

**LETTER OF INTENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH,**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY**  
**WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**AND**  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE RESEARCH,**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, UNITED KINGDOM OF**  
**GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**ON HEALTH RESEARCH**

1. Background

In pursuance of collaboration, the Government of the Republic of India (GOI) and His Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Health on 19 May 2013, which was renewed in the month of January, 2025, and the India-UK joint statement on 4 May 2021. This Letter of Intent (LoI) will build on mutually beneficial collaborative research.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Department of Health Research (DHR), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of the Republic of India and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) under the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), UK, (hereinafter jointly referred to as 'Participants' and individually as a 'Participant') are working together to establish a health research focussed partnership.

In recognition of this, the Participants have decided to establish a platform for collaboration through the signing of this Letter of Intent.

2. Scope of work

The ICMR and the NIHR are exploring co-operation on common priority areas of health research. Areas of focus could include, but are not limited to:

- a) High-performance, affordable and cost-effective point of care diagnostics, including for AMR stewardship;
- b) Combination (including device, digital and lifestyle) interventions for the prevention and treatment of cardiometabolic diseases (including hypertension and diabetes); and
- c) Building research capacity and capability and fostering the future generation of research leaders.
- d) Under the scope of this LoI any other area as mutually decided by Participants in writing.
- e) It is intended that this Letter of Intent will lead to further discussions and the determination of modalities and operational aspects, following all necessary

regulatory approvals for collaborative research projects/activities, in accordance with respective national laws, rules, regulations and policies in each country.

A phased programme is suggested as follows:

- i. Jointly host a priority-setting workshop to identify common research evidence gaps.
  - ii. Co-develop a call for 'proposal development awards' on identified priorities, followed by joint assessment of applications.
  - iii. Joint funding and monitoring of successful proposals.
3. This initiative will be governed and reviewed through joint meetings led between Secretary, Department of Health Research, Government of the Republic of India, and the Chief Scientific Adviser of DHSC, UK, to be held annually at least.
  4. Participants intend to ensure adequate and effective protection of data and equitable rights to the Intellectual Property (IP) generated. Each Participant will respect intellectual property rights (IPR) of the other Participant consistent with the domestic laws, rules, and regulations concerning IPR in force in their respective countries and international agreements to which both Participants are signatories and in accordance with further arrangements made between the Participants.
  5. This LOI does not constitute any legally binding commitment or budgetary contributions of any kind on either Participant.

This LOI will come into operation upon signature of the Participants.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective authorities /Governments have signed this LOI at Delhi, U.K. on 3rd day of October, 2025 in two originals in the English language.

**For the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**

**For the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)**

**Dr. Rajiv Bahl**  
Secretary DHR & Director General,  
ICMR

**Prof. Lucy Chappell**  
Chief Scientific Adviser, DHSC  
and Chief Executive, NIHR