

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RECIPROcity LINKS
BETWEEN THE
RESEARCH DOCTORATE SCHOOL/GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE
IN
"Medical Genetics/Molecular Biology and Genetics"**

THE PARTIES

University of Siena

Bilkent University

PREAMBLE:

- the parties agree on the fundamental importance of promoting inter-university cooperation for the development of educational and scientific post-graduate programmes;
- the parties have already been collaborating on a scientific and educational level for some time, with positive results;
- the agreement on cooperation has been formulated in order to foster both specialised learning and professional understanding for postgraduates;

AGREE

To sign this agreement, which will remain valid for 5 years but one of the parties will declare it expired, this to be done before October 1 of the year preceding the year when such expiration will take place.

Art. 1 Objectives

This agreement is aimed to formalise the research and teaching activities that are shared between 1) the Doctoral programme on "Medical Genetics", based in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Siena, and 2) Doctoral programme in Molecular Biology and Genetics existing at Bilkent University.

The cooperation aims to promote the specific reciprocal research interests of the doctoral programmes in Siena and Bilkent. The scientific objectives of the programme is to inaugurate new disciplinary sectors in an emerging field of study, and promote the intersection of diverse research areas, such as the Rett syndrome, X-chromosome inactivation and cancer genetics.

The cooperation programme offers to both students and teachers the opportunity to undertake part of their teaching and research activity in the foreign institution with which the cooperation agreement is established, within the framework of integrated research programmes which will be defined each year by the two participating institutions. Such programmes will take into account the needs, which will gradually emerge.

The agreement aims to promote the scientific, technological and educational cooperation between the Department of Molecular Biology of the University of Siena and the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics of Bilkent University. Specifically, between Prof. Alessandra Renieri, Medical Genetics Unit of the Department of Molecular Biology of the University of Siena and Prof. Tayfun Ozcelik, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics of Bilkent University. A long-standing collaboration already exists between these two groups, which comprises the Rett syndrome, X-chromosome inactivation and cancer genetics.

Art. 2 Governing Body

The following bodies will be responsible for coordinating the present agreement:

In Siena:

- the Teaching Staff Committee of the doctoral programme in "Medical Genetics" proposes and verifies objectives. Members of the foreign institution may be asked to join the Committee;
- the Scientific Committee evaluates the outcomes of the programmes.

In Bilkent:

- the Academic Committee of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics.

Both institutions will define each year the educational and scientific exchange programmes outlined in the Preamble, and may create joint committees for the evaluation of doctoral dissertations.

Art. 3 Validation of study periods abroad

The Parties agree to recognise the periods of study abroad undertaken by their respective students. This recognition will apply to both credits and to degrees.

Art. 4 Organization of Doctorate

Teaching and seminars within the doctoral program in "Medical Genetics" at the University of Siena, including first and second year modules as well as tutorial discussions of the dissertation, are structured according to a credit system. The graduate curriculum of the Molecular Biology and Genetics doctorate program at Bilkent University is organised as credited courses each taken in a semester. On the basis of the credit system established by the programs, courses taken by exchange students will be pre-approved by the sending institution. Successfully completed courses will be credited by the sending University. Thanks to this credit system, Italian Ph.D. students spending part of the doctoral programme in Bilkent, or, in turn, Turkish Ph.D. students working in Siena will be able to quantify the work undertaken during the exchange and have it recognised by their home institution.

Bilkent is an English medium university. Part of the teaching programme at the University of Siena will be undertaken in English. This will enable students from the cooperating

institutions to better participate to the programme itself. All teaching activities provided by visiting members of the cooperation institutions will be in English.

The parties agree to create and update a website, containing all relevant information about activities undertaken and planned, as well as teaching or research materials relevant to the joint activities or in any other manner deemed useful.

The doctoral student(s) who elect to take advantage of this exchange programme must reside for no less than six months (not necessarily consecutive) in the guest institutions.

Art. 5 Legal responsibility

For personal or material damages caused to third parties, the law of the land where these may occur will apply.

Art. 6 Financial responsibility

The tuition fees of exchange students will be waived, however neither University is responsible for the payment of a stipendium to exchange students. Assistance to find accommodation for the faculty and exchange students will be undertaken by both Universities.

Art. 7 Health insurance

The health insurances of the visiting faculty and students will remain to be covered by their home Universities.

Art. 8 Changes to the agreement

Any change or addition to this agreement or any supplementary agreement will have to be made in writing, with the assent of the two cooperation institutions, at least six months in advance. Any change to the agreement will affect the activities of the academic year following.

Both the Italian and English texts of this agreement are equally valid. In case of doubt the English version will prevail. They will be approved by the relevant bodies of the participating institutions.



Prof. Ali Doğramacı
Rector
Bilkent University
15 March 2005

Prof. Piero Tosi
University Chancellor
Università degli Studi di Siena



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Ankara,
THE RECTOR
BILKENT UNIVERSITY

Siena, 18 OTT. 2005
THE RECTOR
UNIVERSITY OF SIENA

