

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH – NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH

LETTER OF INTENT

The National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) of Chile and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”) share an interest in fostering collaborative biomedical research in mutual areas of excellence and a common goal in educating and training the next generation of research scientists. To these ends, we intend to cooperate in a collaborative training program called the “NIH-CONICYT Research Career Transition Award Program” (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”). Trainees would be a part of the NIH Visiting Program http://dis.ors.od.nih.gov/visitingprogram/01_vpmain.html as NIH Visiting Fellows (hereinafter referred to as “Fellows”).

The Program carries special prestige and status and has the following four objectives:

1. Establish a long-term career path for non-U.S. research scientists of exceptional scientific ability;
2. Build long-term collaborations in science between the NIH and institutions of scientific excellence and higher learning abroad;
3. Ensure the selection of the best non-U.S. trainees to receive outstanding scientific mentorship at NIH; and,
4. After completion of their training at NIH, ensure support for the Fellows’ return to their home country to pursue independent research careers and continued long-term scientific collaborations with their NIH mentors.

The structure of the five to six (5-6) years Program consists of two phases:

Phase I: Two to three (2-3) years of postdoctoral/career development training at the NIH; and,

Phase II: Two to three (2-3) years of a research or faculty position at a university or research institute in Chile.

The responsibilities of the Participants are described in Appendix A.

It is intended that the Program will be jointly sponsored by CONICYT and the NIH and characterized by close cooperation, mutual respect, continuing communication, and compliance with the applicable policies and processes of each organization. It is fully anticipated that new and wider areas of partnership and cooperation will evolve as a direct result of this agreement, including expanded research collaborations.

Nothing in this LOI is intended to be binding under international law or under the domestic laws of the Participants.

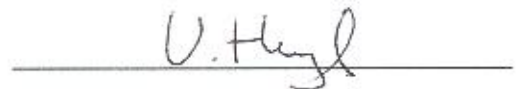
Signed this 19th day of December, 2007

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael Gottesman", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Gottesman

Deputy Director for Intramural Research

NIH

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "V. Heyl", written over a horizontal line.

Vivian Heyl

President

CONICYT

APPENDIX A

THE FOREIGN ORGANIZATION/ PARTNER INSTITUTION INTENDS TO:

1. Publicize this collaborative partnership through announcements in journals, media, and public websites.
2. Establish screening procedures, including identification of a selection panel comprised of home country scientists/faculty who will serve on the Review Panel/Award Selection Committee to recommend exceptional candidates based on scientific merit for acceptance into the Program.
3. Provide travel funds for each Fellow for at least three trips to the home country during the NIH phase of the Award (years 1-3).
4. Establish a reentry position in the home country for each Fellow for a minimum of two or three years, including salary and provision of adequate laboratory and personnel support.
5. Provide opportunities for the returning Fellow to apply for permanent research and/or faculty positions at home country institutions.

THE NIH INTENDS TO:

1. Establish a panel of NIH senior staff to oversee the Program, including Training Directors from the various NIH Institutes and Centers, Office of Intramural Training and Education, Office of Intramural Research (OIR), Office of Research Services (ORS), Fogarty International Center (FIC), and other designees as appropriate.
2. Identify a group of NIH investigators who will serve together with foreign scientists on a Review Panel/Award Selection Committee to determine admission to the Program.
3. Establish research training opportunities for each Fellow with qualified NIH scientists who will serve as supervisors, mentors, and advisors.
4. Subject to the availability of funds, provide stipend support and stipend supplementation for health insurance when in the United States, consistent with the NIH Visiting Program policies, for each Fellow, as well as assistance in obtaining appropriate visas.
5. Provide each Fellow with laboratory and/or clinic space and access to library, computer, and related scientific resources, as provided to similar trainees.
6. Develop a timeline for regular oversight and progress review of each Fellow in the Program.
7. Encourage continued collaboration with the Fellow upon reentry home through activities such as engagement in periodic meetings and joint publication of research findings.