

STORR LIVER UNIT

Geoff Farrell MD FRACP

The Robert W Storr Professor of Hepatic Medicine



The University of Sydney



Westmead
**Millennium
Institute**

Memorandum of Understanding

Subject: SLU/SU-DDRC/TUMS-VIDRL Collaborative Research Project on the impact of HBV genotype on the incidence of HCC in Iran.

By signing this Memorandum, the three parties, the Storr Liver Unit (SLU) of the University of Sydney (SU), and the Digestive Disease Research Centre (DDRC) of Tehran University of Medical Science (TUMS), and the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) as part of Melbourne Health, agree to undertake a joint research project on the effect of hepatitis B virus (HBV) genotype on Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in Iran.

This project will form part of the PhD project work for Dr Hossein Poustchi, a DDRC member who will carry out his work under the split-site arrangements in both Sydney and Iran. Dr Poustchi will be supervised by Professor Geoffrey C. Farrell and Associate Professor Jacob George at SLU and Professor Reza Malekzadeh at DDRC. As part of this project, training in HBV genotyping will be provided by VIDRL for Ms Ashraf Mohammadkhani (Laboratory Supervisor DDRC). Ms Mohammadkhani will also undertake a PhD project to be supervised by Professor Reza Malekzadeh at DDRC with co-supervision from Professor Stephen Locarnini and Dr Scott Bowden of VIDRL. Professor Geoffrey Farrell at SLU agrees to provide intellectual input as a co-supervisor.

In this project, SLU, DDRC and VIDRL will jointly design and execute a study to determine the predominant genotype of HBV in a sample of 250 patients infected with this virus in Iran, and to identify the influence of HBV genotype on clinical outcomes in this group. It is agreed that a pilot study will be conducted on fifty samples before genotyping the remainder of the specimens.

All sites enter into this agreement equally.

SLU, DDRC and VIDRL agree to full exchange of research materials and data, to full collaboration in resultant publications and to full sharing of patents or other benefits resulting from this project. Ownership of background intellectual property rights (IPR) will remain with parties that generate them.

In general, each party will be responsible for the phases of the project that are conducted at their institution, although all parties will co-operate at every step in the design, conduct and analysis of the project, and in all resulting publications.

The specific responsibilities of each organisation will be as follows.

SLU:

1. Provide expertise in hepatology.
2. Contribute to epidemiological design and statistical analysis.
3. Provide transfer of biological samples.
4. Provide funding for field travel in Iran and Melbourne for Dr Poustchi as indicated.

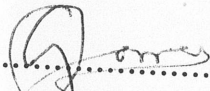
DDRC:

1. Provide expertise in hepatology and histopathology in the study field.
2. Contribute to epidemiological design and statistical analysis.
3. Provide personnel to conduct interviews, data and sample collection, laboratory procedures and data entry.
4. Provide histopathology services.
5. Provision and transfer of hard data, electronic data and biological samples collected in the project.
6. Provide funding (stipend support and travel) for Ms Ashraf Mohammadkhani.

VIDRL:

1. Provide expertise in analysis of biological samples.
2. Contribute to epidemiological design and statistical analysis.
3. Provide training for Ms Ashraf Mohammadkhani and experience for Dr Hossein Poustchi in HBV genotyping techniques.

Hereafter, SLU, DDRC and VIDRL will be represented by the undersigned.



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Professor Geoffrey C. Farrell
Director of SLU

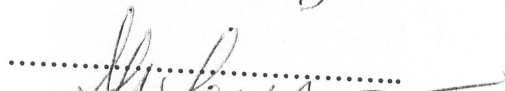
Date signed: 5 April 2005



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Professor Reza Malekzadeh
Director of DDRC

Date signed: 13 June 2005



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Professor Stephen Locarnini
Divisional Head of Research and Molecular Development VIDRL

Date signed: 3rd May 05