

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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University of Athens Medical School - BSRC Fleming

Joint Doctoral program

Whereas the Faculty of Medicine of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Med-UoA) through its Department of Physiology, has established and operates a Post Graduate Program on “Molecular and Applied Physiology”, which is approved by the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic;

Whereas the Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming" (Fleming) is authorised to confer a PhD degree in collaboration with a national University;

Whereas Med-UoA and Fleming wish to perform training and forefront research in the field of biomedicine, concerned with the basic understanding of medical physiology and disease pathogenesis and translation to novel therapeutic approaches;

Whereas Med-UoA and Fleming desire to further strengthen their position in the European Research Area, and to intensify scientific co-operation across disciplinary, institutional and international boundaries;

The Governing Bodies of

- (1) The Faculty of Medicine of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and
- (2) The Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming",

hereinafter referred to as 'Signatories', have agreed to the following:

I. The Signatories have decided to establish this Joint Doctoral (Ph.D) Program in collaboration and as an extension to the existing MS Program in “Molecular and Applied Physiology” of the Medical School of Athens directed by Prof. Michael Koutsilieris (hereinafter referred to as JDP), based on criteria of scientific excellence and innovation according to Med-UoA requirements.

II. The JDP's Governing Body is the JDP Committee, which is composed of three members, with at least one member from each Signatory. The JDP committee is appointed jointly by the Board of Directors of the Signatories.

III. On a case by case basis and after review of the student's dossier, Med-UoA will register graduates from recognised Universities under the JDP program, upon approval of the JDP

Committee. These students may be awarded the Doctoral degree by Med-UoA jointly with Fleming according to the following provisions and according to Med-UoA requirements:

- Course requirements will be met according to the JDP's specifications
- The research work will be conducted largely or exclusively at either of the two Signatories under the direct supervision of a Med-UoA or Fleming faculty member participating in JDP.
- Prior to the end of the first year of studies, and yearly thereafter the Student's progress will be reviewed by the Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC), which will include at least one member from each Signatory.
- The Thesis Evaluation and Examination will be conducted at Med-UoA according to the procedures of the Med-UoA.

IV. Wherever appropriate and feasible, the Signatories welcome the possibility of additional interaction and cooperation among faculty and students of the JDP program, such as working visits , co-organisation of advanced training activities, joint funding applications, participation in lectures, seminars, courses and workshops or conferences, research collaborations, technology transfer.

The Signatories agree to the following specific implementation procedures regarding the JDP Program according to Med-UoA requirements:

1. A PhD candidate who has been admitted by either Signatory's PhD Programme can apply for a joint degree and may be accepted for this by the JDP Committee, after careful examination of the student's dossier, normally by the end of May of the student's first year. In consultation with the student, the JDP Committee appoints the student's Supervisor according to Med-UoA requirements.
2. The course requirement will be completed under the supervision of the JDP committee, who certify its completion in writing. The research work will be conducted largely or exclusively at participating laboratories of either Signatory.
3. The JDP Committee will appoint a Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) for the student upon his/her acceptance in the JDP program. The TAC will have 3 members (the supervisor and 2 JDP faculty members). The composition of the TAC is communicated in writing to the Administrative offices of both Signatories.

4. The TAC will have a quorum of three, including at least one member from each Signatory and will serve as the three-member committee foreseen by the regulations of the University of Athens.

5. The TAC will review annually the student's progress and plans, consistent with the regulations of both Signatories. Continuation of the PhD studies and the contract of the student with either Signatory will depend on satisfactory completion of the Annual Reviews according to Med-UoA requirements.

6. After acceptance by the TAC that a sufficiently demanding research project has been successfully completed by the PhD student, he/she submits to the JDP Committee an "Application for the evaluation of the PhD thesis and the PhD examination". This application is copied by the JDP, together with a suggestion of a 7-member Thesis Evaluation and Examination Committee (Eptamelis Exetastiki Epitropi, 3E). The 3E will include the TAC plus 4 other members of JDP faculty or other Universities. At least 3 members of the 3E should be at full professor rank according to Med-UoA requirements.

7. The procedures for examination and public presentation of the Thesis are specified by the JDP Committee and are according to the regulations of the University of Athens.

8. Consistent with the requirements of the University of Athens and after appointment of the 3E Committee, the student submits to it the written PhD thesis. The oral examination of the PhD thesis is held no earlier than 20 days after the submission of the PhD thesis. After the oral presentation, the 3E Committee decides about the quality of the PhD thesis. At least 5 votes from the committee are required for successful assessment of the candidate according to Med-UoA requirements. Thereafter, the candidate has to correct the PhD thesis, according to the recommendations made by the 3E Committee. The candidate will attach any of his/her scientific articles that have been published during the PhD thesis research and will submit 11 bound copies of his/her PhD thesis, as well as a digital copy to the JDP Committee.

11. The candidate presents the final oral presentation to an open audience.

Amendment and Assignment

Any modification of this MoU requires the written consensus signed by all the Signatories hereto.

No rights or obligations of any of the Parties arising from this MoU may be assigned or transferred in whole or in part to any third party without the other Signatories' prior written approval.

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute that might arise concerning this MoU shall be settled amicably. If no amicable solution is possible, the Signatories will terminate this MoU.

Signatures

For the Faculty of Medicine of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens:

Legal representative:

Date:

Signature:

For the Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming":

Legal representative: Prof. Charalambos Savakis, President and Scientific Director

Date:

Signature: