MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON
HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of the United States of America, and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Poland (MOH), (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"),

Guided by the willingness to develop fruitful cooperation between their respective countries in the field of health and medical sciences,

Considering the importance of international cooperation on a number of health issues, and

Considering that Poland and the United States share strong traditions in public health and biomedical research and have a long history of health collaboration,

Have reached the following understandings:

SECTION I

The HHS and the MOH intend to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in health and medical sciences according to the following general principles:

All activities are to be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefits.

The cooperation provided for in this Memorandum does not affect relations currently established between institutions or individuals of the United States of America and Poland. Rather, the Participants intend to strengthen existing collaborations by attempting to identify new areas for cooperative activities and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

Cooperative activities, where possible, are expected to be coordinated with, or be supportive of, the activities and goals of international bodies, including the United Nations.

SECTION II

The Participants intend to provide for the strengthening and expansion of cooperation across a broad range of mutual interests. Initial efforts are expected to be directed at developing collaborative research, training, and other activities addressing shared priorities including:

- Infectious Diseases;
- Chronic Diseases;
- Public health;
- Emergency and pandemic preparedness and response;
- Mental health;
- Digital health;
- Quality and availability of medicines;
- Research; and
- Health systems.

Other priorities for cooperation also may be identified by mutual written decision of the Participants.

SECTION III

The methods of cooperation provided for in this Memorandum are intended to include, but are not limited to:

- Cooperative scientific programs and research projects;
- Exchanges and training of scientists and experts;
- Information sharing; and
- Consultations, meetings, scientific conferences, and webinars.

The Participants also intend to encourage and facilitate the establishment of direct relationships between appropriate institutions and individuals in the two countries.

SECTION IV

For each area of cooperation as mutual interests are identified, each Participant is expected to identify an appropriate entity to take the lead in overseeing the practical implementation of activities, each of which implementation activities is intended to be set out under separate arrangements, pursuant to the Participants' respective domestic legal requirements. The appropriate entities of the Participants should be responsible for coordinating communications and activities with their counterparts and should be responsible for fulfilling mutually decided actions.

SECTION V

All activities carried out pursuant to this Memorandum are expected to be conducted in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of both countries and are subject to the availability of personnel, resources, and appropriated funds. Steps for implementing this Memorandum are intended to be developed through joint consultations based on shared priorities following signature of this Memorandum. This Memorandum does not create legally binding obligations under international law, the laws of the United States or of the Republic of Poland. The Participants intend to resolve questions regarding the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum through mutual consultation.

SECTION VI

Activities under this Memorandum may commence upon signature by the Participants and may continue for a period of 5 years. The activities may be discontinued earlier by any Participant at any time, and Participants should endeavor to provide 60 days' written notice to the other Participant. In the event of discontinuation of this Memorandum, the validity and duration of ongoing projects are not to be affected, unless the Participants mutually decide otherwise. This Memorandum may be modified by mutual written decision of the Participants.

Signed in New York on the 21st day of September 2023, in the English language.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Xavier Becerra
Secretary

FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFTHE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Katarzyna Sójka
Minister