



SRI RAMACHANDRA UNIVERSITY

(Declared under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

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To

Prof Amnon Carmi

Head, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics

Through: Professor Russel D'Souza, Chair Asia Pacific Bioethics Network, UNESCO Chair

Dear Prof. Carmi,

On behalf of Sri Ramachandra University, I hereby express the consent to establish a Unit of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at Sri Ramachandra University.

The aim of the Unit will be to advance the education of Bioethics.

All the activities of the Unit will follow the principles, rules and guidelines of UNESCO and its Chair.

This agreement will not involve any financial commitment of our institute towards UNESCO or any financial commitment of UNESCO towards our Institute.

- 1) **Brief history of the Institution/University/College/Courses, number of students and other important and relevant information**

The Vision

"To offer diverse educational programmes that facilitate the development of competent professionals and valuable citizens, who demonstrate excellence in the respective disciplines, while being locally and globally responsive in areas of education, healthcare delivery and research".

The Mission

Sri Ramachandra University will actively promote and preserve the higher values and ethics in education, health care and research and will pursue excellence in all these areas while consciously meeting the expectations of the people it serves without prejudice and in all fairness stay socially meaningful in its propagation of the various arts and sciences to enrich humanity at large.

Profile of Sri Ramachandra University (SRU):

Sri Ramachandra University, ranked among the top health sciences universities in India, had its origin as Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute which was established by Sri Ramachandra Educational and Health Trust in the year 1985 as a private not-for-profit self-financing institution and dedicated to serve the society as a centre of excellence with emphasis on medical education, research and health care. The Trust achieved the task of establishing the Institution as a "Centre of Excellence" under the leadership of Late Shri.N.P.V.Ramasamy Udayar, who was the Founder & Managing Trustee of the Trust and also the first Chancellor of the Deemed University. Shri. V.R. Venkataachalam is currently the Chancellor of the University and is also the Managing Trustee of the Trust.

In view of its academic excellence, the Government of India declared Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute as a Deemed University in September,1994, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. As notified by the UGC, the nomenclature of the institution has been changed to Sri Ramachandra University in 2006.

Over three decades, the institute has transformed into a full fledged university with nine constituent college/faculties - Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute and Faculties of Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Allied Health Sciences, Management, Biomedical Sciences, Technology & Research and Public Health offering 99 U.G. and P.G. courses in health care sciences. with a faculty strength of 734, with 3718 students receiving teaching training under them,(Faculty: Student ratio 1:5) during the academic year 2015-16:

The consistent quest for excellence in medical education, health care and research has earned the University many notable accreditations, recognitions and awards. Notable among them are - The National Assessment and Accreditation Council has reaccredited (cycle-2) Sri Ramachandra University with "A" Grade with a CGPA of 3.62 on a 4-point scale, the highest to be awarded to a private medical University in India.

The Joint Commission International (JCI) has reaccredited the hospital, the first teaching hospital in India to obtain such accreditation from JCI. Similar reaccreditation has also been received from the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH).

The Medical Council of India (MCI) has recognized and upgraded the Regional Centre in Medical Education Technologies, Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Sri Ramachandra University, as a Nodal Centre to conduct both Basic and Advance course in Medical Education Technologies.

The WHO has designated Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Occupational Health.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has accredited the Biodosimetry lab of the Department of Human Genetics for assessment of personnel radiation exposure and related studies, the only non-governmental institution to have achieved such accreditation.

The Faculty of Public Health has the distinction of being recognized by the ICMR as a "SRU-ICMR Centre for Advanced Research on Air Quality, Climate and Health".

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Currently there are 705 ongoing research projects (major & minor) in the university. These include: (a) International collaborative projects (b) Sponsored research projects funded by national agencies like ICMR, DRDO, DST, DBT, CSIR, AYUSH, BRNS etc. (c) Industry -institutional R & D consultancy projects jointly funded by DST, industries and international agencies (d) Multinational and multi-centric clinical trials and (e) individual research projects by faculty, Ph.D. students and PG students.

Till now, CRF has facilitated the filing of 18 Indian patent applications and one US patent for inventions made by faculty and research students. The US patent is already awarded and commercialized by an Industry.

