

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

This Letter of Agreement (LoA)

Signed on

29<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2017

Between

AIDS Health Care Foundation – India Cares

&

MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust, Navi-Mumbai

  
**Dean.**

M.G.M. Medical College & Hospital  
Kamothe, Navi Mumbai - 410209

## INTRODUCTION

India has one of the largest numbers of population living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Given the prevalence rate of 0.26 percent, 21 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the country<sup>1</sup>. To halt and reverse the epidemic it is imperative to ensure early testing and treatment and care.

AIDS Health Care Foundation (AHF) – India Cares and MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust, Navi Mumbai, are hereinafter referred to together as “the parties”

### Article 1

#### 1. AIDS HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION – INDIA CARES

- 1.1 AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Established in 1987 in Los Angeles United States is one of the largest not-for-profit HIV & AIDS organizations in United States and is present in 38 countries in the world providing cutting edge medicine and advocacy regardless of their ability to pay. For more details visit website [www.aidshealth.org](http://www.aidshealth.org).
- 1.2 “India Cares” under the aegis of AHF is established as a trust in Delhi. Collectively called AHF India Cares, the trust carries forward the vision and mission of AHF Global in India. AHF worldwide currently treats more than 7,12,675 HIV positive people free of cost. In India, we are providing free ART to more than 1600 people. Our prevention program includes free community based Rapid HIV testing and distribution of condoms.

### Article 2

#### 2. MGM INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES TRUST, NAVI MUMBAI

- 2.1 The MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust was established on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006 with a futuristic vision to provide qualitative education by applying innovative and dynamic pedagogical techniques. Since inception, the Trust has focused on providing health care services, medical education with dedication and commitment.

<sup>1</sup> Technical Estimates NACO, 2015  
*LoA between AIDS Health Care Foundation (AHF) – India Cares and MGM Institute of Health Science, Trust Navi Mumbai*

- 2.2 Service to society at the grass root level has been the basic vocation of the Trust along with education. The Trust has been instrumental in providing prompt and efficient health care services to the economically weaker sections of the society. The Trust hospitals and Medical colleges underscore its commitment to human resource development and social health and welfare.

### Article 3

## 3 RATIONALE FOR PARTNERSHIP

- 3.1 The total number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) in India is estimated at 21.2 lakhs in 2015. Despite the reduction in the overall prevalence, there are emerging vulnerabilities which need to be addressed. The epidemic in the country is changing according to emerging vulnerability factors related to poverty, migration, marginalization and gender. As per the Technical Estimates, 86% of those infected are in the age group of 15 to 49 years, which is one of the most productive segment of the society irrespective of the sectors, in which, they have engaged. The global objective to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, is only possible with active and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders.
- 3.2 Vulnerability of HIV cannot be completely ignored among young people. In the absence of right guidance and information at the young age, they are more likely to have exposure to sexual experiments which may lead to high risk behaviors. The prevalent social stigma and discrimination is another challenge. Though National AIDS Control Program has appropriate strategies in reaching out high risk, vulnerable groups and youths to reduce new infections and reduce mortality rates, there is still a gap of around 12 lakh people against the estimated numbers who are not aware of their HIV status and continue to transmit HIV.<sup>2</sup> AHF India Cares have been striving to complement the efforts of the Government to reduce this gap by promoting community based rapid testing program and linking all to ART treatment. The scope

<sup>2</sup>Report of the Mid Term Appraisal of NACP IV  
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of community based rapid testing in reaching out to the unreached masses and offering the complete cascade of services is the objective of this partnership.

- 3.3 MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust can play a crucial role in supporting the global objective of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 in partnership with AHF India Cares.

#### Article 4

#### 4 SCOPE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust can complement to the objectives of AIDS Healthcare Foundation by

- a) Enhancing coverage and reach of HIV prevention messages through the outreach program in the villages, among students, staff and faculty.
- b) Provide subsidized diagnostics and treatment to people infected and affected by HIV which is in congruent to the organization's mission.
- c) Through the medical colleges, it could be one of the first few private institutes to provide HIV fellowship training programs to medical practitioners in the region.
- d) Provide training to medical practitioners on universal precaution, management of HIV/AIDS & TB and house based care.
- e) Provide stigma free services to all the HIV infected and affected people.
- f) Identify and provide free HIV testing services to the vulnerable and high risk people in the nearby communities.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing rationale and scope, the parties i.e. MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust and AIDS Healthcare Foundation India Cares agree to cooperate and collaborate in the overall goal of halting and reversing of HIV epidemic in the following areas

## Article 5

### 5 OBJECTIVE OF LoA

- 5.1 Reaching out to the large numbers of people on HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment diagnostics and other related services with regardless of their ability to pay.
- 5.2 Provide training and fellowship programs to medical practitioners on Universal precaution and management of STI/HIV/AIDS.
- 5.3 Create awareness among the students, faculty and other allied staff members regarding STI/HIV/AIDS.
- 5.4 Providing stigma free prevention, testing, diagnostic and treatment service to all HIV infected and affected people including TB and Hepatitis patients.

## Article 6

### 6 KEY DELIVERABLES

- 6.1 Issue advisory in all MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust regarding the LoA and share the jointly develop work to all institutions for implementation and periodic monitoring.
- 6.2 Inclusion of content on Universal precaution, STI/HIV management and the need for impact mitigation of HIV appropriately in different courses thereby developing a cadre of trained HIV specialists in the country.
- 6.3 Incorporating HIV related prevention and testing services in all outreach activities under the MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust.
- 6.4 Providing free or subsidized (as per agreement) diagnosis and treatment for people infected and affected with HIV based on mutual agreement.

