

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
ESFRI Biological and Medical Sciences Research Infrastructures  
regarding long term strategic collaboration**

**Considerations**

- a) Access to and utilisation of the advanced technology platforms within the ESFRI Biological and Medical Research Infrastructures (BMS RIs) are central to the efforts of the European research community to deliver excellent science that addresses the grand societal challenges.
- b) Coordination between the BMS RI capabilities is essential because these challenges can only be tackled successfully by bringing the RIs together with the complete range of European user communities in the life sciences where the research infrastructures have a key role in supporting project flow through the technology platforms.
- c) The ESFRI BMS RIs or projects focus on different areas of biomedical sciences. Their services therefore complement each other in achieving a full research pathway for the development of knowledge as well as novel biomedical products.
- d) Considering that each of the BMS research infrastructures provides pan-European access to specialised research services, instruments, samples and facilities that cover life science research, from basic biology to medical translation, the Signatories jointly declare:
  - that the purpose of this MoU is to establish a framework for strategic collaboration and coordination among the Signatories under the terms and conditions of this document that is not legally binding;
  - that this MoU is not intended, and nothing contained herein shall be deemed, to create any partnership, agency or joint venture amongst the Parties or any of the Parties, nor to establish a legal entity constituted amongst any or all of the Parties, nor in any form constitutes or implies a shared organization;
  - that the model developed by the ESFRI in the area of biomedical research is based on efficient utilisation of distributed research infrastructures providing complementary technology and expert services;
  - that ESFRI BMS RIs seek to commonly work towards serving excellent science in Europe by providing access to world-class facilities, samples, instruments, services, and data for improving knowledge, human health and wellbeing with a strong focus on the grand challenges.

## 1. Objectives

- The main objective of this MoU is to connect the ESFRI BMS RIs, in order to create a complete research and development innovation chain which contributes to strengthen the European position in cutting-edge life sciences as well as improving the society, health and wellbeing of European citizens.
- The BMS RIs therefore establish a framework for strategic collaboration and cooperation and the BMS RI Strategy Board in order to:
  - align and coordinate **access** to the research infrastructures involved in biological discovery and innovation to improve the impact of the European Research Area (ERA) on addressing the grand challenges;
  - jointly **develop** procedures, methodologies and quality standards to stimulate seamless development of European research and innovation;
  - design joint long-term strategic plans to effectively **align service** developments for the benefit of European life-science researchers and other users; and to
  - coordinate efforts on **cross-disciplinary** networking outreach to users, funding organisations and other stakeholders

## 2. The BMS RI Strategy Board

### 2.1 Establishment of the BMS RI Strategy Board

Considering the need and benefits for European researchers in coordinated development of and access to the world-class infrastructures provided the Signatories wish to establish the **BMS RI Strategy Board**.

### 2.2 Membership to the BMS RI Strategy Board

Considering the importance of effective collaboration and interoperability of the BMS RI capabilities the Signatories acknowledge that the BMS RI Strategy Board shall comprise of two representatives nominated by each BMS RI whether an established legal entity or a preparatory stage RI; they may be accompanied with up to two advisors.

### 2.3 Chair of the BMS RI Strategy Board

The designated representatives of the BMS RIs shall elect a chair and a vice chair amongst themselves on a 1-year rotating basis. The vice-chair shall become the next chair.

## **2.4 Remit of the BMS RI Strategy Board**

For the avoidance of doubt, the role of the BMS RI Strategy Board is of advisory nature to facilitate information exchange in order to create opportunities for collaborative action; the decisions and recommendations made by the BMS RI Strategy Board are not binding for the participating BMS RI; nor does the BMS RI Strategy have any role in the formal governance of the participating BMS RI. Resolutions should be approved by consensus, and if no consensus is reached by simple majority (each signatory having one voting right). If deemed necessary the Strategy Board may develop its own rules of procedure.

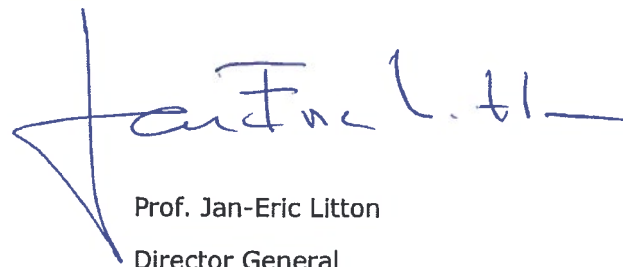
## **3. Constitution of the BMS RI Strategy Board**

- The BMS RI Strategy Board will constitute upon the signature of the fifth Signatory to this MoU.
- As this MoU is legally not binding, the Signatories may decide to terminate their participation by informing the other Signatories in writing subject to a three months prior notification. The remaining Signatories may decide to maintain the MoU in effect among them or to terminate it.

