



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NEPAL HEALTH RESEARCH COUNCIL
AND
THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH RESEARCH

Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred 'MOU'), is made between the Nepal Health Research Council (herein referred to as "**NHRC**"), with its office located at Ramshah Path, Kathmandu, Nepal;

AND

The Indian Council of Medical Research (hereinafter referred to as "**ICMR**") with its office located at Ansari Nagar New Delhi – 110029, India;

HEREINAFTER jointly referred as 'Parties' to this MOU:

WHEREAS ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation and coordination of biomedical research. It is an autonomous body under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. Its research priorities coincide with the national health priorities towards prevention of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases; improving reproductive and child health and nutrition; promoting basic medical sciences and drug research including

traditional medicines. ICMR promotes biomedical research in the country through intramural and extramural research.

WHEREAS NHRC is an apex body of Government of Nepal to promote scientific study and quality research for health in Nepal. It has got mandatory authority to approve health research proposals and monitor their progress as well as capacity building on health research in Nepal. It also aims to promote using evidences in health policy and planning.

DESIROUS of intensifying cooperation and collaboration between themselves and of establishing appropriate working arrangements for the satisfactory implementation of the MOU;

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1: Purpose/Objectives

The main purpose of this MOU is to build on the health research relationship in the topics of mutual research.

Article 2: Areas of Cooperation

- (i) Collaboration on joint research activities of mutual interest such as:
 - Cross-border health issues
 - Ayurveda/traditional medicine and medicinal plants
 - Climate change and health
 - Non-communicable diseases, Mental health, Population based cancer registry
 - Tropical diseases (vector-borne diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya, Malaria, JE etc), Influenza
 - Clinical Trial Registry
 - Health research ethics
 - Any other area of mutual interest
- (ii) Capacity building through exchange of knowledge, skills, tools and fellows
- (iii) Collaboration for adoption of tools, guidelines, protocols and best practices related to health research

Article 3: Modalities of Cooperation and Funding arrangements

Parties shall promote direct cooperation likely to be advantageous to both organizations through mechanisms agreed by Parties. These mechanisms may include, but shall not be limited to:

- (i) Joint workshops/Symposia to scope calls for proposals and identify mutually important topics of collaboration.

The organisational expenses of the Symposium/Workshop (venue hire and secretariat support) shall be borne by the host Party. It shall provide accommodation and local transport to and from the symposium/workshop to all participants.

Sending Party shall facilitate attendance of its researchers at the symposium/workshop, including the administration of support for travel including visa entry, per diem, and health insurance according to the Party's rules and procedures.

- (ii) Joint research proposals/projects in mutually identified areas which may include research, training and the application of knowledge. Each Party shall fund the components of the research approved under this MoU to be conducted in their country or may apply jointly for third party funding.
- (iii) The exchange of scientists under approved collaborative projects. Sending Party shall bear the cost of travel of visiting scientists whereas the receiving Party will provide the accommodation & living expenses of the scientist/researcher.
- (iv) Commitment of funds for workshops/meetings and research projects may be decided from time to time as per the funds available at that time.
- (v) Arrangements to implement and execute all these activities shall be agreed to by the Parties prior to commencement of the activity.

Article 4: Governance and Management

The Parties shall establish a **Joint Working Group** (JWG) consisting of representatives from both organizations. The JWG shall convene a meeting at least once a year or more as required. JWG sessions shall be held alternatively in India and in Nepal. The expenses related to travel, including visa entry, accommodation, per diem, health insurance, local transportation of