

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of the United States and the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) of the Republic of Cuba, hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”:

In accordance with the statements made by U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro Ruz in March 2016 to deepen public health cooperation between their countries;

Guided by the willingness to foster research and innovation and to develop cooperation between their respective countries in the field of healthcare delivery and biomedical and clinical sciences;

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation on health;

Considering the cooperation sustained previously by the United States and Cuba to confront the Ebola virus;

Determined to expand scientific cooperation in the field of public health to confront epidemics like Zika virus, dengue, chikungunya, and other similar arboviruses that pose a threat to our nations and the region;

Sharing the common interest in benefiting the citizens of both countries in the control and treatment of cancer supported by the experience gained by the Participants in establishing a strategy for scientific collaboration in the field of cancer control and treatment programs, and the development of joint research;

Motivated to contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles and to the prevention and control of chronic non-communicable diseases among the populations of both countries through the mitigation of risk factors related to public health;

Recognizing the Participants' desire to sign this Memorandum of Understanding ("Memorandum"), in order to strengthen cooperation in these areas for the benefit of the populations of both countries,

Have reached the following understandings:

SECTION I

The objective of this MOU is to establish a strategy for cooperation in the field of health and its development, through the implementation of scientific, academic, technical, and research based projects and exchanges, the exchange of technical information, and other activities of interest to both Participants, to the extent authorized by law.

The Participants intend to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in health and biomedical sciences according to the following general principles: consistent with applicable laws and regulations, all activities are expected to be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit.

Joint activities, where practical and appropriate, are expected to be coordinated with and be supportive of the activities and goals of international health bodies, such as the Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization, and other components of the United Nations system.

SECTION II

In March 2016, United States President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced that the United States and Cuba have committed to deepen public health cooperation, focusing on communicable diseases including those caused by arboviruses such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya; as well as on the prevention and treatment of chronic non-communicable diseases, such as cancer. The Participants intend to strengthen their collaboration in these and other scientific and health areas.

Initial efforts are intended to be directed at developing a health cooperation strategy addressing shared priorities, including:

- Communicable diseases, principally arboviruses, including Zika, dengue, and chikungunya;

- Non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, mental health and substance abuse disorders, and others;
- Healthcare systems and public health management;
- Quality management and patient safety systems in hospitals and outpatient settings;
- Exchange of health professionals;
- Health security and international health regulations;
- Public health emergency preparedness and response;
- Biomedical research and development, clinical trials, and medical product regulation;
- Health information technology and the flow of health data;
- Human services;
- Aging.

Other priorities for cooperation also may be identified by mutual consent 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;
- Exchange of information and best practices;
- Exchanges of scientists and health officials; and
- Consultations, meetings, and scientific conferences, as authorized.

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

Activities carried out under this Memorandum are expected to be implemented through specific arrangements that outline the scope, responsibilities, and other relevant aspects of implementation that may be of particular interest to each Participant.

SECTION IV

For each area of mutual cooperation identified, Participants intend to identify an appropriate entity to lead the practical implementation of activities. All activities conducted pursuant to this Memorandum are expected to be conducted by the Participants in accordance with their applicable laws and regulations and to be subject to the availability of personnel, resources,

and appropriated funds. The appropriate entities of the two Participants are expected to be responsible for coordinating communications and activities and for fulfilling mutually decided actions. Activities under this Memorandum are expected to be developed through joint consultations based on shared priorities following signature of this Memorandum. Nothing in this Memorandum creates legally binding rights or obligations.

Unless required by law or mutually consented to otherwise by the Participants, the Participants do not intend to disclose, disseminate, or make public any information exchanged between them or that is made available during the execution of this Memorandum, provided that such information is not in the public domain.

Any dispute arising from the execution or interpretation of this Memorandum is expected to be resolved through diplomatic channels.

SECTION V

Activities under this Memorandum may commence upon signature by both Participants. This Memorandum may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants, and may be discontinued, in whole or in part, by a Participant upon written notification of discontinuation to the other Participant with three (3) months' advance notice. Discontinuation of this Memorandum is not intended to affect the validity or the duration of projects initiated under this Memorandum before discontinuation.

Signed in Washington, D.C. on this 13th day of June of 2016, in duplicate in the English and Spanish languages.

**For the Department of Health and Human
Services of the United States of America**

**For the Ministry of Public Health of the
Republic of Cuba**

/Sylvia Mathews Burwell/

/Roberto Morales Ojeda/

**Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary**

**Dr. Roberto Morales Ojeda
Minister**