

**COMSATS THEMATIC GROUP
ON
NATURAL PRODUCTS
SCIENCES**

COMSATS THEMATIC GROUP ON NATURAL PRODUCTS SCIENCES

The Foundation Meeting of COMSATS Thematic Group on Natural Products Sciences at ICCBS on 26th November, 2010.



This meeting was attended by nineteen participants from eight countries, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, and Turkey.

COMSATS THEMATIC GROUP ON NATURAL PRODUCTS SCIENCES

- COMSATS Thematic Group on Natural Products Sciences was formalized during the meeting through a Memorandum of Understanding with the following objectives.
- To promote research collaboration among the members.
- To plan joint research projects.
- To promote exchange of students, technicians and senior professionals.
- To organize regular events, such as workshops, training courses,
- To share expertise and lab resources.



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
MEMBERS OF COMSATS THEMATIC RESEARCH GROUP ON "NATURAL
PRODUCTS SCIENCES"**

**AND
COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH, PAKISTAN**

PREAMBLE:

Agreeing with the decision of COMSATS Coordinating Council to establish Thematic Research Groups;

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter referred to as "**MoU**") is made on - of November, 2010

Between

THE THEMATIC RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS OF "NATURAL PRODUCTS SCIENCES" (hereinafter referred to as "**TRGM**")

- International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, Pakistan,
- Pharmaceutical Industries Division, National Research Centre, Egypt
- Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre (IRCC), Sudan
- Iranian Research Organization for Science and technology (IROST), Iran
- Department of Science Laboratory Technology, The Federal Polytechnic, Nigeria
- Institute of Fundamental Studies, Sri Lanka
- Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ege University, Turkey

of the first part;

And

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH, PAKISTAN, (hereinafter referred to as "**COMSATS**") and having its address at COMSATS Headquarters, 4th Floor, Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, G-5/2 Islamabad, PAKISTAN, of the second part;

**ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE OF THE MoU**

The purpose of this MoU is to establish COMSATS Thematic Research Group to promote research and development in the field of "Natural Product Sciences", with a view to develop cooperation and build a group of researchers from developing countries to conduct joint

research and share their expertise and lab resources.

ARTICLE 2 AREAS OF COLLABORATION

1. Phytochemical and Pharmacological Studies on Medicinal Plants and Standardization of Herbal Plants of Indus and Nile valley.

ARTICLE 3 ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

The parties agree to:

- i) Establish "Thematic Research Group on Natural Product Sciences";
- ii) The Membership will be open to all relevant institutions in developing countries.

ARTICLE 4 MECHANISM OF COLLABORATION

The following mechanism will be employed to achieve the objectives of this MoU:

- a) ICCBS will be the Lead Centre and Director ICCBS will play the role of an international team leader;
- b) COMSATS headquarters will extend financial support for the international travel of scientists/researchers in the following events in accordance with availability of funds:
 - Thematic research group meetings
 - Exchange of researchers/scientists among the Lead Institutes and Collaborating Institutions of the Thematic Research Groups for performing joint research;
- c) The local hospitality may be provided by the host institution in the event of joint research and group meetings;
- d) COMSATS headquarters, ICCBS and other collaborating Institutions, jointly, shall approach the International Donors Agencies as well as the Governments of the collaborating countries for the funding of research projects.
- e) The team members would conduct research as per instructions of the team leader

as part of their assignments in their home institutions. The results will be reported to the team leader for compilation of study reports.

ARTICLE 5 ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Detailed administrative and financial arrangements for the purposes of this MoU will be decided on case by case basis depending upon the specific nature and requirements in each case. Final decision will be made with mutual agreement of COMSATS, ICCBS, Thematic Research Group Members (TRGM) and the relevant stakeholders. Both ICCBS and COMSATS will, jointly, exercise their influence to raise funds for the tasks to be carried out under this MoU.

ARTICLE 6 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The decisions about all matters linked with the intellectual property rights under this MoU shall be made in advance and in full agreement of the concerned stakeholders.

ARTICLE 7 AMENDMENTS

Necessary amendments in this MoU could be made with mutual consent of COMSATS, ICCBS and TRGM. In order to avoid any disruptions in the smooth execution of the activities related to the relevant Articles, the requesting side will submit an amendment proposal in writing well in advance, giving sufficient time to all the parties to consider and discuss the proposed amendments for the final decision.

ARTICLE 8 DURATION AND TERMINATION

This MoU is concluded for an indefinite period. However, either COMSATS, ICCBS and TRGM may terminate it by giving a written notice, six months prior to the intended date of termination. In the event of the MoU's termination, arrangements will be made by all the parties to complete the ongoing activities satisfactorily.

