

**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**

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, hereinafter 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 to ensure an enhanced focus on areas both Participants consider as priorities;

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

Taking into account good results obtained in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding of April 17, 2003, and particularly the activities in the areas of oncology, rare diseases and bioterrorism, have reached the following understandings:

**SECTION I
(Research)**

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America intend to continue cooperative efforts for research projects in the areas of oncology (oncoproteomics and micro RNAs) and rare diseases and to extend them to other areas of mutual interest, such as regenerative medicine, cancer stem cells and molecular diagnosis, infectious diseases, and pathologies linked to aging. Planned new research areas appear below:

- **Oncology: Cancer stem cells
Systems biology
Molecular diagnosis and biomarkers**
- **Regenerative medicine and rehabilitation;**
- **Infectious diseases;**
- **Aging; and**
- **Research on innovative therapies.**

The Participants should conduct activities on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefits.

The Participants intend to encourage the exchange of scientific experience in the domain of health. The cooperation provided for in this Memorandum is not to affect relations currently established between institutions or individuals of the United States or Italy. Rather, the Participants are to attempt to identify new areas for joint activities, and to avoid duplication.

Where possible, the Participants should coordinate their joint activities with, and make them supportive of, the activities and goals of other international health bodies, including the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

The Participants intend to develop a detailed Program of Work identifying the main outcomes in the existing areas of collaboration, as well as new perspectives and the rationale for expanding into new research areas.

SECTION 2 (Public Health)

The Participants intend to encourage and pursue their cooperation in the above- mentioned research areas, and to extend the cooperation to the following areas of public health:

- **Health Safety and Security:**
 - Surveillance and control of transmittable diseases and preparedness for and response to potential public health emergencies, including pandemic influenza.
- **Health Promotion:**
 - Health promotion and chronic-disease risk prevention;
 - Improving maternal and child health and women's health.

The Participants, or their designees, may identify other specific areas of collaboration from time to time, by mutual consent. The entities responsible for implementing the different areas of activities may identify subjects of mutual interest. Technical cooperation arrangements to identify initiatives and programs to be implemented should be established among the entities specified in Section 4.

SECTION 3

The methods of cooperation provided for in this Memorandum include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Exchanges of scientists, delegations, information and technology;
- Organizing meetings and scientific conferences, including the Global Health Conference, an annual Italy-U.S. symposium organized by the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC; and
- Coordinated programs and research projects.

SECTION 4

For each area of cooperation, and initially for those areas identified in Section 2, the Participants or their designees are to identify appropriate entities to take the lead in overseeing the practical implementation of this Memorandum. The appropriate entities would be responsible for coordinating communication and activities with their counterparts, and for fulfilling mutually decided tasks.

The components of the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States currently involved in activities under this Memorandum include the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Other components of the Department of Health and Human Services may participate in future activities under this Memorandum.

The Italian components currently involved under this Memorandum include the Ministry of Health, the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Istituti di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico (IRCCS) and Universities.

SECTION 5

All activities pursuant to this Memorandum are to be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States and Italy and are to be subject to the availability of respective resources. The Participants intend to determine the steps for implementing this Memorandum through mutual consultations following the signing of this Memorandum.

This Memorandum is not intended to create legally binding obligations under the laws and regulations of the United States or Italy, or under international law.

SECTION 6

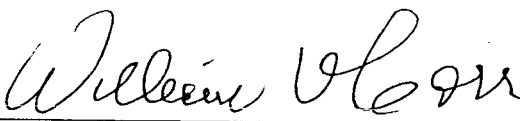
Activities under this Memorandum may commence upon signature by both Participants, and may continue for five years after the date of signature. A Participant may discontinue activities under this Memorandum by giving ninety days notice to the other Participant. Activities ongoing at the time of discontinuation may continue with mutual written consent.

The Participants may modify or extend this Memorandum by mutual written consent.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on October 12, 2010, in two original duplicates 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