

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT**  
**for the establishment of international reciprocity links**  
**between**  
**the PhD Program in "Genetics, Oncology and Clinical Medicine"**  
**(University of Siena School of Medicine)**  
**and**  
**The Postdoctoral Training Program in Paediatrics**  
**(University of Lausanne, Faculty of Biology and Medicine)**

**BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

University of Siena

and

University of Lausanne.

**PREAMBLE:**

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

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**Art. 1 Objectives**

This agreement is aimed at formalising the research and teaching activities that are shared between 1) the educational training in "Medical Genetics" (PhD Programme in "Genetics, Oncology and Clinical Medicine"), based in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Siena, and 2) the post-doctoral research training in "Paediatric Genetic Disorders" existing at the University of Lausanne.

The cooperation aims at promoting the specific reciprocal research interests of the doctoral programs in Siena and Lausanne. The scientific objectives of the programme will establish new disciplinary sectors in an emerging field of study and promote the convergence of various research areas, such as the Clinical and Molecular Genetics of Growth Disorders and Skeletal Dysplasia.

The cooperation program 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 programs to be defined each year by the two participating institutions. Such programs will be defined according ongoing research projects at the two sites.

Specifically, the agreement between the two Universities aims at promoting the scientific and methodological exchange between Prof. Dr. Alessandra Renieri, Medical Genetics Unit, Department of Biotechnology of the University of Siena School of Medicine, and Prof. Dr. Andrea Superti-Furga, Département Medico-Chirurgical de Pédiatrie, from the Biology and Medicine Faculty of the University of Lausanne. A long-standing collaboration already exists between these two groups in the field of Clinical and Molecular Genetics of Growth Disorders and Skeletal Dysplasia.

## **Art. 2 Governing Body**

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

### **In Siena:**

- The Academic Board of the educational training in "Medical Genetics" (PhD Programme in "Genetics, Oncology and Clinical Medicine") University of Siena School of Medicine 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 Lausanne:**

- The Staff of Paediatrics (i.e., the Head of Department and the Director of Research) University of Lausanne, Faculty of Biology and Medicine coordinates and supervises the scientific activities within the framework of this Agreement.

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

## **Art. 3 - Recognition of study periods abroad**

The Parties agree to reciprocally recognise the periods of study spent abroad by their respective doctoral students. This may be the subject of further specific agreements concerning the issue of double or joint degrees.

## **Art. 4 Organization of Doctorate**

The two Institutions will define the above mentioned scientific and educational programmes on a yearly basis and may set up Joint Committees for the evaluation of dissertations, according to the rules and regulations that each Institution is subject to concerning entering into agreements for the joint supervision of doctoral dissertations.

Part of the teaching in the Siena School will be carried out in English language, in order to facilitate the full and active participation of students from the partner institution. All lectures delivered by visiting members will be in a foreign language.

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

## **Art. 5 Legal responsibilities**

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

**Art. 6 – Equal opportunities**

In order to implement this agreement, the parties undertake to guarantee equal opportunities without discrimination of race, gender, religion, social class and ethnicity.

**Art. 7 - Insurance**

Health insurance must be provided by the exchange participants according to the rules of each country. During the education and training scheduled for each Doctoral School, the individual Universities will provide insurance cover against accidents in the workplace and third-party liability for their PhD students and for the academic staff who carry out the activities under this agreement.

**Art. 8 Validity, modifications and termination**

This agreement will enter into force on the date of the last signature and will remain valid for a maximum of four (4) years.

Either institution may terminate the agreement before its term by giving written notice to the other party before October 1 of the preceding year. In the event of such termination, already accepted activities shall be allowed to proceed to their natural conclusion.

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, and at least six months in advance of the implementation of the amendments or additional agreements. The afore mentioned amendments will become part of this agreement.

Lausanne,

Siena,

13 FEB. 2012

Signed for and on behalf of  
University of Lausanne

Signed for and on behalf of  
University of Siena

  
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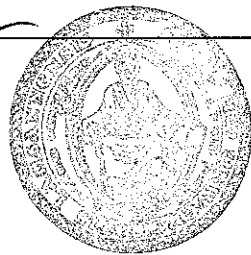
  
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Dominique Arlettaz  
Rector

Angelo Riccaboni  
Rector

Date 12 DEC. 2011

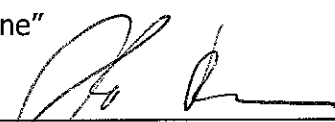
Date



Signed for and on behalf of  
Faculty of Biology and Medicine

Signed for and on behalf of the PhD  
Programme in "Genetics, Oncology and Clinical  
Medicine"

  
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P. Francioli  
The Dean of the Faculty

Alessandra Renieri  
The Director

05 DEC. 2011

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