



## Letter of Intent

### Background and objectives

The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) and Örebro University (ÖU) have through this Letter of Intent declared the intention to collaborate in the areas of Medical and Life Science research. This international collaboration will strengthen the postgraduate student's research environment within the two organizations, stimulate research collaboration and increase the competitiveness in attracting external finances and resources. The purpose is to create strong common research environments that are successful at competing for funding at both the national and European level.

### Organization

The NHRF will participate through its three (3) institutes that conduct research within the Life Sciences: 1) The Institute of Biological Research and Biotechnology, 2) The Institute of Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry and 3) The Theoretical and Physical Chemistry Institute. The ÖU will participate through the faculties of Health and Medical Science and Science and Technology that carry out research and educate graduate students within the areas of Medical and Life Sciences.

### Scientific cooperation

All scientific cooperation related to this Letter of Intent will be conducted in accordance to the respective countries national law and will be regulated in separate agreements between the parties.

### Postgraduate studies at ÖU

Students with financing from NHRF are entitled to apply for admission to postgraduate studies at ÖU. This education will in all areas proceed in accordance with Swedish national law and ÖU regulations concerning admission requirements, financing, examination, study plans etc. The respective Faculty board that the students are associated with will decide admission to postgraduate studies. The NHRF has the responsibility of the financial support of the postgraduate students -as required for all students- registered for postgraduate studies at ÖU. The Faculty board will require financing details and information according to Swedish national law and ÖU regulations. The postgraduate students undertaking research at the NHRF will be regarded in the same manner as those postgraduate students conducting research at ÖU and will be subject to the same rules and regulations. Upon completion of the postgraduate student requirements, these students will obtain an ÖU degree.

## **Supervision**

The researchers of NHRF who obtain their Docent status will be eligible to function as supervisor of postgraduate students enrolled at ÖU. To obtain the Docent status the individual researcher will be expected to submit a Docent application to ÖU to be evaluated according to the standards set by the Docent committee within the faculties of Health and Medical Sciences and Science and Technology at ÖU. This will increase the number of qualified researchers that can be involved in supervision of postgraduate students. It will be possible, if in accordance with Swedish national law and ÖU regulations, for postgraduate students originally enrolled at NHRF or ÖU to conduct part or all of their research at either of the two organizations. Upon completion of the postgraduate student requirements, these students will obtain an ÖU degree.

## **Economy**

This Letter of Intent does not give cause to any economic responsibilities between the parties if not regulated in special agreements.

## **Term (period) of the Letter of Intent**

The Letter of Intent will become effective on the day all signatures are obtained from the representatives of the respective institutions and will be valid for six years. It may thereafter be renewed or terminated upon mutual consent. However, the conditions will be applicable to individual graduate students up to, and including the time, their graduate studies are completed in accordance to the individual study plan.

When the Letter of Intent needs to be modified or amended, a supplemental agreement shall be drafted. Detailed matters not covered by this agreement shall be discussed and mutually agreed upon by the parties and both parties shall sign the minutes.

During this period of 6 years, any party that intends to terminate the collaboration must inform the other party in written form about the decision six months ahead without any claim from each party. However, each party must, with equal quality of teaching and service, continue to provide teaching and necessary services to the already admitted graduate students.

## **Signatures**

This Letter of Intent will be effective from the date of the last signature of both parties. A signed original of this Letter of Intent shall be available to each party.

The signatories will be the Vice-Chancellor of Örebro University and the President of the National Hellenic Research Foundation.

**Signed on behalf of Örebro University and the National Hellenic Research Foundation  
Athens, Greece November 7, 2008**

Vice-Chancellor of Örebro University

President of the NHRF

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**Professor Jens Schollin**

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**Professor Dimitrios Kyriakidis**