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Adichunchanagiri Institute for Molecular Medicine and Research Hospital (AIMMRH)

This document sets out the terms and conditions for Peter J. Houghton, PhD, Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute (GCCRI), University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC), San Antonio and Mary-Ann Bjornsti, PhD, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) to assist in development of research programs at the Adichunchanagiri Institute for Molecular Medicine and Research Hospital (AIMMRH) at Adichunchanagiri, Karnataka, India.

Objective

The overall objective is to facilitate the development of high quality scientific programs at the Institute, with focus on areas of high importance to the health of the Indian population. The areas selected for initial consideration are development of novel therapeutics for treatment of *Leishmania donovani* infections and translocation-driven sarcoma of childhood (Ewing sarcoma and alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma). Dr. Bjornsti and Dr. Houghton will provide scientific guidance, expertise, and reagents necessary for the above projects, and will share the development of intellectual property arising from these joint efforts. In addition, they will make available training opportunities for Institute staff at UAB and GCCRI, respectively, such that there will be effective transfer of technology adequate to ensure the success of these projects.

Dr. Bjornsti and Dr. Houghton, as members of the larger External Advisory Board (EAB), will assess project progress, and the scope of research projects undertaken at the Institute. They will be available for consultation, data interpretation and data validation, where necessary, and participate in the development of new technology and methodologies as needed to drive future project development and clinical applications.

Evaluation of Progress

Dr. Bjornsti and Dr. Houghton will assist in annual review of projects, determine project goals, and develop with other EAB members criteria for judging success or failure of a project, and for the initiation of new projects.

Scientific Collaborations

Dr. Bjornsti and Dr. Houghton will participate in efforts to obtain extramural funding for the initial projects, particularly in areas of US Federal funding designed to foster collaborative scientific projects between investigators in India and the US, as well as training programs to facilitate the career development of young investigators interested in faculty level appointments at the Adichunchanagiri Institute for Molecular Medicine and Research Hospital at Adichunchanagiri, Karnataka, India.

Need Based Scientific Training at GCCRI and UAB

Dr. Peter Houghton and Dr. Mary-Ann Bjornsti will support the Scientific Staff of the Adichunchanagiri Institute of Molecular Medicine and Research Hospital at Adichunchanagiri, India to visit the GCCRI and UAB for getting trained in some special areas which will assist the scientific staff to work more effectively and progressively after returning to AIMMRH.

Special Provision

Dr. Peter Houghton will support the short-visits (as and when required) of Sri Sri Sri Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji, President; Prof. K. S. Rangappa (Member of the Advisory Board and Scientist); Dr. Shobith Rangappa (Director of the AIMMRH) and Prof. K. N. Thimmaiah (Member of the Advisory Board and Scientist) to GCCRI to conduct important experiments and to discuss about the future plans of the research center at Adichunchanagiri, India.

The AIMMRH will also support the short-visits of Dr. Bjornsti and Dr. Houghton to Adichunchanagiri, India, for assessing the progress of the research work and to guide the young investigators which would facilitate the development of new technology related to the research projects undertaken.

Signed by:



Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji
President AIMMRH



Dr. Peter J. Houghton
Director, GCCRI