ARTICLE 9 SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

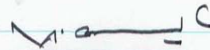
All disputes concerning this MoU shall be settled with mutual agreement of ICCBS (Lead Centre), TRGM and COMSATS with the spirit of goodwill and accommodation. In case a settlement cannot take place, a process of arbitration will be employed to arrive at a satisfactory agreement. The modalities of arbitration shall be decided in advance.

ARTICLE 10 COMING INTO FORCE


This MoU shall come into force immediately after being signed by the Director of ICCBS and Executive Director of COMSATS and TRGM members.

Executed on this - day of November 26, 2010.

On behalf of International Center for
Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS)


PROF. DR. M. IQBAL CHOUDHARY
Director
International Centre for Chemical and
Biological Sciences (ICCBS)


On behalf of COMSATS

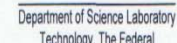

DR. IMTIAN ELAHI QURESHI
Executive Director
COMSATS

THEMATIC RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

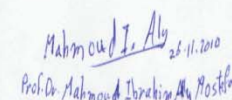
Iranian Research Organization for
Science and Technology (IROST),
Iran


Department of Microbiology
Lorestan University of Medical
Sciences, Iran

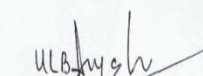

Dr. Elmehrez Elhikbi Elain
Industrial Research and
Consultancy Centre (IRCC),
Sudan


Dr. Abdullahi Mamo
Department of Science Laboratory
Technology, The Federal
Polytechnic, Nigeria


Department of Biology (Prof. M. Nur Ozturk)
Ege University
Turkey


Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ibrahim Aly Mostafa
Pharmaceutical Industries Division,
National Research Centre
Egypt


Prof. Dr. M. Khalilur Rahman
Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology, University of
Dhaka, Bangladesh


U. B. Jayasinghe
Institute of Fundamental Studies
Sri Lanka
(Prof. U. L. B. Jayasinghe)

Decisions made during the Foundation Meeting :

- **Five scholarships from ICCBS for COMSATS' members States; three for post-doctoral research and two for technical training.**
- **COMSATS will provide financial support for the travel of all participants to attend the thematic group meetings, as well as for the other visits related to activities of group.**
- **The local hospitality will be provided by the host institution in the event of joint research and group meetings.**

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- **COMSATS will play a key role of advocacy in helping partner institutions through approaching the international donors such as UNESCO, TWAS, ICGB, ISESCO, etc., for soliciting the funding for specific research projects.**
- **The second meeting of COMSATS will be held in Turkey, in the first week of July, 2012, as proposed by Prof. Munir Ozturk (Host).**

COMSATS THEMATIC GROUP ON NATURAL PRODUCTS SCIENCES

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Database of Thematic Group

Name of Country	Name of Scientist	Designation	Affiliation	Division	Manpower	Commitment to host scientist	Resource person	Other members	Expertise
Bangladesh	Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman	Professor	University of Dhaka,	Department of Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology	Teachers:1600 Students: 32000 Natural products scientist: 20	No	Yes	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) Departments of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry of Dhaka University, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS), Mirpur, Dhaka	Enzymes/ proteins
	Mahmoud I. Aly	Research	Natural Compounds	Pharmaceutical Industries	Total Staff:3500 Natural products scientist: 100	yes			Nat.Prod.
EGYPT	Mostafa Nassar	Professor	Compounds	National Research Division Centre, Cairo, Egypt					
	Dr. Gholam Reza Talei		Lorestan University of Medical Sciences Razi Herbal Medicine Research Center, Iran		Total staff: Natural Product Scientists: 20			Tehran University of Medical Sciences , Darosazi Faculty (Pharmacology School), Herbal Medicine Research	Microbiolgy Medicinal Plants
IRAN	Dr. Waleed S. Koko	Assistant Professor	National Center for Research, Khartoum Sudan	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Institute	Natural Product Scientists: 19		Yes		Nat. Prod.
	Dr. Mubarak Siddig	Assistant Prof.	Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre (IRCC)		Total Staff: 55 Natural Product Scientists: 5				
SUDAN	Mohd. Ahmed Abbas	Researcher	IRCC						

Database of Thematic Group

Name of Country	Name of Scientist	Designation	Affiliation	Division	Manpower	Commitment to Host Scientist	Resource person	Other members	Expertise
TURKEY	Munir ÖZTÜRK	Retired Professor	Ege University Science Faculty Tel:+90-535-3098104Turkey munirozturk@gmail.com	Botany Department E-Blok, 35100- Bornova, Izmir	Total Strength:25 Natural Product Scientists : 3	No	Yes	1. Ege University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Bornova, Izmir, Turkey (Dr. Tuba MERT) 2. Ankara Univeristy, Faculty of Pharmacy Ankara, Turkey, (Dr. Alev Tosun) 3. Anadolu University, Faculty of Pharmacy Eskisehir, Turkey (Prof. Nese Kirimer)	Med. Plants Ethnobotany
NIGERIA	Dr. Abdullahi Mann	Director	Dept. of Chemistry Natural Product Chemistry The Federal Polytechnic, P.M.B. 55, Bida Niger State, Nigeria. Tel:+2348034295656 abdumann@yahoo.com	Science Laboratory Technology	Total strength: 1000 Natural Product Scientists: 80	Yes		1. Prof. Joseph O. Amupitan Department of Chemistry Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Tel.: 2348034518551 E-mail: amupitan@yahoo.com 2. Prof. Joseph I. Okogun National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), P.M.B. 21, Garki – Abuja, Nigeria Tel: 2348029101010 E-mail: jokogun@yahoo.com 3. Prof. M.A.T. Suleiman, Prof. Ogbadoyi Department of Chemistry Federal University of Technology P.M.B. 65, Minna, Niger State, 4. Dr. Ibrahim Illiya Prof. Kolo Ibrahim Mohammed Shehu Busu Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), P.M.B.21, Garki – Abuja, Nigeria	Nat. Prod. Ethnomedici

Database of Thematic Group

Name of Country	Name of Scientist	Designation	Affiliation	Division	Manpower	Commitment to host	Resource person	Other members	Expertise
PAKISTAN	Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal	Director	International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences	H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry	Above 100	Yes	Yes		Bio-organic , Structural Organic Chemistry
	Choudhary, H.I., S.I., T.I.		University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan	Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research					
	Prof. Dr. Viqar-ud-Din		(ICCBS)	H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry		Yes	Yes		Nat. Prod. Chemistry
	Prof. Dr. Abdul Malik		(ICCBS)	H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry		Yes	Yes		Nat. Prod. Chemistry
	Dr. Atia-tul-Wahab		(ICCBS)	Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research		Yes	Yes		Structural Biology
	Dr. Farzana Shaheen		(ICCBS)	H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry		Yes	Yes		Combinatorial Chemistry
	Prof. Nurul Kabir		(ICCBS)	Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research		Yes	Yes		Cell biology, microscopy
SRILANKA	U.L.B. Jayasinghe	Professor	Institute of Fundamental Studies, Hantana Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka	Natural Products	Natural product scientist : 8		Yes	Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.	Med.Plants Fungal Metabolites Enzyme Inhibitors

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

TECHNICIAN LEVEL TRAINING IN MICROBIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND LABORATORY MANAGEMENT.

**Name of
Technician:** D.S. Jayaweera,
Institute Institute of Fundamental Studies,
Sri Lanka.
Duration: 1st June, 2011 - 31st Aug. 2011
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary
Approved by: International Center for Chemical and
Biological Sciences.
Travel support: COMSATS

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ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

- Participation of COMSATS Thematic Group in International Workshop entitled, “Modern Techniques in Combinatorial Chemistry” Scheduled to be held during June 14-16, 2011 at COMSTECH Headquarter, Islamabad.
- The Objective of workshop is to introduce the modern tools in drug discovery with special emphasis on the design, synthesis and screening of combinatorial libraries, target identification and lead optimization process for drug discovery and drug development

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ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Nominations Received from Members

1. Dr. Waleed S. Koko Head, Dept. Microbiology and Parasitology (Member)
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Institute,
National Centre for Research P. O. Box 2404,
Khartoum, Sudan.
Email: wasyko2002@yahoo.com
2. S. Dumindika (Sri Lanka)
(Nominated by Prof. Lalith)
Research Assistant
Institute of Fundamental Studies
Hantana Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka
Email: dumindikas@yahoo.com
3. Alakolange Gedara Achala Wimukthika
(Nominated by Prof. Lalith)
Research Assistant
Institute of Fundamental Studies
Hantana Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka, Kandy
Email: wimukthikaag@gmail.com.
4. Abdel-Samed Ibrahim Rady El-Shamy
(Nominated by
Prof. Mahmoud I. Aly Mostafa Nassar)
National Research Center
Chemistry of Natural Compounds Department
Dokki, 12622, Cairo, Egypt,
Email: abdelsamed_elshamy@yahoo.com
5. Mohammed Ahmed Abbas (member)
Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre
(IRCC)
Khartoum, Postal Code 1111, Sudan
Email: Mohd23@Msn.Com

FUTURE PLANS

- The second meeting of COMSATS has been proposed to be held in Turkey, in the first week of July, 2012.
- Workshop on modern techniques in structural biology scheduled to be held during 2012.
- Joint Research Project.
- Promotion of research collaboration among the members through the organization of regular events in future