

## TREATY ON M8 ALLIANCE OF ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS, ACADEMIES AND MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

The Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany, the Université Paris Descartes, France, the Imperial College London, United Kingdom, the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Russian Federation, the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan, the Peking Union Medical College and Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, China, the Johns Hopkins University, USA, the Monash University, Australia, the Association of Academic Health Centers, and the Inter Academy Medical Panel.

resolved to mark a new stage in taking international responsibility for health by establishing of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Academies and Medical Universities ("M8 Alliance").

## (1) PREAMBLE

Health and personal well-being are of highest importance, not only for the individual, but also for society as a whole. Much has been achieved by the medical advances of the last century. Whilst recent discoveries promise to bear the potential for even greater improvements in health care, the new Millenium also poses new challenges for the standard of health world wide. The rising cost of health care, together with demographic changes, require a conscious effort to improve medicine, whilst keeping it affordable. Health is a basic human right; it has to be ensured that it is delivered.

Only a global effort can succeed in tackling this global challenge. The M8 Alliance, an Alliance of Excellence, is set up as an international network of prestigious medical faculties and organizations to further this process. Medicine and the Life Sciences have to be firmly established on the political and social agenda. The first step towards this goal will be increased exchange between the members of the M8 Alliance and co-operation in the realms of research, education, health care and the organization of the World Health Summit.

The M8 Alliance will closely co-operate with other bodies such as the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) and the Inter-Academy Medical Panel (IAMP) to increase the leverage of academic medicine to improve health together with stakeholders on the national and international level.

The World Health Summit will be the central platform of the M8 Alliance. The Summit will be held periodically. The first World Health Summit in October 2009 will mark the formal inauguration of the M8 Alliance.

## (2) STATUTES

- To further the aims of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Academies and Medical Universities, the partners
  will promote academic co-operation and exchange in research and teaching, institutional exchanges, professional
  development and any other appropriate activities on a basis as mutually agreed upon between the parties from
  time to time.
- II. Upon signature of this treaty, institutions shall officially become members of the M8 Alliance. Members shall have the right to refer to their participation in official publications and correspondence as long as this does not compromise the aims of the M8 Alliance.
- III. All parties agree to nominate an M8 co-ordinator to supervise the implementation of any activities under this treaty. The co-ordinator shall act as the principal contact for individual and group activities, distribute information, review and evaluate activities under the program and propose new initiatives. The parties shall inform each other in writing of the names and details of their respective program co-ordinators and of any changes in this regard.

- IV. The scope of the activities under this treaty shall be determined by the funds available at the institutions for the collaboration undertaken and by financial assistance as may be obtained by either institution or jointly from external sources. Unless otherwise agreed, each party shall be responsible for expenses incurred by its employees and students under this treaty. All eventual funds obtained for the purpose of this agreement from external funders shall be administered by the university or organization that applied for such funds, unless otherwise agreed between the parties or requested by the donor.
- V. This treaty shall serve as the parent document for co-operation. Individual activities under this program may require separate agreements to be approved and signed by the parties. The parties agree that no programs shall be implemented without proper authorisation of the parties participating in such program.
- VI. M8 participation will be granted to further institutions upon application, pending the agreement of all existing members.
- VII. The parties shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other party. Nothing in this treaty shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

This treaty will remain valid for a period of five years from the date of signature and shall be reviewed at that time with a view to possible renewal. Any participating party shall be able to propose amendments or to withdraw at any stage, by written request. In the event of termination neither party shall be liable for any resultant monetary or other losses, unless such loss was incurred as a result of a binding legal contract authorised by the parties.

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