

**Memorandum of Understanding between the Founding Members of the  
Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases**

Through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), we, the signatories of this document, set forth our mutual intention to collaborate, in recognition of our complementary strengths and shared commitment to fight chronic non-communicable diseases.

This effort will hereafter be referred to as the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases ("Alliance") and will be guided by a general set of principles, to be developed by the mutual consent of all Alliance members and to be finalized in a document entitled Alliance Framework Document. While the principles articulated in the Framework Document will be used to build consensus surrounding the terms of the Alliance members' cooperation, it is understood and agreed that such principles are not intended to supersede the laws and regulations ("legal requirements") that govern the official conduct of each Alliance member. In the event of any conflict between the Alliance principles and an Alliance member's legal requirements, the member's legal requirements will control.

The Founding Members of the Alliance are:

- Australia's National Health Medical Research Council
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
- Indian Council of Medical Research
- UK Medical Research Council
- US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and Fogarty International Center

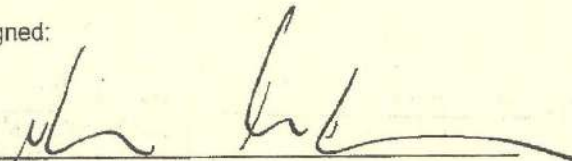
We agree to invite the World Health Organization to join the Alliance in an Observer capacity, and we agree to consider the prioritized WHO research agenda for chronic non-communicable diseases.

We request the Preparatory Office of the Alliance to develop a business plan for the operation of the Alliance in its two first years of existence and present this to the Founding Members for our consideration.

The Founding Members commit to holding quarterly meetings to review progress on implementation of the MoU and agree on joint activities.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be valid from the date of signature by the Founding Members.

Signed:



Warwick Anderson  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Health and Medical Research Council  
Australia

Date: 14-6-09.



Alain Beaudet  
President  
Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
Canada

Date: June 14, 2009

Depei Liu

Depei Liu  
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences  
China

Date: Jun. 14, 2009

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V.M. Katoch  
Director General  
Indian Council of Medical Research  
India  
*Secretary, Dept of Health Research, GOI*

Date: 4th April 2011

L.K. Borysiewicz

Leszek K Borysiewicz  
Chief Executive  
Medical Research Council  
United Kingdom

Date: 14 June 2009

Elizabeth Nabel

Elizabeth Nabel  
Director  
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute  
United States of America

Date: June 14, 2009

Roger Glass  
Director  
Fogarty International Center  
United States of America

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment to Memorandum of Understanding  
Framework Document for the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases**

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**1. Name**

This effort shall hereafter be referred to as the **Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases** ("Alliance").

The Alliance has no formal legal standing but simply represents a joint expression of interest in seeking common ground to address chronic diseases as a global problem.

**2. Purpose**

The Alliance will seek to coordinate certain research activities that will address on a global scale the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases.

The Alliance will collectively seek to identify common approaches to develop the evidence base needed to guide policy and identify best practices for fighting chronic diseases, thereby contributing to a sustainable and significant reduction of illness, disability and premature death around the world.

**3. Founding principles**

- A. The Alliance is a collaborative, but non-binding, effort.
- B. The Alliance will seek to identify cooperative opportunities for research directed at the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases.
- C. The Alliance will seek to operate in a balanced manner in terms of the regions affected and the chronic diseases addressed.
- D. The Alliance will be committed to improving health gains while reducing health disparities.
- E. The Alliance will recognize the need for complementary and diverse research methodologies to address the complexity of chronic disease and their prevention and treatment.
- F. The Alliance will focus on research topics where the need for evidence to inform policy, programmes, and practice is most urgent.
- G. The Alliance will facilitate cooperative activities for soliciting and funding research proposals.
- H. The Alliance will not seek to replace or duplicate existing effective research funding programmes.
- I. The Alliance will rely on existing funding and evaluation procedures of its members.
- J. The Alliance will pursue knowledge translation and will exchange approaches that are designed to maximize the public health benefits of research findings.

**II. SCOPE**

- A. Recognizing that the Alliance members will be constrained by available resources, the work programme will:
  - i. Focus on a set of shared priorities such as those enunciated in the "Grand Challenges in Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases" exercise published in Nature in 2007.



- ii. Evolve over time as priorities are updated and refined through subsequent scientific and consultative exercises.
- iii. Pursue synergies among research funding activities through joint initiatives.
- iv. Balance concerns for prevention, treatment, and care.
- v. Balance efforts in knowledge generation and knowledge translation.
- vi. Identify common approaches for implementation, integration, and scaling-up within different health service delivery systems.

B. The Alliance will consider research areas related to the greatest current burden of chronic disease, while also considering those related to growing chronic disease epidemics.

C. The Alliance will consider research areas that address social and gender inequalities with respect to the burden of chronic diseases, as well as behaviour practices that foster the spread of chronic diseases.

### **III. RESEARCH FUNDING MECHANISMS**

A. The Alliance will operate a mixed portfolio of funding mechanisms. These may include:

- i. Joint calls for proposals between two or more members of the alliance
- ii. Unilateral calls for proposals by individual members within the scope of the framework agreement.

B. The mechanisms for implementing joint calls will be specified in separate MOUs.

### **IV. MEMBERSHIP**

A. The Founding Members of the Alliance are:

- Australia's National Health Medical Research Council
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
- Indian Council of Medical Research
- UK Medical Research Council
- US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and Fogarty International Center

B. The Alliance will be open to all stakeholders that sign this MOU and are approved with unanimous consent of the Members.

### **V. AMENDMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT AND DISSOLUTION**

#### **1. Amendment of the Framework Document**

A. The Framework Document can only be amended by the unanimous consent of the Members.

#### **2. Duration and dissolution**

A. Members may separate from the Alliance at any time by providing written notice to the other Members.

B. The Alliance will terminate by the unanimous written consent of the Members.