

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ON
HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES**

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic (MoH) and the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America (HHS), hereinafter individually referred to as “a Participant” and collectively referred to as “the Participants”;

Guided by the willingness to develop fruitful cooperation between their respective countries in the field of health and medical sciences;

Considering the importance of international cooperation for an enhanced focus on areas both Participants consider as priorities;

Considering that the United States and Italy share strong traditions in medical and health research, and a long history of health collaboration;

Taking into account the good results obtained in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Health and Medical Sciences between the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America signed at Washington, on October 12, 2010, and particularly the activities in the areas of oncology, rare diseases and bioterrorism;

Have reached the following understandings in this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):

SECTION 1

The Participants intend to encourage cooperation in research and public health in the following areas:

- Oncology, including in the areas of cancer stem cells, systems biology, and molecular diagnosis and biomarkers;
- Regenerative medicine and rehabilitation;
- Surveillance, control, and research on infectious diseases, and related vaccines and treatments;
- Aging and age-related neurodegenerative diseases;
- Innovative therapies;
- Development and implementation of new diagnostic techniques for the diagnosis of pathogenic agents with zoonotic potential, including new and emerging agents, with a special focus on vector-borne diseases;
- Strengthening epidemiological surveillance capacity;
- Food hygiene and safety;
- Food supplements;
- Health security and protection;
- One Health;

- Travel and border health;
- Preparedness for, response to, and research related to public health emergencies, and pandemic agents;
- Health promotion and chronic disease risk prevention;
- Surveillance of tobacco use, including use of new and emerging products, and sharing and analysis of data for tobacco control;
- Maternal and child health and women's health;
- Health inequities;
- Sustainability of health systems;
- Healthcare system strengthening;
- Digital health, including health informatics, bioinformatics and biomedical data science; and
- Advancement of nutrition science to reduce the prevalence of diet-related diseases.

Within the scope and limits of this MoU, the Participants may mutually decide further areas of cooperation.

SECTION 2

The cooperation between the Participants may be conducted by the following means:

- Exchange of experts, delegations, and information;
- Organization of meetings and scientific conferences, including the Global Health Conference, an annual United States - Italy scientific symposium organized by the Embassy of Italy in Washington, D.C.; and
- Programs and research projects, especially those that might include opportunities for joint projects with other countries.

The exchange of information will not concern personal data. Any personal data will be aggregated to make them anonymous. The exchange of individual personal data, if necessary, will be governed by a specific agreement, signed by the Participants, in compliance with national legislation, with the European standards and other applicable international regulations.

Within the scope and limits of this MoU, the Participants may mutually decide further activities of cooperation.

SECTION 3

For each area of cooperation, the Participants intend to identify appropriate entities to take the lead in overseeing the implementation of this MoU. These entities are expected to coordinate communication and activities with their counterparts and complete mutually decided tasks.

The Participants expect to conduct activities on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

The cooperation provided for in this MoU is not expected to affect ongoing cooperation. Rather, the Participants intend this MoU to enhance and expand cooperation.

SECTION 4

This MoU is expected to be implemented in accordance with the laws of the Italian Republic and the United States of America, as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian Participant, the applicable obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

The activities set forth in this MoU are intended to be implemented by the Participants according to their ordinary budget availability without any additional cost for the State budgets of the Italian Republic and the United States of America subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

This MoU does not constitute an international or a binding agreement and does not create any rights or obligations under international law, the laws of the Italian Republic or the United States. Therefore, no provision of this MoU is expected to be understood and performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Participants.

The Participants intend to determine the steps for implementing this MoU through mutual consultations following its signing.

SECTION 5

Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MoU is intended to be addressed amicably by means of direct consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

The Participants may modify this MoU in writing by mutual decision.

The activities under this MoU may commence on the date of final signature by both Participants and are expected to continue for a period of five (5) years, unless one of the Participants notifies the other in writing of its intention to discontinue the activities. Participants should endeavor to provide such notice 90 days in advance of the expected discontinuation date.

Activities ongoing at the time of discontinuation may continue as mutually decided by the Participants in writing.

Signed in Rome on September 3, 2021 in two originals in the English language.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA
