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Proposal of MOU for the establishment of a binational laboratory,

University of the Republic of Eastern Republic of Uruguay –Qingdao University of People's Republic of China

In order to respond to the consensus reached by the Presidents of Uruguay and China on strengthening cooperation in scientific and technological innovation, and based on agreements signed between the faculties of dentistry of the University of the Republic (hereinafter "Uruguayan part") and Qingdao University (hereinafter "Chinese part"), on the basis of the Joint Laboratory, both parties agree to co-create the "Joint Laboratory of Artificial Intelligence in Oral Pathology" (hereinafter, the "Joint AI Laboratory").

The Faculty of Dentistry of the University of the Republic expresses its desire to establish a MOU for the generation of a binational artificial intelligence laboratory in oral pathology with the Faculty of Dentistry of Qingdao University

I. Background

Qingdao University and the University of the Republic (Udelar) have a framework agreement, and the Faculties of Dentistry at both universities have also signed a specific agreement. Within this framework, research teams have established contact, held fruitful exchanges, and advanced proposals for collaborative research. As a result, the research teams from the molecular pathology laboratories of both institutions are developing joint research lines and systematizing information on artificial intelligence applied to the diagnosis of oral cancer. The academic exchanges carried out so far include synchronous and asynchronous virtual sessions, as well as a short-term stay by a Uruguayan professor at the Faculty of Dentistry in Qingdao. Participants from Uruguay include teaching teams from the Faculty of Dentistry, the Department of Diagnostic Pathology and Oral Medicine, and the Faculty of Engineering.

The researchers from the Uruguayan side have already engaged in academic activities, possess significant training, and have established academic careers. They are members of the national research system and have a strong presence in leading, high-impact international publications. Notably, both faculties have facilities equipped with internationally recognized research technology and equipment. For its part, the Faculty of Dentistry at Udelar will need to take the necessary steps to acquire specific technology that will allow for the standardization of research results.

Both parties reached the following understanding regarding the present cooperation.

II. Aim of the Mou

The creation of the binational laboratory has the following objectives:

1. To develop artificial intelligence models for digital histopathology.
2. To apply artificial intelligence-based segmentation and recognition techniques to histopathological structures to characterize tumors and lesions, particularly their architecture and the immunohistochemical expression of specific proteins. This research aims to generate new knowledge about the maturation and behavior of these entities, contributing information to the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic concepts, as well as relevant data on prognostic and progression markers useful for the clinical management of patients.

3. To generate comparable databases between both centers.

III. Co-construction of the Management and Guarantee Mechanism

Both parties agree to maintain the dual-headquarters structure between Montevideo (Uruguay) and Qingdao (China) and to establish a real-time online coordination mechanism and annual in-person consultations. Through diversified and internationalized guarantees, the optimization of resource allocation and the efficient execution of decisions will be ensured, guaranteeing the sustainable operation of the Joint Laboratory.

IV. Plan for advancing and consolidating proposed lines of research for the first 3 years:

1. Early detection of oral cancer using artificial intelligence
2. International Platform for the Characterization of Rare Oral Pathologies
3. Population Screening Tools and Teledentistry
4. Epidemiological surveillance of dental fluorosis based on artificial intelligence

V. Commitment from Uruguay

The Faculty of Dentistry is committed:

To provide top-level research teams In Uruguay, at the University of the Republic, the initiative for a binational laboratory will be led by the Faculty of Dentistry, together with research groups from the Faculty of Engineering specializing in Artificial Intelligence. (Annex I)

The aim is to combine the best talent in oral pathology with that of artificial intelligence specialists. Teaching teams from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Medicine may be included as collaborators in the proposal.

To provide existing infrastructure and equipment (Annex II)

Financing: Promote the mechanisms that allow for securing funding for obtaining technology in accordance with joint projects

VI. Organization and guarantees

Under the principles of cooperation on an equal footing, coordination, and mutual benefit, both parties agree to promote cooperation through contributions and coordination in the areas of scientific collaboration, industrial transfer, talent development, and coordination, ensuring the high-quality operation of the Joint Laboratory.

VII. Other Provisions

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of signature by both parties and shall remain in effect for ten years. It may be renewed within six months before its expiration through prior consultation and written agreement by both parties. In accordance with the spirit of this Memorandum, both parties shall separately sign implementing regulations or agreements for specific cooperation projects. Amendment to or termination of this Memorandum shall require the written consent of both parties.

This Memorandum is signed in duplicate, each copy written in English and Chinese; each party shall retain one copy. Both texts shall have equal legal validity.

Universidad de la República

Representante: 

Fecha: _____

Universidad de Qingdao

Representante: 

Fecha: _____