6.5 Providing stigma free services to all infected and affected communities regardless of their ability to pay the Trust and during outreach programs at the community level.

6.6 Collaborate in all the upcoming and ongoing campaigns of AHF for example "fund the Fund "(to increase contributions of countries to the Global Fund for HIV/TB and Malaria), advocacy on drug pricing which aims to reduce the cost of life saving medicines, stopping the war on the bodies of women etc.

## Article 7

### 7 ROLES OF BOTH PARTIES

#### 7.1 ROLE OF MGM INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, TRUST

7.1.1 Advisory issued to all MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust regarding the LoA and sharing of the broad annual action plan.

7.1.2 Advisory to start planning and development of the annual action plan of each institute with the objective set in the LoA for (Jan – Dec).

7.1.3 Advisory issued to all educational Institutions under MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust to form youth health clubs for students promoting sexual reproductive health awareness, HIV/STI prevention programs and offer HIV testing and treatment services if needed.

7.1.4 To include information on STI/ HIV prevention & services, voluntary blood donation and prevention of intravenous drug use, in health-related courses and printed materials and to include HIV related questions in competitive examinations conducted at all levels.

7.1.5 Screening of movies/documentaries on HIV/AIDS in the institutions to sensitize them on issues related to HIV/AIDS and drug pricing.



- 7.1.6** Observing World AIDS Day, International condom day, day of the girl child, international transgender day and other relevant days.
- 7.1.7** Inclusion of HIV/AIDS topic in the induction and training programs of undergraduate & post graduate students and employees of Institutes.
- 7.1.8** Designing and implementation of short term courses/ fellowships on prevention and management of HIV to develop local resource pool
- 7.1.9** Outreach activities under the MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust to include providing HIV related prevention and testing services with a focus of reaching the poor and marginalized sections of the society.
- 7.1.10** Provide free or subsidized (as per agreement) diagnosis (mutually agreed costs) and treatment for people infected and affected with HIV.
- 7.1.11** Provide stigma free preventing, testing, diagnostic and treatment services to all HIV infected and affected people.
- 7.1.12** Sharing of information periodically and regularly as mentioned in the implementation of the LoA.
- 7.1.13** Reflection of activities undertaken in the LoA in the website and annual report of MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust.
- 7.1.14** Sensitization of staff and students in dealing with the issues of LGBTQI communities and establish service centre exclusively for them

## 7.2 ROLE OF AHF India Cares

- 7.2.1 Provide technical support to implement prevention and testing services in the different Institutes of MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust.
- 7.2.2 Provide technical support for capacity building of all employees and students under MGM Institutes to include HIV/AIDS as a topic in their induction and other training program.
- 7.2.3 Provide technical support in developing courses on prevention and management of HIV/AIDS and to obtain accreditation for the same as per regulatory bodies guidelines (MGMIHS/NACC/MCI/UGC)
- 7.2.4 Provide condoms and rapid test kits for prevention and testing services in house and outreach programs.
- 7.2.5 Monthly payment of bills based on the jointly agreed subsidized costs of diagnostic and treatment for the infected and affected population.
- 7.2.6 Provide training to medics, paramedics and community outreach staff on community based HIV rapid testing program.
- 7.2.7 AHF will provide technical support in form of human resources, logistics and management of biomedical waste during outreach activities in community.
- 7.2.8 AHF will operate satellite clinic in MGM Medical College & Hospital, Navi-Mumbai to provide health care services & support to patients living with HIV.
- 7.2.9 Establishments of state of art - ART centre In MGM Medical College & Hospital, Navi-Mumbai.
- 7.2.10 Establishment of state of art -ART Centre in MGM Medical College & Hospital Aurangabad Campus.



- 7.2.11 AHF through provide through JCC, Kalamboli will provide care & support for destitute women living with HIV.
- 7.2.12 Periodical and regular replenishment of commodities like condoms and HIV rapid test kits based on the indents submitted by MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust.
- 7.2.13 Provide technical assistance to establish service centers and provide services for I.GBTQI under different Institutes of MGM Institute of Health Sciences Trust.

## Article 8

### 8 EXECUTION OF LoA

- 8.1 Parties will set up a joint working group, with the officials in the two institutions within 7 working days after signing of the LoA for its implementation.
- 8.2 The meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held every quarter for the first 2 years and later bi-annually.
- 8.3 The first meeting of the joint working group will develop the list of services that will be provided free and the costing of the subsidized services.
- 8.4 The joint working Group will also review cost and need for revision annually.
- 8.5 The joint working group will be responsible in developing annual work plans (Jan -Dec) and its regular monitoring for the successful implementation. The working group will also propose mid-course correction and implement the same.
- 8.6 This LoA will be operative with effect from the date 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and any alteration / modifications can be carried out with the consent of both parties.
- 8.7 The individual projects envisaged under this LoA will be formulated based on Log Frame Analysis indicating resources sharing / budgets.
- 8.8 LoA can be invalidated with three months' prior notice on either side.

The parties herein have appended their respective signatures the day and the year above stated.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF MGM  
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
TRUST, NAVI-MUMBAI.



1. DR. RAJESH GOEL  
REGISTRAR, MGMIHS  
NAVI-MUMBAI.



2. DR. S N KADAM  
TRUSTEE, MGMIHS,  
NAVI-MUMBAI.



SIGNED ON 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF AIDS  
HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION.

1. DR V SAM PRASAD  
COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
AIDS HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION -  
INDIA CARES



2. MS TERRI FORD  
CHIEF OF GLOBAL ADVOCACY &  
POLICY  
AIDS HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION



SIGNED ON 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017