



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
AND
THE RUSSIAN FOUNDATION FOR BASIC RESEARCH
ON
COOPERATION IN HEALTH RESEARCH

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous organization under the Department of Health Research(DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), a Federal State Establishment under the Government of the Russian Federation, (hereinafter collectively referred to as the Parties).

Whereas the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research. It is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world (more than hundred years) in the service of bio-medical research. The ICMR is funded by the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India. It promotes research in all areas of medical and related science with an aim of improving the health and quality of life of the Indian public. The ICMR promotes biomedical research in the country through intramural as well as extramural research. Intramural research is carried out through the Council's 32 Research Institutes/Centres and various Units.

Established in 1992 the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), Moscow, is one of the leading national research funding agency focused on promoting independent research activity in Russia in all fields of the natural sciences, medical and related sciences including. The RFBR supports Russian resident researchers with two-three year project grants transferred to the awardees through the research performing organizations where they hold full-time position.

HAVE REACHED the following Understanding:

Recognizing the importance of health research and its impact in the world, and acknowledging the benefit of unified efforts to address public health problems of mutual concern, the Parties intend to start and expand cooperation in this field.

In the focus of the Parties' cooperation are joint studies between Russian and Indian scientists affiliated with universities, research institutes and other organizations and centers engaged in fundamental biomedical and translational research.

Article I

Activities pursuant to this Memorandum may include, but are not necessarily limited to, support:

- Collaborative basic and translational biomedical bilateral research projects;
- Funding of scientific meetings, workshops and symposia with participation of the Indian and Russian scientists;

- Offering of opportunities for the researchers from India and Russia to conduct research in collaboration with their colleagues in the partner country;
- Other forms of cooperation as may be identified jointly, subject to the availability of resources;

Article II

Both ICMR and RFBR intend to facilitate, coordinate and support joint activities under this Memorandum.

The main directions of ICMR-RFBR supported collaborative research may include:

1. Oncology
2. Bioinformatics & Bioimaging
3. Neurosciences
4. New generation vaccine research in mutually identified areas
5. HIV/AIDS
6. Any other area of mutual interest

Article III

Each Party acknowledges the importance of the protection of human and animal subjects in any research, public-health activity, or clinical program and transfer of biological material. Each Party intends all activities contemplated by this Memorandum to be in accordance and compliance with the applicable national laws, regulations and policies as applicable in the respective countries of the Parties.

Article IV

This Memorandum does not create any binding obligations under the laws of the two countries or under international law. Specific projects and activities under this Memorandum are subject to the availability of personnel, appropriated funds and other resources. The Parties intend to develop one or more Implementation Plans through mutual consultations after the signing of this Memorandum.

Article V

The Parties recognize that activities carried out under this Memorandum may produce patentable results and other intellectual property and may lead to publications of scientific findings. It is intended that for inventions made jointly during joint research projects, Party sponsored investigators may enter into agreements regarding the intellectual property consistent with their respective domestic laws and international agreements to which both parties are committed.

Commercialization of intellectual property shall be done jointly on a case-by-case basis, through a separate agreement.

Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to affect the existing intellectual property rights of individual scientists and institution, which should in all cases be recognised and preserved. Both parties agree to ensure appropriate protection of Intellectual Property Rights generated from such cooperation consistent with their respective domestic laws and international agreements to which both parties are committed.

The Parties intend to make scientific and technological information derived from collaborative activities under this Memorandum available to the wider scientific community, in accordance with applicable domestic laws and international agreements to which both parties are committed.

Article VI

The Parties recognize that activities under this Memorandum may involve reciprocal visits and exchanges of administrative personnel between India and Russia. To the extent possible, the Parties intend to facilitate the completion of all necessary clearances and documentation required to allow and encourage these exchanges of personnel.

The specific component of the funds for the joint projects will be provided by ICMR to the Indian investigators and by RFBR to Russian investigators.

The organizational expenses of the joint workshops would be borne by the Host Parties and travel expenses will be borne by the Sending Party.

Article VII

A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) will be established that will deliberate on a regular basis as decided by the Parties to explore and identify new areas of cooperation, evaluate the programme and ensure the smooth operation of the joint activities. The members of the JSC (a maximum of four) and a Co-Chair from each side may be identified by the Parties. The expenses such as travel, accommodation, medical insurance and local transport of JSC members would be borne by the Sending Party whereas the organizational expenses of JSC meeting will be borne by the host Party.

Article VIII

Both Parties agree that this relationship is not exclusive and that entering into this Memorandum will not prevent either Party from associating with any other party for the purpose of similar cooperation.

Article IX

Any difference of opinion between the Parties regarding activities conducted pursuant to this Memorandum should be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

Article X

This Memorandum will come into effect on the date of its signature and may continue for five years. The Parties may extend this period by mutual written declaration. Either Party may discontinue cooperation under this Memorandum at any time and should endeavor to provide three months' advance written notice to the other Party.

Signed on this 11th day of December, 2014 in two originals, each in English, Hindi and Russian, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Indian Council of Medical
Research**



Dr.V.M. Katoch
Secretary, Department of Health
Research,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
and Director, General, ICMR

**For the Russian Foundation for Basic
Research**



Vladislav Panchenko
Academician

RFBR Board Chairman