

BRAZIL'S TOP MEDICAL SCHOOLS SIGN FIRST ACADEMIC COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS AND LETTERS OF INTENT WITH NIHES

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – December 10, 2010

At the science dinner hosted in Sao Paulo by Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) on November 30, 2010, the NIHES-Brazil Knowledge Platform signed the first academic collaboration agreements with Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Universidade Estácio de Sá, and Escola Baiana de Medicina e Saúde Pública.

At the same time, the first letters of intent were signed by five public institutions: Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ); University of São Paulo (Faculty of Medicine); Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (International Relations Department); Federal University of Bahia (Institute for Public Health); and Federal University of Minas Gerais (Hospital das Clínicas).

The NIHES-Brazil Knowledge Platform aims to foster research talent – not only in academia, government and industry, but also in people who might otherwise be left behind.

The Science Dinner was an initiative of Erasmus University Rotterdam. The Knowledge Platform had a strong showing at the dinner, which followed up the launch meeting held at the Castelo Mourisco, Rio de Janeiro, on September 21st.

Special guests at the Science Dinner were the Mayor of Rotterdam, Ahmed Aboutaleb, and the Counselor for Science and Technology of the Delegation of the European Union in Brazil, Angel Landabaso. Mayor Aboutaleb underscored the crucial importance of education in bridging social gaps and in promoting understanding between people from different cultural backgrounds. Angel Landabaso praised Brazil's scientific progress over the past decade, and urged European institutions to work together when teaming up with Brazilian institutions.

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From left: Prof. Katia de Sa (Escola Bahiana de Medicina e Saúde Pública); Prof. Hesio de Albuquerque Cordeiro (Universidade Estacio de Sá); Prof. Maikel Peppelenbosch (NIHES-Erasmus MC); Anton van Schijndel, LL.M. (NIHES representative in Brazil); Pauline van der Meer Mohr LL.M. (President of the Executive Board EUR); Ahmed Aboutaleb (Mayor of Rotterdam); Prof. Alvaro Amarante and Prof. Roberto Pecoits Filho (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná).

Three Academic Cooperation Agreements were signed under the NIHES-Brazil initiative. The signatories on behalf of the Brazilian partner universities were Prof. Roberto Pecoits Filho (PUC-PR), Prof. Hesio de Albuquerque Cordeiro (ESTACIO DE SA), and Prof. Katia de Sa (ESCOLA BAHIANA). The Dutch signatories were Pauline van der Meer Mohr, LL.M. (EUR), and Prof. Maikel Peppelenbosch (NIHES).



From the left: Prof. Darci Neves (Federal University of Bahia); Pauline van der Meer Mohr (EUR), and Prof. Maria Dutilh Novaes (University of Sao Paulo, Faculty of Medicine).

At the same time, a Letter of Intent (Carta de Intenções) was signed by representatives from five public institutions. The signatories were Prof. Armando de Oliveira Schubach and Prof. Mariza Theme (FIOCRUZ), Prof. Maria Dutilh Novaes (USP-FM), Prof. Eliane Hentschke (UFRGS), Prof. Darci Neves (UFBA) and Prof. Antonio Luiz Pinho Ribeiro (UFMG-Hospital das Clínicas).

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From left: Prof. Liane Hentschke (Head of the International Relations Department at UFRGS), Pauline van der Meer Mohr, LL.M. (EUR), and Dr. L.W.M. Piët, Netherlands Consul-General.

The Science Dinner gave the Members of the NIHES-Brazil Knowledge Platform an excellent opportunity to get to know each other and to discuss opportunities for scientific collaboration. Several of the Brazilian participants in the Platform committed themselves immediately to identifying strong candidates who could make good use of the 15 fellowships available for the Erasmus Summer Programme in 2011.

About NIHES-Brazil Knowledge Platform

The NIHES-Brazil Knowledge Platform is a response to Brazil's growing study-abroad market, and to employers' awareness that international training creates competitive advantage. The immediate aim of this initiative is to identify synergies for research-training in medicine and the health sciences. Such synergies should produce integrated research-training initiatives that support highly qualified students and health professionals. With financial support from public and private organizations, partner universities will next promote international exchanges of students and faculty.

About Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences – NIHES

The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIHES) is an alliance of renowned Dutch universities and research institutes who collaborate in quantitative medical and health research. We offer graduate and postgraduate research training – Master of Science programmes and short courses – in quantitative medicine and the health sciences in our core disciplines: Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology, Public Health, and Medical Informatics. We collaborate with four key institutes: Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Amsterdam, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, and the Netherlands Cancer Institute.

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