



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Between

**Technische Universität Braunschweig
Braunschweig, Lower Saxony, Germany**

And

**Cochin University of Science and Technology
South Kalamassery, Kochi, Kerala, India**

For

ACADEMIC COOPERATION

(1)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made at Braunschweig on this Day of Between Technische Universität Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Lower Saxony, Germany (hereinafter “TU-BS”) on the one part and Cochin University of science and technology, Kochi, Kerala, India (hereinafter “CUSAT”) on the other part.

WHEREAS TU-BS is a state university with a focus on science and engineering, and furthermore represents a wide range of subjects. It is subdivided into six faculties with different degree programs and specializations, resulting in an interdisciplinary research profile. A special focus is provided on life sciences, with established researching departments in the field of neurobiology. Especially Learning and memory processes are key issues of current neuroscience research, concentrating on the understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms.

WHEREAS CUSAT is a government owned autonomous science and technology university in India. As one of the premier Universities in the Country imparting Scientific and Technological Education and desires to enter into academic links and exchange programs with various institutions across the globe. CUSAT has world class infrastructure for carrying out advanced research and has been equipped with a variety of state-of-the-art scientific and engineering instruments. The major thrust of the Department of Biotechnology includes neurobiology, plant biotechnology, nanobiotechnology, computational biology, cancer biology, infectious diseases and proteomics. CUSAT has expressed their intention to facilitate the exchanges and co-operative initiatives with TU-BS.

AND WHEREAS both parties intend to work together in the area of common interest. Now therefore the parties have decided to sign this MOU to define the basis of possible collaborations.

Research collaborators:

CUSAT	TU-BS
Dr. Baby Chakrapani PS Director, Centre for Neuroscience, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), South Kalamassery, Kalamassery, Kochi, Kerala, India- 682022 (chakrapani@cusat.ac.in, bcps80@gmail.com)	Prof. Martin Korte Zoological Institute, Technische Universität Braunschweig, 38106 Braunschweig, Germany (m.korte@tu-braunschweig.de)

NOW IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PREMISES, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

(2)

A Brief Overview

The Centre for Neuroscience of CUSAT and TU-BS are involved in research and academic collaboration in the area of Neuroscience. Prof Dr Martin Korte of TU-BS has visited CUSAT as a speaker for the conference conducted by the Centre for Neuroscience. Since the labs handled by Dr Baby Chakrapani (CUSAT) and Prof Dr Martin Korte (TU-BS) are working on similar areas of research, both the labs wish to collaborate and work together to achieve project goals. To collaborate UGC-DAAD proposal for student exchange program has already been submitted in March 2020. Dr Baby Chakrapani's lab works with specific focus on neurogenesis, adult gut dysbiosis and neurodegeneration. Prof Dr Martin Korte is an expert in the area of neuroinflammation, specifically microglia mediated inflammatory response and its effect on neurodegeneration. Hence lead to mutually beneficial innovation and exchange of education and research. With this kind of cooperation lab facilities could be shared; work could be allocated based on expertise to each lab spearheading research at a much faster pace. Proposed partnership will enhance the technical capability to produce more innovative and translational research in our ongoing studies.

This collaboration intends to induce gut dysbiosis via antibiotics and study the changes in homeostasis of gut and its effect on brain. This will be a simultaneous parallel study performed at both Indian and German counterpart's lab focusing on their respective field of expertise. This cooperation is intended to fasten the pace of research and a platform for technical transfer.

(3)

OBJECTIVE OF THE MOU

In order to promote scientific and cultural co-operation between Technische Universität Braunschweig and Cochin University of Science and Technology Kochi, the parties intend to pursue the following general forms of cooperation:

- Fostering collaborative research opportunities through academic visits, meetings, lectures, workshops etc.
- Joint research activities, collaborative research projects and publications in areas mutually agreed upon
- Exchange of scientific materials and information of common interest including data, study reports, books, publications, course information etc.
- Joint training programs for project staff/ students pertaining to specific projects undertaken in collaboration

Both parties shall aim to equally foster scientific and teaching collaborations and to apply for common grant applications.

(4)

CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE

For any exchange of confidential information (software/hardware material, product specifications, designs, financial, technical information, documents etc.) a non-disclosure agreement shall be implemented for each specific activity or each joint project.

Each Party agrees not to use the other's name or logo in publicity without written consent from the other Party. The Intellectual Property policies in place at each institution shall apply to the activities initiated and implemented by the respective researchers.

(5)

ENTIRE MOU AND AMMENDMENTS

No amendments or modification of the MOU shall be valid unless same is made in writing and signed by the parties. The modifications/changes shall become part of the MOU from the date on which they are made / executed, unless otherwise agreed to.

The terms of cooperation for each specific activity implemented under this MOU shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing by both parties prior to the initiation of that activity. The Details of the implementation of any specific collaboration agreement shall be negotiated between the two Parties as and when a specific case arises.

(6)

EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION OF THE MOU

This MOU shall be effective from the date of the last signature and remain valid for a period of 5 years.

The validity of the MOU may be extended by an agreement in writing and signed by both the parties.

Either Party may terminate their involvement with six months advance written notice to the other Party.

(7)

ARBITRATION

This MOU is not intended to be and is not to be construed as a legally binding agreement. Signing of this MOU does not result in any material, financial or other obligations for either of the parties. By signing this MOU, the parties are signifying their desire for future collaboration. Specific activities may be considered and agreed upon, on a case by case basis, including the contributions and obligations of each institution.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the parties have caused this Memorandum to be executed through their authorized representative on the day and year first above written.

Parties:

For and on behalf of
Technische Universität Braunschweig (TU-BS)




Name: **Prof. Peter Hecker**
Designation: **Vice President of TU-BS**

For and on behalf of
**Cochin University of Science
And Technology (CUSAT)**



Name: **Dr. Meera V**
Designation: **Registrar**

Witnesses (Name & address)



Name: **Prof. Martin Korte**
Designation: **Institute Director**



Name: **Dr. N. Balakrishna**
Designation: **Director IR**