MOUS AND COLLABORATIONS

There are 78 MoUs as in May, 2016 with foreign(28) and Indian institutions Universities(32)/ Industries (18) for academic & research/R&D collaborations with provision for students & faculty exchanges and for conducting joint teaching & research programmes.

FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES/INSTITUTIONS include:

University of California at Berkeley, USA; CITI University of Miami, USA; University of Wisconsin, USA; Wayne State University, Detroit, USA; University of Washington, USA; Kyushu Dental College, Japan; University of Cape Town, South Africa; Smile Train, USA; University of Miami, USA; University of Hong Kong; Staffordshire University, UK; Sheffield Hallam University, UK; National University of Taiwan, The University of Sheffield, UK; North Umbria University, England, East London University, UK; University of Rochester, USA.

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES/INSTITUTIONS include:

Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu; Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi; Anna University, Chennai; Central Leather Research Institute, Adyar; Indian Institute of Technology, Madras; National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Bengaluru; IGCAR, Kalpakkam; National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR)Chennai; International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi; Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore; National Institute of Siddha, Chennai; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) Nagpur.

INDUSTRY R & D COLLABORATIONS:

Some of the industries which collaborate with SRU through MoUs/Agreements are Agada Health Sciences; Berkeley Air Monitoring Group; Pfizer Limited, Mumbai; Simens Limited, Mumbai; Arvind Remedies, Chennai, East India Pharmaceutical Works, Kolkata, Himalaya Drugs Ltd, Bengaluru, Cavin Care, Chennai, Jain Irrigation Systems, Jalgon-Pune, Serum Institute of India, Pune.

RESEARCH RECOGNITIONS:

SRU has the following departments/centres recognized for their research contributions by international/national agencies:

- i) WHO collaborating Centre for Occupational & Environmental Health at Department of Environmental Health Engineering.
- ii) ICMR – Centre for Advanced Research in Indoor Air pollution at Department of Environmental Health Engineering.
- iii) AERB – recognized ‘Biodosimetry Centre’ at Department of Human Genetics.
- iv) DST – Recognised Technology Business Incubator at Central Research Facility.
- v) DST – Recognised PURSE-HIS Centre for Life Style Disease modification and Prevention at Central Research Facility and Cardiology.
- vi) US-FDA audited clinical trial facility
- vii) Government of Tamilnadu recognized, “Prenatal genetic testing Centre” at Department of Human Genetics.
- viii) CITI – Centre of Excellence in Research Ethics Education by University of Miami.
- ix) Pfizer’s “Preferred Clinical Research Centre” at Central Research Facility.

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research [DSIR], India has recognised Sri Ramachandra University as Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation [SIRO] and the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India has provided Customs/Central Excise Duty Exemption registration to Sri Ramachandra University.

2) Letter from the Vice Chancellor supporting the head/Chair and the establishing of the UNESCO Bioethics unit

Enclosed

3) Unit Chair/Head and Secretary

Head	DR. P.V. Vijayaraghavann	Professor of Orthopaedics Administration & Dean Education	Director Academic
Unit Chair	DR .Latha Ravichandran	Professor of Paediatric Medicine	
Secretary	DR .Usha Vishwanath	Professor of OBGYN	

4) Names of the members of the Foundation Steering Committee of the unit in detail:

The steering committee will have members of several different disciplines including Eminent Jurists and legal experts. It will meet periodically and will offer directions in Teaching, Training and Research

