

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCITY LINKS**

between

**the Research Doctorate School (Scuola di Dottorato di Ricerca) in
"Oncology and Genetics" of the University of Siena**

and

**the Postdoctoral Specialty Training Schools in Paediatrics and in Human
Genetics of the University of Freiburg**

THE PARTIES

- University of Siena
- and
- University of Freiburg, Faculty of Medicine

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 in the past, with positive results;
- the agreement on cooperation has been formulated in order to foster both specialised learning and professional development for postgraduates;

THE PARTIES AGREE

To sign this agreement, which will remain valid for 5 years unless one of the parties will declare it expired, this to be done before October 1st of the preceding year.

1. Objectives

This agreement is aimed to formalise the research and teaching activities that are shared between 1) the educational training in "Medical Genetics" (Doctorate School in "Oncology and Genetics"), based in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Siena, and 2) the post-doctoral training programme in Pediatric Clinical Genetics existing at University of Freiburg ("Section of Paediatric Genetics, Centre for Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine" and "Institute for Human genetics and Anthropology").

The cooperation aims to promote the specific reciprocal research interests of the doctoral programmes in Siena and Freiburg. 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 Paediatric Genetics and Genetics of Bone Diseases.

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.

Specifically, the agreement between the two Universities aims to promote the scientific exchange and clinical and diagnostic training between Prof. Dr. Alessandra Renieri, Medical Genetics Unit of Department of Molecular Biology of the University of Siena and Prof. Dr. Andrea Superti-Furga, Chairman of the Department of Paediatrics, Centre for Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, University of Freiburg. The cooperation shall include Prof. Dr. Bernhard Zabel, Head of the Paediatrics Genetics section and Director a.i. of the Institute for Human Genetics and Anthropology. A long-standing collaboration already exists between these two groups in Siena and in Freiburg, which comprises the Clinical Genetics and Genetics of Bone Diseases.

Chapter 2 Governing Body

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

In Siena:

- the Teaching Staff Committee of the educational training in "Medical Genetics" (Doctorate School in "Oncology and 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 Freiburg:

- The Directors of the Centre for Paediatrics and Adolescent, of the Paediatric Genetics section and of the Institute for Human Genetics will coordinate and manage the exchange programmes within this agreement as well as evaluate the results.

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

Chapter 3 Validation of study periods abroad

The Parties agree to recognise the periods of study abroad undertaken by their respective students within the research doctorate programme. This recognition will apply to both credits and to degrees. The academic degrees will be conferred by the University of origin of the Student, and in accordance with local rules and regulations.

Chapter 4 Organization of Doctorate Studies

Teaching and seminars within the educational training in "Medical Genetics", including first and second year modules as well as tutorial discussions of the dissertation, are structured according to a credit system. On the basis of the credit system established by the programme, both cooperating institutions mentioned in Article 2 will assign a credit value for the regular attendance of courses and seminars as well as for the tutorial discussion of dissertation work with teachers of the relevant institution. Thanks to this credit system, Italian Ph.D. students spending part of the doctoral programme in Freiburg, will be able to quantify the work undertaken during the exchange and have it recognised by their home institution.

Part of the teaching programme in the two participating Institutions will be undertaken in English, in order to enable students from the cooperation institutions better to 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 who elect to take advantage of this exchange programme must reside for no less that six months (not necessarily consecutive) in the guest institutions.

Chapter 5 Legal responsibility

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

Chapter 6 Financial aspects

No financial implications or liabilities arise from the present agreement. The tuition at both institutions is provided at no fee. Financial coverage for visiting scientists and instructors as well as for students spending time at one or the other institution must be obtained independently. Proof of adequate financial coverage may be required prior to acceptance of visiting students.

Chapter 7 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.

Freiburg,
University of Freiburg

Siena, 5/11/2007
University of Siena

FOR THE RECTOR:
THE COORDINATOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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THE RECTOR:

