



COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA

AND

**SHENZHEN INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE
FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**



The University of Messina (hereinafter referred as UNIME)- Italy, legally represented by the Rector, Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea,

And

The Shenzhen International Institute for Biomedical Research (hereinafter referred as SIIBR)- People's Republic of China – legally represented by the President, Prof. Grace Zhou

Hereinafter referred collectively as “the Parties”;

WHEREAS UNIME promotes international cooperation with Higher Education Institutions and Research Centres;

TAKING *into account the interest of the Parties start cultural, scientific and didactic cooperation in the field of biology;*

CONSIDERING *academic mobility vital to enhance the competitiveness of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and to establish a knowledge-based society;*

The parties agree as follows:

Art 1 – Aim of the agreement

The Parties undertake to cooperate for the design and the implementation of the research project on Genetic Engineering exosomes designed to target cancer cells. Specifically, the proposed study is designed to engineer exosomes for clinical use as an adjunct to cancer therapy.

Art. 2 – Objectives and deliverables

The Parties undertake to jointly carry out the following research activities:

- Design RNAs that include immunotherapeutic proteins or micro RNAs that target mRNAs encoding proteins
- Include in the designed RNAs signals that enable the RNAs to be packaged efficiently in exosomes
- Modify the exosome specific RNA binding proteins to enhance the specificity of packaged designer RNAs in exosomes

Art.3: Commitments of the Parties

All activities are to be jointly planned and managed by the Parties through the cooperation between the scientific coordinators of the agreement.

Mobility of academics, researchers and graduate students will take place on a reciprocal base and for the duration agreed by the Parties.



The sending Institution shall assume full responsibility in the assessment and selection of qualified candidates to the mobility programme according to the admission requirements of the Host institution.

People involved in the mobility programme will personally look after visa procedures, if required.

Scientific coordinators are:

- For the Shenzhen International Institute for Biomedical Research: Prof. Grace Zhou (President)
- For the University of Messina: prof. Maria Teresa Sciortino (Department of Chemical, Biological, Pharmaceutical and Environmental Sciences)

The scientific coordinators will coordinate the Research Units of their home Institutions and contribute to the overall research design and implementation.

Art.3 Cooperation activities

The UNIME research unit will carry out the following experimental flows:

- Tests whether exosome proteins bind RNA
- Mapping of the RNA binding sequence followed by modification or ablation

The SIIBR research unit will carry out the following experimental flows

- Identification of exosome proteins and cloning of the genes
- Replacement in the exosome production cell line of the native gene with the cell modified as studied by the UNIME research unit
- Tests of product

Moreover, the cooperation between the Parties may also consist, among others, in the following activities:

- Mobility of ph.d. students and ph.d. fellows;
- Exchange of data, scientific works and other scientific and didactic materials of mutual interest;
- Organisation of joint initiatives, such as Conferences, seminars, lectures etc.;
- Access to research equipments and to the Laboratory facilities of both Parties;
- Every other joint and coordinated activity the Scientific Coordinators consider suitable for the achievement of the aims of the agreement.

Art.4 – Organization of the Mobility

The Parties undertake to select and exchange ph.d. students and ph.d. fellows committed to the implementation of cooperation activities.

Hosting Institution will assist people taking part to the mobility programme in all necessary ways to carry out their research activities.

Personal details, date of arrival, research plan of activities to be carried out by ph.d. students and ph.d. fellows are to be communicated to the Host Institution no later than one month before the date scheduled for the beginning of the mobility.

The Parties agree that travel and visa expenses will be covered by the people involved in the mobility, while accommodation expenses will be covered by the host Institution.

The Shenzhen International Institute for Biomedical Research undertakes to pay a monthly grant as a reimbursement of the expenses bore by the ph.d. students and ph.d. fellows involved in the mobility activities.



The Parties agree to supply any logistic support to their respective hosts and, according to their own rules and regulations, give any form of assistance in their respective countries needed in order to fulfil the agreed tasks.

Art 5 –Intellectual property and Confidentiality

The Partners will keep information arising out the participation in the Research project confidential. The Partners grant to each other a non-exclusive, royalty free, worldwide license to use each other’s introduced background intellectual property for the purpose of the design and the implementation of the Project, for the whole duration of the project.

The intellectual property deriving from the joint activity will belong to both Parties, unless differently agreed. Both Parties undertake actions to protect and develop the results according to the rules and regulations of the respective countries

Art. 6– Duration of the agreement

This agreement shall come into force on the date of the last signature.

This agreement shall remain in force for the whole duration of the Research project (3 years). Any amendment shall be made in written by the Parties.

At the end of the period of 3 years the protocol may be renewed in written, unless 6 months before the expiry date one of the Parties notifies to the other Party the decision not to renew it.

Art.7 - Languages

The present agreement includes two equivalent texts in English.

Date

Date: Nov. 11, 2018

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 Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea
 Rector of the University of Messina

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 Prof. Grace Zhou
 President of Shenzhen International Institute
 for Biomedical Research

