

**Framework Agreement (Rahmenordnung)
Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases (MCID)
University of Bern**

I. Aims and Objectives

Article 1. Introduction and subject of this Framework Agreement

With funding from the Stiftung Vinetum the University of Bern has formed the Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases "MCID". The MCID brings together high impact academic researchers from across relevant research disciplines at the University of Bern and associated institutes to allow competencies and expertise in basic and applied research to work together and bring forward preparedness tools that can tackle the challenges of future pandemic threats from infectious diseases. MCID activities will contribute to establishing a globally leading role for sustainable research and teaching at the University of Bern and make it a center for research, services and knowledge transfer.

This framework governs the tasks, responsibilities and organization of the MCID and its technical and administrative undertakings.

The MCID is made up of seven Clusters (Economics, Epidemiology, Society and Law, Immunity, Microbiology, Neglected Diseases and Patient-Focused Research), three multidisciplinary Core Activities (The BEready Cohort, The BioPreparedness BioBank and The Ethics and Policy Lab), and Teaching and Outreach activities.

Article 2. Legal

According to the Funding Agreement of the 15 December 2020 between the University of Bern and the Stiftung Vinetum, entitled "Errichtung und Finanzierung eines Multidisziplinären Zentrums für Infektionskrankheiten, Immunität und deren Konsequenzen (Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases) an der Universität Bern" (hereinafter "Funding Agreement"), the University of Bern will establish the MCID as a Strategic Center of the University of Bern according to Article 48 of the Statutes of the University, Units of Strategic Significance (Art. 48 Statut der Universität, "Einheiten in Bereichen von strategischer Bedeutung").

Article 3. Tasks

- 3.1 The MCID is active in multi- and interdisciplinary research and teaching, services, and knowledge transfer for pandemic preparedness to infectious disease threats.
- 3.2 The MCID is specifically responsible for the following tasks:
 - a. Become a resource of expertise and guidance for policy and decision makers both in Switzerland and globally.
 - b. Identify and inform the handling of infectious disease risks by bringing together research and data at the level of basic science, clinical healthcare, veterinary science, public health monitoring, policy implications and economic strategies.

- c. The MCID performs systematic investigations into infectious threats and underlying factors for exacerbation.
- d. The MCID investigates evidence-based sentinel- and preparedness-tools for emerging and future infectious disease risks.
- e. The MCID proposes solutions that manage the impact of infectious diseases on animal life, human life, livelihoods, considering biomedical, social, ethical and economic aspects.
- f. The MCID is a dynamic community of multidisciplinary academic researchers that integrate scholarship and original research into infectious disease threats to inform effective, protective and preventative responses.
- g. The MCID carries out training and education of specialists and the lay public to increase the success of an effective and coordinated response to an epidemic threat.
- h. The MCID disseminates information and findings to decision-making stakeholders and the broader public.
- i. It promotes the national and international visibility of the University of Bern in the study and mitigation of healthcare, societal, ethical and economic risks from infectious diseases.
- j. Within the field of infectious disease risk study and mitigation, it promotes internationally important and innovative research groups working in basic and applied research at the University of Bern.
- k. It supports researchers from the University of Bern who perform important tasks, nationally and internationally, in the study and mitigation of healthcare, societal, ethical and economic risks from infectious diseases.
- l. It promotes competitiveness in the acquisition of third-party funds.
- m. It creates synergy in the research and teaching of different units of the University of Bern.
- n. When necessary, it will work together with political decision-makers and non-governmental agencies and stakeholders.
- o. It works closely with the Innovation Office of the University of Bern to translate basic and applied research into the marketplace, policy making, public health measures, clinical care, national research strategy development and any other activities to benefit pandemic preparedness.

Article 4. Status of the MCID

- 4.1 The MCID is a virtual, multi- and interdisciplinary center of the University of Bern.
- 4.2 The MCID is administratively assigned to the Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Bern.
- 4.3 Members of the MCID retain their existing administrative assignment and join the MCID as an additional affiliation ("Full Members").
- 4.4 The MCID has its own cost center.

Article 5. Performance mandate (Leistungsauftrag)

- 5.1 The Board of the University grants the MCID a performance mandate. The performance mandate will define strategic specifications and responsibilities according to the strategy 2030 of the University.
- 5.2 The performance mandates will cover successive periods of four years, will be assessed annually and amended if necessary.

II. Organization and Responsibilities

1. Committees and Rules of Procedure

Article 6. Organizational entities and supervision of the MCID

- 6.1 The MCID consists of the following entities and groups:
 - a. Assembly of Full Members
 - b. Associate Members
 - c. Directorate
 - d. Sounding Board
 - e. Scientific Advisory Board
 - f. Management Office
- 6.2 The supervision of the MCID is carried out by the University Board.

Article 7. Geschäftsordnung (By-Laws)

- 7.1 The By-Laws define the operational processes of the MCID.
- 7.2 It describes the tasks, rights, and obligations of the various entities within the MCID as well as of the research groups, departments and units involved.
- 7.3 It governs the binding requirements for entities and groups of the MCID on corporate identity and external appearance, reporting and communication.

A. Assembly of Full members

Article 8. Organisation

- 8.1 The Full Members are those listed as such on the MCID website. They constitute the Assembly of Full members.
- 8.2 The members of the MCID work for the University of Bern, Inselspital or officially associated institutes.
- 8.3 New members are usually those that receive funding from the MCID Research Fund. Exceptions are proposed according to Clause 3.2.2 of the By-Laws.
- 8.4 The possible exclusion from any of the MCID entities is through the Directorate. Exclusion requires a two-thirds majority, following an arbitration process (see Clause 3.4.1 of the By-Laws).

- 8.5 All decisions by the Assembly of Full Members are made with a simple majority vote. Matters relevant for discussion on exclusion will usually be raised by the Directorate.
- 8.6 Each Full Member is part of a research theme Cluster.

Article 9. Responsibilities

- 9.1 The Assembly of Full Members gives scientific orientation and designs and adjusts the Scientific Roadmap of the MCID, including guidance on the addition of new themes and MCID activities.
- 9.2 Full Members are required to acknowledge MCID funding / support when presenting research associated with MCID-funded projects / Core Activities / carrying out Teaching and Outreach activities funded by or officially associated with the MCID.

B. Associate Members

Article 10. Organisation

- 10.1 Associate Members are those listed as such on the MCID website.
- 10.2 Associate Members are:
- 10.2.1 Employees of the University of Bern, Inselspital or associated institutes, paid through or managing an MCID-funded research project / core activity or managing MCID-funded Teaching and Outreach activities.
- 10.2.2 Those who previously held MCID Full Member status and who have accepted the offer of Associate Member status upon retirement.
- 10.3 Status as an Associate Member ceases when employment through, or management of, an MCID-funded research project ends.

Article 11. Responsibilities

- 11.1 Associate Members are required to acknowledge MCID funding / support when presenting research associated with MCID-funded projects / Core Activities / carrying out Teaching and Outreach activities funded by or officially associated with the MCID.
- 11.2 Associate members are expected to show willingness to participate in events / activities associated with the MCID where appropriate.
- 11.3 Associate Members do not have voting rights in the Assembly of Members or in decisions made by Clusters.

C. Directorate

Article 12. Organisation

- 12.1 For the inaugural phase of four years, the Directorate and its Co-Chairs are directly selected by the University Board. Thereafter, Directorate Members are the Cluster Chairs selected from within each Cluster and approved by the

Directorate. The Managing Director belongs to the Directorate *ex officio* (without voting rights).

- 12.2 The term of office for Directorate members is four years. Re-election is possible.
- 12.3 The Directorate is led by two Co-Chairs (Co-Leitung); one (Co-Chair 2) is the holder of the MCID Faculty Position.
- 12.4 Following the inaugural Directorate period (2021-2024), the position of Co-Chair 1 will be voted on by the Directorate and approved by University Board. The term of office of Co-Chair 1 is four years. Re-election is possible.
- 12.5 The holder of the Co-Chair 2 position and the MCID Faculty Position, is voted on by the Directorate and approved by the University Board.
- 12.6 The Directorate makes its decisions with a simple majority. In the event of a tie, Co-Chair 1 has the casting vote.

