



Korea Disease Control and
Prevention Agency

Press Release

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Korea NIID and US NIAID Exchange Letters Expressing Intent for Cooperation in Vaccines and Therapeutics Research

◇ *The National Institute of Infectious Diseases expects to see an acceleration of the research on vaccines and therapeutics against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Also, the expansion of research cooperation areas would help strengthen South Korea's capabilities of responding to emerging infectious diseases, including COVID-19.*

- Osong, 23rd May 2021 -- The National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), an agency of the Korea National Institute of Health (KNIH), and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), an agency of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), exchanged letters expressing intent to enhance, strengthen, and foster biomedical research cooperation related to the development of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2 and other infectious diseases on 18th May 2021 (KST). The letters were signed by NIID Director Jang Hee-Chang and NIAID Director Anthony Fauci.

- The NIID and the NIAID have discussed an exchange of letters of intent for infectious disease research collaboration since the launch of the Biden administration. The exchange of the letters has been completed around the time of the ROK-US Summit.
- With the exchange of the letters, the two institutes have reached a shared understanding to expand research collaboration and scientists' engagement in the areas of the research and development of vaccines and therapeutics.
 - Importantly, there has been bilateral consent that the collaboration could initially focus on the research and development of vaccines and therapeutics against emerging infectious diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Other areas for research collaboration would include tuberculosis vaccines and therapeutics, antimicrobial resistance, and immunology related to infectious diseases.
- NIID Director Jang Hee-Chang said: “We will take advantage of the exchange of the letters to strengthen the cooperation with the NIAID, and make efforts to accelerate the development of vaccines and therapeutics against emerging and unsolved infectious diseases.”
- Director Jang added: “We will also work harder to grow into a research institute having the capabilities to immediately respond to emerging infectious diseases. To this end, we will make efforts to expand our network of experts inside Korea and take the areas of bilateral cooperation to the next level.”

- Kim Byoungguk, Director of the Division of Vaccine Clinical Research, said: “The NIAID has expectations that there will be opportunities to expand research collaboration and scientists’ engagement with the NIID, which was established last year. The mutual understanding for collaboration through the exchange of letters will greatly help strengthen the NIID’s research capabilities in the international community.”