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प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव, पदम श्री

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,
एफएएचए, एफएएमएस, एफएनएएस, एफएएससी, एफ.एन.ए., डी.एस.सी.

सचिव, भारत सरकार

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय एवं
महानिदेशक, आई सी एम आर

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भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद

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Dated: 24th January, 2020

Dear All,

I wish to bring an important issue related to international collaborative research projects undertaken by scientists to your notice.

All applications for research projects involving foreign assistance and/or collaboration in biomedical/ health research are necessarily required to be submitted by the Indian Investigators to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Hqrs. through HMSC portal for approval of Government of India through Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC). It is a High Level Committee constituted by the GoI to screen & consider such proposals relating to the health research and are sought to be carried out with the foreign assistance and / or collaboration.

There are certain other regulatory requirements as listed out on ICMR website under "Guidelines for International Collaboration/ Research Projects in Health Research; MoU & HMSC Procedure" which are to be followed by the Indian Researchers as a part of documents to be submitted along with their project for HMSC's consideration such as Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) clearance(s) from all centres/study sites involved in the study; approval of Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI); registration with Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI), wherever required.

Additional FCRA clearance is must for all Private Institutes/ NGOs/ Agencies receiving foreign funds. These should be empanelled with NITI Ayog and they should submit certain other documents also.

Any transfer of biological material has to be an integral part of a collaborative research project and a duly filled in Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) needs to be submitted. The guidelines of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for exchange of human biological material F.No.L.19015/53/97-1H (Pt.) dated 19/11/1997 are to be followed (available on ICMR website).

For projects involving foreign assistance/ collaboration, all Directors/ HODs/ Scientists must ensure that PIs should obtain HMSC approval, before initiation of the study. Otherwise, it will be taken as a serious lapse on their part.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Balram Bhargava)

To
All Directors of ICMR Institutes/Centres
All HODs
ICMR website