

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY

President's Office



الجمهورية العربية السورية  
جامعة دمشق  
مكتب رئيس الجامعة

11/7/2007

**LETTER OF INTENTS  
ACADEMIC COOPERATION**

*Between*

**Syrian Arab Republic Damascus University  
represented by the President of the University  
hereinafter *Damascus University***

*And*

**Fondazione IME - Istituto Mediterraneo di Ematologia  
represented its Governmental Commissioner Dr Ilja Gardi  
hereinafter *IME***

11/02/2007



**General Introduction:**

- I. IME's International Project is an Italian cooperation and development initiative which goes beyond the traditional methods of solidarity and aid, to propose a model of objectives based on the production and transfer of clinical-scientific knowledge and skills, underpinning the radical solution to blood disorders with a high epidemiological incidence in the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern areas;
- II. The overall objective of IME's International Project is to create an international network of healthcare centres that will be specialized in the cure, treatment and research of haematological diseases, whilst simultaneously curing patients from countries where there is a high incidence of blood disorders;
- III. On 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 IME signed with the Ministry of Higher Education a specific implementation agreement having as main objectives:
  - *Activation of the Bone Marrow Transplant Centre (BMT Centre) at the Paediatric University Hospital of Damascus in Syria through the training of health personnel and transfer of IME's Best Practice;*
  - *Implementing joint research and cooperation programmes at academic level.*
- IV. On 19th November 2006, IME also signed a Letter of Intent with the Syrian Arab Republic Government through State Planning Commission that foreseen the implementation of several cooperation programs to be jointly decided and put into effect through specific implementation agreements to be signed by IME with the relevant Syrian Authorities.
- V Pursuant to such agreements IME and the University of Damascus wish to further define the terms for the activation of the BMT Centre at the *Paediatric University Hospital of Damascus* notably to appoint the Italian IME Network Centre that shall assure the relevant training, teaching and transfer of skills programs
- VI IME has activated a highly specialised Bone Marrow Transplant Centre in Rome which is connected to several Italian best practise healthcare structures in Italy among which San Raffaele del Monte Talbor Foundation IRCCS in Milan – a high speciality University Hospital leader of clinical scientific research on the field of genetic illness, and particularly paediatric diseases
- VII San Raffaele del Monte Talbor Foundation IRCCS enjoys of a great expertise in Bone Marrow Transplant procedure on haematological diseases and expressed its interest to participate on the activation of the BMT Centre at the Paediatric University Hospital of Damascus, project supported with Italian Cooperation funds.

Considering the above Whereas, IME and the Damascus University hereinafter jointly referred to as "Parties"





HEREBY AGREE as follows:

**ARTICLE 1  
PURPOSE**

- 1.1 By the present Letter of Intents IME hereby entrusts to San Raffaele del Monte Talbor Foundation IRCCS – University Hospital, presided by Professor Don. Luigi Maria Verze' the activation of the BMT Centre at the Paediatric University Hospital of Damascus (hereinafter the BMT Centre) .
- 1.2 The operational terms, conditions and timeframe of the actions to be taken in order to assure the transfer of essential skills (clinical-scientific, technological and organizational) to activate the BMT Centre according to IME model and methodologies as to Bone Marrow Transplant shall be subject to a specific agreement to be entered by Paediatric University Hospital of Damascus and San Raffaele del Monte Talbor Foundation IRCCS (hereinafter San Raffaele).

**ARTICLE 2  
MUTUAL COMITMENTS**

- 2.1. Under the present Letter of Intents, IME shall assure through San Raffaele the training of the Syrian healthcare professional team that will be running the BMT Centre pursuant to the best practise international standards. Training programs shall be implemented through an 'on the job training' process, specialized seminars and case studies of patients while they undergo treatment in Italy.
- 2.2. Pursuant to the present Letter of Intents Damascus University hereby agrees that the training of the healthcare team mentioned on the previous number will be focused mainly on *training on the job* thus assuring a coherent progression towards the BMT Centre activation. Such method will allow the progressive entrusting to the BMT Centre professionals the relevant clinical protocols internationally applied, hence guaranteeing an efficient management.
- 2.3. The duration, specific subjects and other relevant aspects of the training programs contents shall be defined by San Raffaele, upon prior evaluation of level of the Syrian healthcare team professionals to be trained. San Raffaele will also appoint a Head Physician in charge of supervising of all cooperation activities for the activation of the BMT Centre.
- 2.4. Damascus University hereby undertakes to select the healthcare professional team composed by physicians, biologists and nurses that shall attend training according with the indications of the Head Physician.



**ARTICLE 3**

**ACADEMIC COOPERATION**

- 3.1 The Parties further agree to encourage all activities that may contribute to strengthen mutual cooperation at academic level between San Raffaele and Damascus University such as the following:
- Exchange of materials, publications and academic information on several clinical/scientific issues;
  - Joint research projects;
  - Exchange programs for university students, research scholars and fellowships.
- 3.2 Before the activities mentioned on the previous paragraph can be implemented, the Parties shall discuss and jointly agree with San Raffaele the relevant aspects of each initiative to assure the satisfaction of each Parties best interest and enter into specific operational agreements based on the agreed objectives and outcomes.

**ARTICLE 4**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- 4.1 This Letter of Intent does not create any financial commitment for either Party. The present document its exclusively designed and entered to create the basis for a genuine and mutually beneficial know how transfer process and promote joint academic cooperation research programs which implementation will be subject to the terms and conditions of specific agreements to be entered.
- 4.2 Both Parties agree to carry out the activities foreseen in the present Letter in accordance with the applicable Laws and regulations of their respective countries and in coordination with all relevant governmental authorities.

Signed on 11/02/ 2007 made in two copies, one for each of the Parties.

For and on behalf of:

FONDAZIONE IME

Governmental Commissioner  
Dr Ilja Gardi

Damascus University

President  
Prof. Dr. Wael Mualla

FONDAZIONE IME  
Istituto Mediterraneo di Ematologia

