



## COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between

**Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies  
(SAOT)**

and

**Lehrstuhl für Medizinische Biotechnologie (MBT)**  
Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU)  
Paul-Gordan-Str. 3  
91052 Erlangen, Germany

and

**Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI)**

Lowy Packer Building  
405 Liverpool St  
Darlinghurst, NSW 2010  
Australia

### *Preamble*

The Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (hereafter referred to as SAOT) is a major research and educational institution with focus on the development and application of optical technologies in a broad range of areas in science, medicine and engineering. The Institute of Medical Biotechnology (MBT – Lehrstuhl für Medizinische Biotechnologie) is part of the Department of Chemical and Bioengineering (CBI) of the School of Engineering of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. MBT covers in education aspects of Advanced Optical Technologies in Medical Metrology, Applied Life Science Imaging and Research Activities in Multidisciplinary Fields of Neurology, Physiology, Biotechnology and Clinical Disciplines. Elucidating Disease Mechanisms and implementation of high-throughput screening assays and development of new treatment regimes is also a major focus.

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) has been established in 1994 and has become both nationally and internationally recognised as a centre-of-excellence in basic and translational cardiovascular research, training and community advocacy for science and the improvement of heart health. The primary objectives of the VCCRI are to improve the lives and well-being of not only Australians but people worldwide, through research into diseases of the heart and blood vessels, excellence in cardiovascular research training and rapid translation of research findings to the new preventions, diagnostics, and treatments.

**VCCRI Mission Statement:** The relief of pain and suffering and the promotion of well-being, through an understanding of the fundamental mechanisms of cardiovascular biology in health and disease using advanced technology in confocal and fluorescence microscopy,

electrophysiology and genetic engineering.

The partners SAOT, MBT and VCCRI agree in their mutual interests to develop and provide permanent support to the collaboration between all partners in the areas of research and education.

### ***1. Objective***

The purpose of this Agreement is to promote and expand international development, understanding and friendship by stimulating and supporting educational, professional and intercultural activities, as well as projects among researchers of VCCRI and SAOT-MBT.

The cooperation shall be carried out, subject to availability of financial sources and the approval of each institution, through such activities or programs as:

- a) Development and execution of collaborative research projects;
- b) Support of the partners research activities;
- b) Exchange of teaching and research staff of the VCCRI and the SAOT-MBT;
- c) Exchange of graduate students;
- d) Organize and conduct joint conferences, workshops, study groups, courses or meetings.

### ***2. Coordinators***

For VCCRI :     Prof Robert M Graham, Executive Director  
                  Prof Boris Martinac, Head of Mechanosensory Biophysics Laboratory  
                  Prof Michael Feneley, Head of Cardiac Mechanics Laboratory

For SAOT and MBT: Prof. Dr. Dr. Oliver Friedrich, SAOT Principle Investigator and Chair of Medical Biotechnology, Head of Institute.

### ***3. Developing Collaborative Research Projects***

Both parties shall regularly evaluate the collaborative research projects being undertaken, make appropriate adjustments whenever problems occur, sum up experience and seek more funding for developing new projects.

### ***4. Exchange of scientific staff***

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and the SAOT-MBT will work cooperatively to select exchange participants, to decide the exchange periods, and, in general, to provide the most appropriate solution for both institutions to any arising problems. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the staff does not become employees of the host institution. In this case, sufficient health and accident insurance shall be in the responsibility of the individual taking part in the exchange activities.

### 5. Exchange of graduate students

The exchange students may be fully enrolled as students in the Elite Master and/or Doctorate Program in Advanced Optical Technologies (MAOT/SAOT), the Chemical and Bioengineering Program (CBI) or related study programs of the School of Engineering.

From VCCRI the exchange students are familiar with the English language.

Depending on the length of the exchange stay, no tuition fees will be charged. Any additional charges, including social services, are dependent on the regulations of the host institution.

The exchange student is responsible for all living expenses incurred in the exchange period, including any university expenses other than tuition.

### 6. Financial aspects

The partners do not go into any financial commitment by signing this agreement.

Nevertheless they will undertake any effort to find financial sources or support for each research or exchange project defined. For each project defined the financial conditions will be laid down in separate agreements.

### 7. Duration / Termination of the Agreement

This Cooperation Agreement becomes effective after ratification of both sides.

It will remain in force for a period of three years after signing, and any amendment and/or modification of the Agreement will require written approval of the coordinators of each contracting institution and shall be appended hereto.

This Agreement will be extended automatically for another year if none of the partners states his interest to cease the Agreement at least three months before its validity expires.

Any termination must take into account existing exchanges and cooperation programs which have to be finished.

For  
Victor Chang Cardiac Research  
Institute

Date, Place 20 Sept 2012

Robert M. Graham

Professor Robert M Graham

B. Martinac

Professor Boris Martinac

Michael Feneley

Professor Michael Feneley

For  
Graduate School of Advanced  
Optical Technologies (SAOT)

Date, Place \_\_\_\_\_

Professor Alfred Leipertz

For  
Institute of Medical Biotechnology,  
Friedrich-Alexander University

20th Sep 2012, Sydney, AUS  
Date, Place

Oliver Friedrich

Professor Oliver Friedrich