## **4. Finance**

- Signatories will carry their own costs in relation to the objectives of this MoU and the entire collaboration.
- BMS RI Strategy Board meetings will be held on a rotating basis with the host responsible for practical organization and the venue.
- For the development of the scientific strategy and operational plan to implement joint strategies the Signatories intend to look for funding by the EU and potentially co-funding by other stakeholders.

The signatures below do not mean any endorsement of the respective processes to set up an ERIC or to support the preparatory phase of the relevant Party.



08/04/2015, Graz, Austria

Prof. Jan-Eric Litton  
Director General

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Date/Place

Signatory



**BBMRI-ERIC**

Biobanking and  
BioMolecular resources  
Research Infrastructure

Biobanking and BioMolecular resources Research Infrastructure

*(Include: Name of research infrastructure, logo, and signature by mandated representative, i.e. Director, Coordinator, or Chair of current decision-making body)*

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Date/Place

Signatory

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

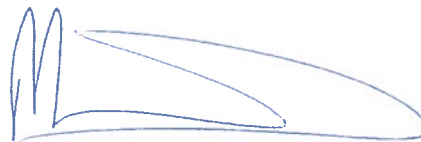
Dr. Giovanni Migliaccio

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

EATRIS Scientific Director

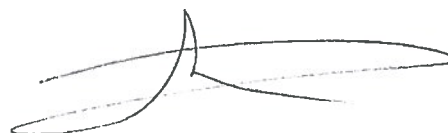


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Paris, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Jacques Demotes  
ECRIN-Eric Director General



Madrid, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Rafael de Andres  
Chair of ECRIN-Eric Assembly of members

European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network  
ECRIN - ERIC



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Hinxton, Cambridge

Niklas Blomberg, ELIXIR Director

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Date/Place

Signatory



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Niklas Blomberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

*(Include: Name of research infrastructure, logo, and signature by mandated representative, i.e. Director, Coordinator, or Chair of current decision-making body)*

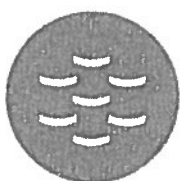
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Lisbon, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015



Ricardo Migueis

(Chair of the EMBRC Implementation Board)



**EMBRC**  
EUROPEAN  
MARINE  
BIOLOGICAL  
RESOURCE  
CENTRE

*(Include: Name of research infrastructure, logo, and signature by mandated representative, i.e. Director, Coordinator, or Chair of current decision-making body)*



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**Inserm**  
**ERINHA**  
Laboratoire P4 Jean Mérieux  
21, avenue Tony Garnier  
F-69365 Lyon Cedex 07 - FRANCE

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Date/Place

11/03/2015

Signatory



*(Include: Name of research infrastructure, logo, and signature by mandated representative, i.e. Director, Coordinator, or Chair of current decision-making body)*

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Berlin  
15/04/2015

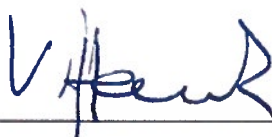
Date/Place



Dr. Manuela Urban, Managing Director FVB

Berlin,  
07/04/2015

Date/Place



Prof. Volker Haucke, Director FMP

Hamburg  
10/04/2015


Date/Place



Dr. Philip Gribbon, Coordinator EU-OPENSREEN

**EU-OPENSREEN**   
Chemical keys for life's locks

The signatures below do not mean any endorsement of the respective processes to set up an ERIC or to support the preparatory phase of the relevant Party.

2/3/2015 Rehovot, Israel 

Date/Place Signatory



*(Include: Name of research infrastructure, logo, and signature by mandated representative, i.e. Director, Coordinator, or Chair of current decision-making body)*

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12/05/2015



Neuherberg, Germany

Prof Dr. Martin Hrabě de Angelis

Scientific Director, INFRAFRONTIER GmbH

20.5.2015



Neuherberg, Germany

Dr. Nikolaus Blum

Administrative Director, INFRAFRONTIER GmbH



**INFRAFRONTIER**  
mouse disease models

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23 February 2015

Prof David Stuart FRS

Instruct Director

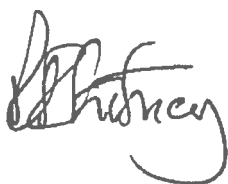
For:



*Instruct: Integrated Structural Biology Research Infrastructure*

The signatures below do not mean any endorsement of the respective processes to set up an ERIC or to support the preparatory phase of the relevant Party.



Signature: 

Prof Richard Kitney, ISBE Coordinator

Date: 16/3/15

Place: London (Imperial College).

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*P. Stackebrandt*

**19.02.2015, Braunschweig, Germany**

**Prof. Dr. Erko Stackebrandt  
MIRRI Coordinator**

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Date/Place

Signatory