
UNAM Agreement to create the Center

Based on former considerations, and in view of the developing state of genetic engineering and biotechnology at the international level, and the potential of these methodologies and their participation in national priority areas, the Rector of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Dr. Octavio Rivero Serrano, founded in April 1982, the Research Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (Centro de Investigación sobre Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología) as a subdependency of the Scientific Research Coordinating Board (Coordinación de la Investigación Científica).

GENERAL SECRETARY

AGREEMENT NUMBER 1

To the Directors of Schools, Faculties, Institutes and Centers, General Directors and Chiefs of Administrative Units.

Considering:

That different research groups of The UNAM are developing, on areas of Genetic Engineering and Botechnology, high quality projects guaranteeing their continuity and development.

That the UNAM is aware that it is crucial for México to participate in the elaboration of its own technologies, based on fundamental knowledge, to solve specific problems of social significance in areas such as health, food, energy and pollution.

That the development of biotechnology at the international level makes possible the participation of the Center, through the use of genetic engineering, in finding solutions to problems in those areas.

That the UNAM is interested in promoting the decentralization of Academic and Research programs and in fortifying the scientific pole being developed in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos.

That the staff of the Molecular Biology Department and the Internal Council of Biomedical Research Institute (Instituto de Investigaciones Biomedicas), together with the Technical Council of Scientific Research and the Committee of Academic Differentiation, have given their support.

With the agreement of the Rector, from this date, the Research Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology is created.

1. The Center will rely on the Scientific Research Coordinating Board and there will be a Director in charge appointed by the Rector of the UNAM. It will have an Internal Council in accordance to the University Legislation. The Center will be localized in the city of Cuernavaca, in the State of Morelos. The Technical Council of Scientific Research will be its academic authority.

2. The Center will have a Technical Committee that will provide guidelines for collaboration with other University dependencies, will serve as consultant in the formulation of programs and their follow up, recommending measures to assure their progress. The Technical Committee will be integrated by the Coordinator of Scientific Research, who will preside it and by the Directors of the Faculties of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Zootechny, Chemistry and FES-Cuautitlán, the Directors of the Institutes of Biology and Biomedical Research, the Directors of the Research Center for Nitrogen Fixation and Cellular Physiology and by the Director of the Center.

3. The Center will have the following initial objectives and functions:

- A) To perform basic research in the areas of:
 - a) Molecular y biology, enzymology, biochemistry and chemical synthesis of nucleic acids.
 - b) Biochemistry of proteins and peptides.
 - c) Microbiology and genetic improvement of microorganisms of basic and industrial interest.
 - d) Fermentation, scaling up and bioengineering processes.
 - e) Enzymatic engineering.
- B) Applied Research.
Using the information and the fundamental knowledge generated by the basic research in the areas mentioned above, there will be development of biological technologies that could lead to the solution or to better alternatives for problems in the following areas of applied research: food, health, pollution and energy.
- C) Coordinate the effort of UNAM's dependencies working in the described areas.
- D) Participate with other UNAM's dependencies and with other institutions in the country or elsewhere, developing projects and research on their specific areas.
- E) Contribute in the training of specialized staff in the mentioned disciplines.
- F) Teaching in specific areas.

The Research Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology will be integrated by staff working at the Department of Molecular Biology, Developmental Biology and Biotechnology of the Biomedical Research Institute. Its budget will be set by the University Board to support the programs of the groups collaborating with the Center under the responsibility of the research members. The Center will count with the human resources, material and equipment set by the Scientific Research Coordinating Board.

"Por mi Raza Hablará el Espíritu"
Cd. Universitaria, April 26, 1982.

General Secretary
Lic. Raúl Béjar Navarro.