

**DECLARATION OF INTENT
BETWEEN THE**

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

AND

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES, NATIONAL
INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

AND

THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, USA

Noting the US-India Science and Technology Agreement, the ongoing Joint Statement on Collaboration on Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS (“STD & HIV/AIDS”), the Agreement for Cooperation on an International Center of Excellence in Research (“ICER”) and the Letter of Intent on Antimicrobial Resistance Research, this declaration of intent is intended to build on a long tradition of collaborative research and training, including enhancement of research capacity.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (“ICMR”), Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India; the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (“NIAID”) of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”), Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America (“USA”); and, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (“BMGF”), USA, (each a “Participant” and collectively, the “Participants”) intend to collaborate regarding the establishment and funding of a clinical research fellowship program for early and mid-career scientists within India and the USA to help in expanding the cohort of physician scientists focused on research that will advance discovery to improve clinical practice and benefit public health in both countries.

The initial focus of this fellowship program is intended to be scientists engaging in infectious disease and immunology research, with an emphasis on diseases that affect women and children.

The Participants intend that NIAID and ICMR will manage the fellowship program, including all aspects of the application and selection process. While all early-career investigators within India and the USA who meet the eligibility criteria may apply, an important objective of this fellowship program is to encourage the development of female early-career clinical scientists in India and the USA. Another objective of the program is an intention to foster long-term collaborative relationships between Indian and U.S. investigators. To help advance these purposes, the program may include small initial research grants competitively awarded to support the research of successful fellows upon completion of their fellowships.

The Participants recognize the interest in disseminating information to other entities and to the public about activities conducted pursuant to this declaration of intent. The Participants, however, also recognize a need to coordinate about when and how such information may be disseminated. Accordingly, the Participants intend to share, prior to release, any public statement, press release, etc. concerning this declaration of intent.

All activities carried out under this letter of intent are expected to be consistent with applicable laws and are subject to the availability of personnel, resources, and appropriated funds. This declaration of intent does not impose, nor is it intended to impose, any legal commitments on the Participants. It is intended that this declaration of intent may lead to further discussions regarding the fellowship program, including number of opportunities available for potential fellows, plan for application solicitation, the funding arrangements, merit review and program monitoring, and all necessary regulatory and other approvals.

Signed on October 2019 in the English language.

 10/18/2019


For NIAID Date

Anthony S. Fauci, MD
Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Diseases, National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Bethesda, MD, USA



For ICMR Date 17/11/19

Balram Bhargava, MD
Secretary, Department of Health Research
& Director General, Indian Council of
Medical Research
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
New Delhi, India

 11/5/2019

For BMGF Date

M Hari Menon
Director, India Country Office
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
New Delhi, India