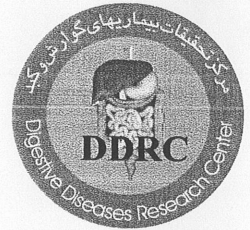


Tehran University of Medical Sciences



WHO Collaborating Center
For Research on Gastrointestinal Cancers



Digestive Disease Research Center

Date:02.Jun. 2011

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The Memorandum of Understanding

Subject: **Digestive Diseases Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran** hereinafter referred as **DDRC** and **Genetic and Epidemiology Cluster of International Agency for Research on Cancer**, hereinafter referred as **IARC**, Collaborative research on the impact of the *Cohort Profile: The Golestan Cohort Study--a prospective study of oesophageal cancer in northern Iran.*

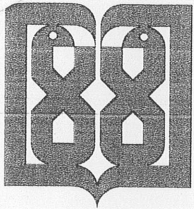
During scientific meetings, the need was recognized for a close scientific collaboration between DDRC/TUMS and IARC.

In the area of Upper GI Cancer, The IARC and DDRC/ Tums decided to establish a research project in *Cohort Profile: The Golestan Cohort Study--a prospective study of oesophageal cancer in northern Iran* as follows.

Considering the relatively of high upper GI cancer incidence in Iranian population, especially in northern of Iran, two institutes will put effort to establish collaborative to elaborate joint studies with the aim to put a light on the possible etiology (ies) and mechanism responsible for esophageal cancer, coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer control.

The general plan for this Collaborative between DDRC/TUMS and IARC is as follows:

1. To identify risk factors for OC by a comprehensive assessment of ethnicity, occupational history, socio-economic status, past medical history, family history of cancers, gastrointestinal symptoms and signs, tobacco, opium and alcohol use, oral health, anthropometric characteristics, physical activity and tea drinking habits, including tea temperature. Nutritional patterns are also evaluated using a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) specifically developed for this population and validated during the pilot study.¹² The FFQ covers 116 food items, including bread and cereals, meat and



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dairy products, oils, sweets, legumes, vegetables, fruits and condiments, as well as cooking methods. (ii) To establish bio-specimen banks for blood, urine, hair and nail samples to be used in molecular and genetic studies of cross-sectional or nested case-control design.

2. Descriptive and analytical analysis of the collected data.

The scientific responsibilities of each organization are as follows:

1. DDRC is responsible to collect and prepare data of the patients and epidemiological data and biological samples.
2. IARC is responsible to provide suitable laboratory specimens and facility training of a DDRC researcher.
3. Joint national scientific conferences and papers related to the areas will be held and publish by two sides.
4. If both the principal investigator is satisfied with the quality of the data, the results of this study will be jointly published by the DDRC and the IARC.
5. At the end of this agreement, DDRC will provide a technical report and financial report.

For the IARC

Paolo Boffetta MD, MPH

Coordinator, Genetic and Epidemiology Cluster
of International Agency for Research on Cancer
(IARC)

For the DDRC

Reza Malekzadeh, M.D, AGAF

Director Digestive Disease Research Center,
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