Article 13. Responsibilities

- 13.1 The Directorate of the MCID is the strategic management committee responsible for supporting the delivery of MCID activities according to the performance mandate and the By-Laws. The inaugural Directorate of the MCID will be nominated by the University Board.

It performs the following tasks:

- a. Issues the By-Laws that have to be approved by the University Board.
 - b. Nominates the members of the Scientific Advisory Board that have to be approved by the University Board.
 - c. Provides leadership, planning and delivery oversight of all MCID activities during each four-year cycle of the Directorate.
 - d. Recruits the Managing Director.
 - e. Supports the preparation of the Annual Report by the Management Office and submits it to the University Board.
 - f. Supports the preparation of the Report on activities in research and teaching (according to Clause 4.3 of the Funding Agreement) by the Management Office and submits it to the Stiftung Vinetum.
 - g. All other tasks of the MCID insofar as these have not be assigned to the Managing Director.
- 13.2 The two Co-Chairs represent the MCID before the University Board.
 - 13.3 The two Co-Chairs are the line managers for the Managing Director and Business Development Manager.
 - 13.4 The two Co-Chairs take responsibility for the delivery of the performance mandate.

D. Sounding Board

Article 14. Organisation

- 14.1 The MCID Sounding Board is composed of seven or more expert researchers at the University of Bern / Inselspital / affiliated institutes, and are those listed as such on the MCID website.
- 14.2 Members of the Sounding Board are recruited by the Management Office, following consultation with the University Board
- 14.3 Members of the Sounding Board cannot be Full or Associate Members of the MCID

Article 15. Responsibilities

- 15.1 The Sounding Board can be called on by the Management Office to make decisions on, but not limited to, MCID funds allocation

E. Scientific Advisory Board

Article 16. Organisation

- 16.1 The Directorate appoints a Scientific Advisory Board.
- 16.2 The MCID Scientific Advisory Board will consist of members of the University, additional members from national and international institutions.
- 16.3 Members of the Scientific Advisory Board are not recruited from the MCID Members.

Article 17. Responsibilities

- 17.1 The Directorate can consult the Scientific Advisory Board on strategic matters. The responsibilities of the Scientific Advisory Board are set out in the By-Laws.

F. Management Office

Article 18. Organization

- 18.1 The Management Office consists of the Co-Chairs, the Managing Director, Business Development Manager and any other MCID employee.

Article 19. Responsibilities

- 19.1 The Management Office is responsible for operations of the MCID. This includes but is not limited to: Program coordination, communication, administration, quality assurance and business development.
- 19.2 The Managing Director has the following tasks:
 - a. Is responsible for the functional operation of MCID in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws.
 - b. Prepares the draft of the Annual Report, Budget and Financial Plan.

III. Financing

Article 20. Financing

- 20.1 The MCID is financed (i) by third-party funds acquired from the Stiftung Vinetum (forecast to be for a period of ten years from 2021-2030)
- 20.2 The MCID will carry out activities to obtain additional third-party funding.
- 20.3 The MCID will carry out activities to obtain follow-on funding after the conclusion of support from the Stiftung Vinetum to ensure sustainability of the MCID as undertaken in the Funding Agreement.

Article 21. Effective Date and Authorization

This Framework Agreement shall become effective upon approval by the University Board.

**For Vetsuisse Faculty
University of Bern**

Bern,



Prof. Dr. David Spreng
Dean Vetsuisse Faculty

For MCID

Bern,



Prof. Dr. Volker E. Thiel
Co-Chair MCID

For MCID

Bern,



Prof. Dr. Carmen Faso
Co-Chair MCID

Approval University Board

Bern, *05.10.2022*



Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann
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