

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
RECIPROCITY LINKS WITH THE RESEARCH DOCTORATE SCHOOL IN "Oncology
and Genetics"**

THE PARTIES

University of Siena

University of Sofia St. Kliment Ochridski , Sofia - Bulgaria

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 educational training in "Hepato-pancreato-biliary diseases and multitumoral syndromes" (Doctorate School in "Oncology and Genetics"), based in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Siena, and 2) the post-doctoral training research programme in Thoraco-abdominal, cardiovascular, oncologic and transplantation surgery existing at the Lozenez University Hospital - University of Sofia St.Kliment Ochridski- Sofia Bulgaria.

The cooperation aims to promote the specific reciprocal research interests of the doctoral programmes in Siena and in Sofia. 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 development of advanced medical technology in thoraco-abdominal, cardiovascular, oncologic surgery and in the field of transplantation.

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 methodological exchange between Dr. Francesco Cetta, Department of Surgery of the University of Siena and Dr. Lubomir Spassov, Lozenez University Hospital- Sofia University St Kliment Ochridski , Sofia - Bulgaria. A collaboration already exists between these two groups, which comprises the Genetics and Physiopathology, Diagnosis and Treatment of hepato-pancreato-biliary diseases.

Art. 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 "Hepato-pancreato-biliary diseases and multitumoral syndromes" (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 Sofia:

- The Staff of Cardiovascular, Thoraco-abdominal, Oncologic and Transplantation surgery.

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.

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 educational training in "Hepato-pancreato-biliary diseases and multitumoral syndromes", 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 Sofia, 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 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 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.

Sofia, October 20th, 2005.

University of Sofia 
THE RECTOR 
ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI
15, Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd

Prof. Dr. Boyan Bidchev

Siena, 6 MAR, 2006

University of Siena
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