

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DES

(DEPARTMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL SURGERY)

SINGAPORE GENERAL HOSPITAL PTE LTD

Introduction

The Department of Experimental Surgery (DES) was first established as a research and training unit within the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) in 1982 and grew into a full-fledged department by 1989. With over two decades of experience in animal-based research projects, DES has highly skilled personnel and well-established infrastructure to carry out research projects according to the highest international standards. DES now offers an attractive combination of centralised professional (scientific, veterinarian, and technical) staff and contemporary research facilities to support a broad range of in-vitro and in-vivo animal research, as well as cadaveric-based research.

DES is funded through competitive, public grants to serve as a national large animal research resource centre, catering to the needs of the entire local research community, resources permitting. Accordingly, DES has certain key performance indicators (KPIs) it strives to meet in order to continue receiving public funding. Being a research department, DES also has a duty to develop its intellectual capital to assist in fulfilling its role as a core facility.

An important KPI is scientific output as measured by scholarly publications and presentations. The research activities, which DES undertakes often, form the basis of articles in peer-reviewed journals, seminar reports, and presentations at professional meetings etc. It is thus important that DES has the freedom to publish the research work that it conducts in collaboration with its research partners (where appropriate), irrespective of whether the work is initiated within DES or not.

To this end, DES is committed to entering into agreements with prospective research partners that embrace the principle of open disclosure/publication of research data.

Types of Research Relationships

As part of our ongoing efforts to streamline processes and procedures within DES, the Department now offers the following research relationships:

a. Collaborative Research

This is a research collaboration between DES and investigators outside of DES where all parties seek collaboration to leverage on the respective strengths of the various parties. While the cost of consumables may be shared (or publicly funded), DES brings to the collaboration its specialised skills, knowledge and institutional experience. DES may charge preferential rates and may also waive certain costs (direct and/or indirect), or offer costs of skilled personnel.

Distinct characteristics of such agreements include:

- The scientific results arising from the collaboration will be presented and published with due credit and acknowledgement given to DES for its contribution. The exact authorship will be decided before commencement of the project.
- DES retains the right to publish the results of the research if the collaborators, for whatever reasons, decline to publish.
- DES contributes to the collaboration specialised skills, knowledge and institutional experience in addition to its animal research, husbandry and hospital facilities.

- Certain costs, especially those pertaining to intellectual input in the design and execution of the collaboration and work done by DES's skilled personnel may be waived at DES's sole discretion.
- Intellectual property existing prior to the collaboration is clearly defined as the property of the party introducing or disclosing the same.
- New intellectual property (i.e. intellectual property that arises during the course of the project duration, if any) will be jointly owned by the institutions, i.e. DES/SGH and that of the collaborators. DES may assign its rights to the new IP to the collaboration in exchange for a higher percentage of royalties derived upon commercialisation of the new IP.

b. Contract Research (Fee-for-Service)

This type of research is commissioned by investigators outside of DES and is defined by an agreement providing for the delivery of services or the use of DES's equipment and facilities, based on a protocol as provided by the client in consideration of a fee levied by DES. As DES is a publicly funded research institution, contract research services will only be offered when there is excess capacity.

Distinct characteristics of such agreements include:

- Use of DES's existing know-how to provide the service
- Use of DES's facilities, resources and time
- Service results are the property of the client but DES has the right to use results for teaching and non-commercial research projects
- DES will charge for services provided to client
- New intellectual property (i.e. intellectual property that arises during the course of the project duration, if any) will be owned by the client

Contact:

For any queries on the type of services available or the skill and expertise of staff in DES, please contact:

A/Prof Pierce Chow
Director
DES, SGH
E-mail : gsupc@singnet.com.sg
Tel: 6321 4937 Fax: 6222 3389

or

Mr Robert Ng
Senior Manager
DES, SGH
E-mail: gesnth@sgh.com.sg