

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

between the Medical Research Council of Hungary, representing a consortium of four Hungarian universities,  
and  
the Intramural Research Program of the National Institutes of Health  
to establish a collaborative project for Pre-Doctoral Training in Biomedical Sciences

The Medical Research Council of Hungary (MRCH), representing a group of four Hungarian universities, and the Intramural Research Program (IRP) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have a shared interest in scientific progress in biomedical sciences, as well as in the training of the next generation of outstanding investigators. Based on a long history of excellence in biomedical research at both the Hungarian universities and the NIH IRP, it is valuable to cooperate in the training of doctoral students in biomedical sciences which will lead to better collaborative interactions and joint scientific research between faculty and scientists from these institutions. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes general terms for the collaboration between the NIH IRP and the MRCH to support these shared interests.

The Hungarian universities involved in this collaboration include Semmelweis University in Budapest, Albert Szent-Gyorgyi University in Szeged, the Science University of Debrecen and the Science University of Pecs, through their Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy. The coordination of the program-related activities at these four universities is delegated to the MRCH, which has set up a Steering Committee headed by Prof. Miklos Palkovits, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) and one representative from each of the 4 member institutions.

The NIH IRP will provide, through designated members of its research staff and laboratory facilities, mentoring of pre-doctoral students enrolled in Ph.D. programs at any of the four Hungarian universities. The Hungarian universities will provide didactic training and academic support including the awarding of doctoral degrees to candidates that have successfully completed the requirements specified by Hungarian law and the institutional codes. This relationship will also link together two groups of investigators located on geographically separate campuses for the advancement of knowledge and research in the general area of biomedical sciences. To establish and maintain this relationship in a mutually beneficial fashion, the following terms are proposed.

### **STUDENTS, SUPPORT AND RECRUITMENT**

- All students in this program will be full-time graduate students in any of the participating Hungarian universities. As such, these member institutions will provide the basic formal educational structure for all students within their program. It is understood that all students, regardless of the site at which they conduct their dissertation research, will meet all degree and program requirements as determined by their home institution.
- During the pilot phase of this relationship, i.e. in the first year at NIH, the NIH IRP will

provide funds as negotiated for up to four to five awards for incoming Hungarian students. This number of students may increase up to nine students each year in future years. Each award will include a stipend and health benefit allowance, and laboratory research support will be provided by the host laboratory in the NIH IRP. These awards will be used to support students through their dissertation research at the NIH. It is anticipated that graduate students will be at the NIH conducting research for one to three years before returning to Hungary.

For purposes of ownership of intellectual property developed while at the NIH IRP, students will be treated as if they were government employees while a trainee and will be required to sign an agreement to that effect upon arrival at the NIH IRP. The government obtains the entire right, title, and interest in all to all inventions made by any Government employee (1) during working hours, or (2) with a contribution by the Government of facilities, equipment, materials, funds, or information, or of time or services of other Government employees on official duty, or (3) which bear a direct relation to or are made in consequence of the official duties of the inventor.

This MOU forms the basis for the initial relations between the MRCH and the NIH IRP for research and graduate education; however, as this collaborative effort progresses, it is expected that new and wider areas of mutual interest will evolve and be included in the expansion of this partnership.

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President, Medical Research Council

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