

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**between the**

**the Royal Society**

**and the**

**Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche**

The Royal Society, of London (hereinafter referred to as "the Royal Society"), and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) of Italy (collectively hereinafter referred to as "the Participants"), seeking to build on the existing friendly and co-operative relationship between the UK and Italy, and specifically to encourage scientific collaboration between Italy and the UK, have reached the following understanding.

### **SECTION 1**

#### **Objective**

The Primary Objective of the collaboration pursued under this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be to support research and innovation links between scientists in Italy and the UK. This will be achieved through collaboration on two funding programmes, which will both increase short-term exchange of scientists and provide opportunities for Italian scientists to undertake an extended stay in a UK research institution. Both programmes will aim to support the development of long-term, sustainable partnerships.

Collaboration under this MOU will build on existing UK-Italy science, research and innovation agreements. It will not preclude other bilateral or multilateral cooperation activities and agreements in research and innovation in which each Participant may take part.

### **SECTION 2**

#### **Areas and Forms of Collaborative Activities**

##### **2A: Fellowships and Grants**

The Royal Society and CNR will offer Royal Society International Exchanges to UK and Italian scientists wishing to establish collaborative research links. These grants will be made in all fields of natural sciences (including engineering). For further details see Annex 1.

The Royal Society and CNR will also offer Newton International Fellowships to early career Italian researchers who would like to undertake research in a UK university or research institution. These fellowships are specifically intended to support the development of links between the UK research community and the best early career researchers in Italy. It is expected that the development of such links will benefit both research communities. Fellowships will be made across all fields of natural sciences (including engineering) for further details see Annex 1.

## **2B: Promotion**

The participants will collaborate on the promotion of the programme. Although CNR may specifically target researchers based in CNR institutes, researchers from other Italian research institutes and universities will also be eligible to apply with a UK co-applicant.

## **SECTION 3**

### **Executing Authorities**

The Executing Authorities for the purposes of this MOU will be the Royal Society and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. Both programmes will be administered by the Royal Society. The programmes will be delivered as described in Section 2A and Annex 1. All applications will be assessed through the Royal Society's usual committee review process.

Each participant will designate a coordinator who will be responsible for managing the communication between the two parties:

#### **Royal Society**

Director of Grants Programmes  
6-9 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5AG  
[paul.mcdonald@royalsociety.org](mailto:paul.mcdonald@royalsociety.org)

#### **Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche**

Director of International Relations Office  
P.le Aldo Moro, 7  
00185 Roma  
[virginia.codanunziante@cnr.it](mailto:virginia.codanunziante@cnr.it)

## **SECTION 4**

### **Funding and Resources**

#### **4A: International Exchanges**

The international exchanges between the UK and Italy which are carried out under this MOU (Section 2A) will be jointly funded by the Royal Society and CNR. Each organisation will contribute £6,000 to each grant made (total award value of £12k). These jointly funded international exchanges will be open to all Italian scientists regardless of their institutional affiliation.

The Participants must be in agreement as to which international exchanges will be jointly funded.

For the International Exchanges, all payments by CNR to the Royal Society will be made in GBP in advance of the start of the award.

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**4B: Newton International Fellowships**

The Royal Society will identify those Italian fellowship candidates that are considered fundable and are above the funding threshold determined for each specific round of applications, and forward these names to CNR to consider funding the application. Annex 1 provides further details of the process.

The Participants will agree as to which fellowships will be funded with support from CNR.

For the Newton International Fellowships, all payments by CNR to the Royal Society will be made in GBP in advance of the start of the fellowship

**4C: Proposed number of awards**

Under this MOU, the Royal Society and CNR together will offer to Italian researchers the following number of awards:

- Up to 10 International Exchanges** in the Natural Sciences and Engineering per year jointly funded by the Royal Society and CNR.
- Up to 3 Newton International Fellowships** in the Natural Sciences and Engineering per year funded by CNR.

The number of fellowships and exchanges supported each year will be agreed by the participants following the recommendations made by the Newton International Fellowships committee and International exchanges committee.

**SECTION 5**

**Review and Monitoring**

The Participants agree to:

- Conduct at least one operational review meeting biennially as part of the engagement between the Royal Society and CNR.
- Review annually whether the number of agreed awards is appropriate.
- That the Society will provide an annual summary of applications received and awards made by each of the programmes in Section 2.

**SECTION 6**

**Duration, Effective Date and Termination**

This MOU will come into effect on the date of its signature by the Participants and will remain valid for a period of five years. It may be terminated earlier by either Participant giving the other Participant written notice at least 90 days before the date of termination.


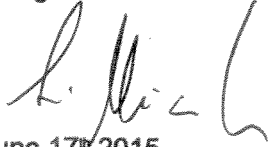
The termination of the MOU will not affect any funds already disbursed or spent unless otherwise decided by the Participants.



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This MOU is a statement of intent, but is not a legally binding document and does not create legal obligations under international law

Signed in duplicate on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2015

<b>For the Royal Society</b> Dr Julie Maxton Executive Director Signature  Date 26/6/15	<b>For the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche</b> Professor Luigi Nicolais President Signature  Date June 17 <sup>th</sup> 2015
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## Fellowships and Grants

1. The Royal Society International Exchanges will provide the opportunity for early career and established researchers (postdoctoral onwards) based in Italy to establish and develop new collaborations with UK counterparts. They will be based around a joint research project in the fields of natural sciences. The awards will be up to £12,000 and will last for up to 2 years and may cover costs for travel and subsistence as well as a small contribution to research expenses. Applications must have an Italian and UK co-applicant and be based around a jointly conceived research project.
  - International Exchanges will be selected by the Royal Society through their established process, which is currently repeated three times per year.
  - Only applications which are on the Royal Society "fundable" list and which are above the funding threshold determined for each round of applications will be considered for joint funding by the Royal Society and CNR.
  - The Participants will agree as to which international exchanges to fund jointly.
  - CNR will confirm whether they will support a proposed award within 3 weeks of receiving the recommendations from the Royal Society.
  
2. The Newton International Fellowships will be aimed at supporting early career post-doctoral researchers (with no more than seven years' active full time post-doctoral experience) from Italy in their career development, covering all fields of the natural sciences. The awards will be two consecutive years in length spent in the UK undertaking research at a host university or research institute. The awards will provide a stipend, research expenses and one-off relocation expenses, and will provide up to £66,000 for two years. All applicants must identify a UK co-applicant who will host them in the UK. The award holder will be based in the UK for the duration of the award.
  - Newton International Fellowships will be selected by the Royal Society through their established process.
  - Only applications which are on the Royal Society "fundable" list and which are above the funding threshold determined for each round of applications will be funded.
  - Applications will be funded in their ranked order and without any consideration of priority areas.
  - The Royal Society will provide CNR with a list of Italian applicants that the Royal Society would be willing to support through the Newton International Fellowships.
  - CNR will identify from this list candidates who they wish to fund, within 3 weeks of receiving the recommendations from the Royal Society.

The CNR will nominate up to five Italian scientists to serve on the Royal Society's Newton International Fellowships committee panel to review applications in the natural sciences. These are virtual committees which assess applications online. CNR nominees will not be permitted to review applications involving researchers based in Italy.