



Korea Disease Control and  
Prevention Agency

# Press Release

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## KNIH and Moderna Sign MoU on Research Collaboration for mRNA Vaccine

◇ *The Korea National Institute of Health expects that there will be a potential expansion of collaborative research on SARS-CoV-2 vaccines as well as mRNA vaccines against other various infectious diseases. The Institute also expects that the mRNA vaccine research that it has been conducting independently will be accelerated.*

□ Osong, 23rd May 2021 -- The Korea National Institute of Health (KNIH), an agency of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), and Moderna signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration on mRNA vaccine research at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Saturday 22nd May 2021 (EDT).

※ Signatories: Kwon Junwook, Director, KNIH; and Stéphane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer, Moderna.

○ With this MoU, the KNIH and Moderna indicate their mutual interest in potentially pursuing scientific research cooperation,

including collaborative research on mRNA vaccines in areas of common interest.

- The exploratory areas of collaboration would potentially include mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) and variant strains, as well as non-clinical and clinical studies on infectious diseases that generate high medical demand and heavy disease burdens in South Korea.
- For research on vaccines that may be needed in the future in South Korea, detailed topics for collaborative research will be decided through in-depth discussions with Moderna.
- KNIH Director Kwon Junwook said: “We, the KNIH, will take advantage of this MOU signing to strengthen collaboration with Moderna. By doing so, we will make unwavering efforts to take a leading role in mRNA vaccine research in South Korea.”
- Director Kwon added: “If we make efforts to take collaborative research projects based on this MoU to the next level and make research collaboration possible, then this will greatly contribute not only to the development of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines but also to the development of mRNA vaccines against other various infectious diseases that are needed in South Korea.”
- In addition, Director Jang Hee-Chang of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), a part of the KNIH, said: “I hope that, through this potential collaboration with Moderna, the NIID’s mRNA vaccine research capabilities will be strengthened further, and collaborative mRNA research programmes will be expanded as well.”