MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR)-
REGIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE (RMRC)
GORAKHPUR, FIELD STATION KEYLONG, H.P.

AND

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD GOVERNMENT MEDICAL
COLLEGE KANGRA AT TANDA, H.P.

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This Memorandum of Understanding (Hereinafter referred to as MoU) entered into and executed on 29:06:2021 between

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH- REGIONAL MEDICALRESEARCH CENTRE (RMRC) GORAKHPUR, FIELD STATION KEYLONG, H.P., established as a Field Unit of ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune in 2008, later upgraded to an independent research Institute of ICMR in 12th Five Year Plan, as a Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur having its field station at Regional Hospital Building, Keylong, Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, India (hereinafter called as ICMR-RMRC FS Keylong)of the first part.

AND

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE KANGRA, TANDA, H.P., registered in the year 1999 under the Medical Council of India, having its office at Tanda, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh (hereinafter called as RPGMC Tanda) of the otherpart.

Hereinafter individually referred to as 'party' jointly as 'parties' to this MoU

Whereas ICMR-RMRC FS Keylong is a field station of one of the research centres of ICMR, which is an autonomous body of Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to formulate and coordinate biomedical research. ICMR-RMRC FS Keylong was established on 15th June 2015 to address the prevailing health situation of the tribal population, improve extensive work on various aspects of their health status and study theregion-specific and high altitudediseases in the state. Till then, it was being operated under ICMR- NIRTH Jabalpur but after 30th November 2020 it has been shifted under administrative control of ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur.

Whereas. The history of RPGMC Tanda (Kangra) dates back to October 28, 1952 when the foundation stone of a TB sanatorium was laid here. The TBsanatorium comprising of a 200 bedded hospital was converted to a Medical College on 25th February 1997 with bed strength of 821. The collegeadmits 125 graduate and 81 post graduate students every year.Dr. RPGMC has been consecutively ranked (years 2015, 2016 and 2019) among top 35 Medical College in India.

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The institution is one of the few in the country to have three Department of Health Research schemes being undertaken here. These are:

1. Multidisciplinary Research Unit.
2. Viral diagnostics research lab.
3. Model rural health research unit.

The organization has been working under the aegis of the state government as a major stakeholder in health services for the development of healthcare policies. It has been involved in developing and implementing public health policies for the last 15 years.

DESIROUS of intensifying cooperation and collaboration between both Institutions for strengthening the research and management of healthcare services in this remote/inaccessible area dominated by tribal population

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

1. **Purpose**

   ***Joint Research*:** will be carried out by both the institutions to meet common research interest at state, national/international level. This includes preparation of proposals and their implementation as per national health priorities.

2. **Scope of Cooperation**

   ***Capacity Building*:**Capacities will be built at all levels mutually by both the institutions. Scientists/staff/students will be provided an equal opportunity to use maximum of the expertise and facilities available with both the parties.Training to scientific staff will be imparted in specific areas of expertise by RPGMC Tanda. ICMR RMRC-FS Keylong will offer different workshops on bioethics, research methodology or any other area of health research for MBBS/MD/DnB students/Faculty/Researchers that will eventually help in their study design for dissertation. ICMR Scientists working in RMRC, Gorakhpur or at its field station at Keylong will also participate in any program of their interest at Tanda Medical College.

3. **Evidence based Policy formulation**

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The two parties will develop mechanism to evaluate the perceived or actual barriers in health care research and to formulate the intervention, if required, in terms of health policies.

4. **Identifying areas of public health need**

Both the parties will work in collaboration with each other to initially ascertain and then address the major public health concerns in different remote areas of Himachal Pradesh to facilitate rural population of the state with innovative medical aids.

5. **Period of MoU**

This MoU is valid upto a period of five years from the date of signing of the agreement. Further extension is subject to a mutual agreement between the parties two months prior to the end of the mentioned period. However, it can be terminated earlier from any side provided, six months prior notice to the desired date of termination.

6. **Funding**

Both the parties will jointly approach funding agencies to raise funds to execute different research plans. Initial grants may be adjusted from their own resources.

7. **Arbitration**

Any disputes or discrepancies between the parties will be resolved by mutual consultation of Director, ICMR-RMRC, FS Keylong and Principal, RPGMC Tanda.

8. **Amendments**

Any modification or revision in the agreement is acceptable within the time period of MoU from any of the parties and the proposal will be implemented only after mutual consent of both the parties.

9. **Publications/Media Interaction:**

The data generated by collaborative research will be published jointly in scientific journals. Eligibility for the authorship, of all those involved in the study, will be decided by concern PI/Head of the Institution. Unpublished data either in written or oral form, conceived or discovered by scientists and exchanged under the provisions of this MoU will not be shared to a third party, without consent of both the parties. Any information of joint research will be discussed and shared with the Media only after the consent of each other.

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10. Confidentiality of the patient details and diagnostic results will be maintained by both the parties. Reports or results will be communicated to authorized persons only from both the parties. Both the parties can communicate through electronic media, print form or over telephone.

11. The MOU will be applicable both for the ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur as well as its field Station at Keylong in Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Information sharing on health related subjects will also be encouraged by both the parties as well as to inform public about prevalent diseases as well as their management. As a part of this MoU, Tanda Medical College may also provide health related support to any staff working in Keylong if needed on not for profit purpose.

In witness whereof, duly authorized representatives of the parties to have executed this MoU on day, month and the year mentioned herein above

Signed by: as on 29/6/2021

Dr. Rajni Kant
Director, ICMR-RMRC,
FS Keylong, Lahaul-Spiti, H.P.

29/06/2021

Dr. Bhanu Awasthi
Principal, RPGMC
Tanda, Kangra, H.P.

Witnesses:

1. 29/6/21

2. 29/6/21

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