnerable patients and communities.

Quotes:

Julia Barnes-Weise, Executive Director, GHIAA: “As we saw during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak, developing timely, effective partnership agreements can be a significant obstacle for global health research and development, slowing research and impeding progress in developing new life-saving tools. We hope that by providing accessible options for dealing with some of the most contentious issues and helping alliances understand their implications, the MAPGuide will accelerate the agreement process while ensuring optimal terms. We are thrilled to receive this support from the Wellcome Trust, as it will allow us to take this resource to a broader group of stakeholders.”

William Hall, Global Policy & Advocacy Manager, Wellcome Trust: “A lack of timely access to healthcare interventions is a vital issue that impacts huge numbers of people worldwide. One step we can make towards tackling this problem is having more consistent, transparent and better language in global health agreements. When launched, the online version of the Master Alliance Provisions Guide (MAPGuide), will provide an easy to use repository of previous agreements, enhancing the ability of policymakers to compare, improve and act on previous practice, and accelerating the development of innovations that can save lives. We are pleased to support this important work.”

Kevin Outterson, Executive Director, CARB-X: “Tools like the MAPGuide can streamline contract discussions in global health, allowing everyone to focus on the most important issues.”

Chan Park, General Counsel, Medicines Patent Pool: “The Medicines Patent Pool has from its inception supported the widest possible sharing of global health agreements and terms. The online MAPGuide tool has the potential to increase the ability for practitioners and policy makers to both share best practices as well as to increase their awareness of the range of options to address important global health agreement issues. The MAPGuide should encourage transparency and sharing among the global health community.”

Development of the online MAPGuide is further supported by its sponsors, including MotionHall.

About the Global Health Innovation Alliance Accelerator (GHIAA): The GHIAA was established in 2017 as an independent resource, curator, interdisciplinary think tank, and consultancy to facilitate efficient establishment of alliances to advance research, development and marketing for new biomedical technologies to address global health challenges. To achieve this objective, GHIAA develops and promotes the use of tools, best practices, and agreement provisions for global health alliance formation. GHIAA serves as an international source for research, training, education, advocacy, and support, dedicated to improving the health of the world's communities through development alliance formation. We seek to engage academia, governmental, business, and nonprofit organizations in this collaborative effort.

MotionHall is deeply aligned with the MAPGuide's mission to accelerate the introduction of life-saving global health technologies by streamlining the formation of R&D alliances. In addition to sponsoring the MAPGuide, MotionHall helps assure the successful formation of biopharmaceutical alliances by providing Business Development & Licensing (BD&L) executives with elegant digital tools used to identify and transact with ideal partners worldwide.

Other supporters include Cooley LLP and Dataspine, along with the GHIAA Board members and many in-kind contributors.