Patron (1)	Dr.S.P.Thyagarajan	Professor of Eminence & Dean (Research)	
Patron (2)	Dr.J.S.N.Murthy	Vice - Chancellor	
Patron (3)	Dr.K.V.Somasundaram	Dean of Faculties	
Head, Bioethics Unit	Dr.P.V.Vijayaraghavan	Director Academic Administration & Dean Education	
Lead Bioethics Unit	Dr.Latha Ravichandran	Professor	Paediatric Medicine
Nodal Officer/Secretary	Dr.Usha Vishwanath	Professor	Obstetrics& Gynaecology
Invitee			
Members	Dr.PankajBadamilal Shah Dr.Suhas Prabhakar Dr. Preetam Arthur Dr.Balaji Singh Dr.Usha Rani Dr.P.Ramachandran Dr.K.Chitra Dr.BWC.Sathiyasekaran Dr.R.Padmavathi Dr.Santhi Silambanan Dr.R.Suresh Dr.Priscilla Johnson Dr.Vijaysagar Dr.V.P.Karthik Dr.A.Seethalakshmi	Professor & Head Professor & Head Professor & Head Professor & Head Professor & Head Professor & Head Vice Principal& Prof Professor Professor & Head Professor & Head Professor & Head Professor Professor & Head Asst.Professor Reader	Community Medicine Ophthalmology General Medicine General Surgery Obstetrics& Gynaecology Paediatric Medicine College of Pharmacy Community Medicine Physiology Biochemistry Faculty Dental Sciences Physiology Anatomy Pharmacology College of Nursing
Members (Legal)	Dr.P.Sampath Kumar	Professor & Head	Forensic Medicine
Other members and Honorary Faculty	To be decided after establishing Bioethics chair		

5. Vision and Mission statement of the Bioethics unit

Vision

- Sri Ramachandra University had always been committed to excellence in the education field. In this bioethics field also, it will strive to meet the global standards of UNESCO
- **Mission**
- Sensitize all health professionals to bioethical principles and values and incorporate them into daily practice.
- Introduce and develop an inclusive structured Medical, Dental & Allied Health curriculum and a common syllabus, with a pragmatic focus on Bioethics, medical ethics, healthcare ethics and research ethics.
- Education and training in the field of Bioethics; and promote a system of sharing and spreading information on ethical and moral issues related to bioethics, medical ethics healthcare ethics and research ethics, to other universities and to other medical schools.
- To develop a forum of eminent researchers and administrators in order to set the priorities in Resource allocation, in an ethical and need based manner. Stimulate cooperation among academics in humanities scientists, physicians, nurses and healthcare management, and encourage their contact with other experts in the world.
- To undertake research on the ethical and moral issues of health and diseases, by adhering to ethical norms in scientific research and experimentation.
- The Unit will also collaborate with existing MOU/Collaboration with different University including CITI – Research Ethics education program.

1. The objectives of the UNESCO Bioethics unit:

- It will :-
 1. Solicit conceptual changes in medical faculties
 2. Form modern curriculum for education of ethics
 3. Train the potential teachers for instruction of ethics
 4. Create modern educational tools and materials

2. Proposed activity framework of the unit

1. Advancement of bioethics lectures, courses, seminars;
2. Holding lectures and courses for various professional communities or for the public at large.
3. Holding local, regional national, international conferences
4. Research
5. Building a website
6. Editing a Newsletter
7. Editing a Journal
8. Building a data base
9. Editing Books
10. Translating UNESCO's books and documents

3. Year Planner of activity 2017-2018

In addition to its research, the unit would also be responsible for the social Justice Forum, which will hosts lectures addressing medical –social-ethical- legal issues and hold discussions and monthly meetings for academics and professionals in medicine and related fields from various institutions.

Details will be submitted in due course of time.

4. Conclusion statement

Bioethics serves as an important tool for making, decisions about the direction and governance of science and medicine. It plays another valuable role in that it anticipates future question of concern encourages awareness about them and stimulates debate within all sections of society. The Bioethics unit intends to consider a number of complex and sensitive issues that society in general, and the healthcare system, in particular, are currently facing. The unit would integrate “Health, ethics and human rights”.

5. Recommendation

The task of this unit would be to advise on the ethical social implications of scientific developments in human medicine and healthcare

In Particular, this would include:

- Providing advice in the form of expert reports on priority issues of local / state / national significance as requested by the SRU
- Providing recommendations and assistance towards the development of healthcare policy and associated legislation.
- Representing SRU at international forum for bioethics and collaborating communicating and exchanging information with other national bioethics committees regarding development in health policy.

Areas of Research Suggested:

- Ethics and law in medicine, doctor- patient relationships
- Legal and ethical aspects of medicine and research
- Social aspects of the entire health system and the influence of organizational, financial and cultural factors on public and private health
- Special attention is given to human rights of weaker population groups, as social justice issue.



DR.J.S.N.MURTHY
VICE-CHANCELLOR