



**AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE HOSPITALS NETWORK  
(NARRATIVE HOSPITALS NETWORK – NHN)**

The **BIELLA Local Health Authority [Azienda Sanitaria Locale]** (hereinafter, **ASL BI**), based in Ponderano – Via dei Ponderanesi 2 – VAT Registration No. 01810260024 represented by the Commissioner Adv. Diego Poggio, born in Cuneo on 14 January 1962 and domiciled for the purposes of the office in Ponderano, Via dei Ponderanesi n. 2;

**Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal de Créteil** (hereinafter, **CHIC**), having is registered office in Créteil, 40 avenue de Verdun, 94010 Créteil CEDEX, SIREN 269 401 154, SIRET 269 401 154 00019, represented for the purposes of this deed by its general manager Stephane Pardoux;

**Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca** (hereinafter, **UNIMIB**), having is registered office in Milan, Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo no. 1, Tax Code and VAT Registration No. 12621570154, represented for the purposes of this deed by the Head of the Department of Human Sciences for Education "R. Massa", Prof Maria Grazia Riva, given Rectoral Decree No. 4946/2018, protocol no. 0070025/18 of 02/10/2018, given Managerial Resolution No. ~~2652/2019~~ of ~~21.05.2019~~ (protocol no. ~~0039851/19~~);

**Université Paris-Est Créteil** (hereinafter, **UPEC**), having is registered office in 61, Avenue du Général-de-Gaulle, Créteil, SIREN 199 411 117, SIRET 199 411 117 00013, represented for the purposes of this deed by the President of the Medicine Education and Research Unit (Ufr), Faculty of Medicine, 8 Rue du Général Sarraill, 94010 Créteil Cedex, Prof Pierre Wolkenstein;

**WHEREAS**

- that the listed institutions and ASL BI have come to distinguish themselves for having acquired within their ranks significant skills in the field of Narrative Medicine and, more generally, the narrative paradigm relating to different caregiving practices deployed in various operational contexts, as well as for having shared the practices and know-how in question and having undertaken, jointly as well, research activities around these topics;
- that the listed institutions and, through its Education Service, ASL BI, have promoted and run a number of conferences of national and international relevance, and also collaborated in teaching activities within the scope of Specialist and Master courses, thereby acting as reference Centres recognised and accredited in the respective national contexts;
- that the conclusion of this agreement between the listed institutions and ASL BI, in the aforementioned natural persons and in the specified roles, is deemed necessary to further an organisational

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and scientific culture geared towards a Narrative Medicine and, accordingly, towards the implementation of narrative and autobiographical practices in the Hospital Centres and in the medical-healthcare contexts, and, more generally, oriented towards the furtherance of caregiving practices founded on a narrative paradigm in the different realities, which as time goes by could affiliate to an international network called: «Narrative Hospitals Network» (hereinafter, NHN);

- that by concluding this agreement the founding Members formalise the establishment of the NHN;
- that the listed institutions take on the role of founding Members of the NHN;
- that the scientific and cultural project underlying the establishment of the NHN will draw further lifeblood and stimulation from the quali-quantitative increase in collaborative relationships, which might also materialise thanks to the expansion in the number of institutions that, at international level, could affiliate to the NHN;

- that affiliation to the NHN will be open, as affiliating Members, to hospitals where Narrative Medicine practices are hosted and/or research, education and cultural activities aimed at the adoption and operational development of a healthcare and narrative paradigm are undertaken, as well as to universities, scientific associations, research centres, educational institutes and other bodies active and accredited in the operational and scientific fields referred to here;

- that scientific-cultural support and accreditation might also be lent to the NHN by institutes and institutions interesting in backing up the project outlined here;

- that affiliation to the NHN shall take place by following the procedure laid down by the Founding Members, which includes the submission, by the interested institutions, of an application accompanied by a specific supporting documentation proving fulfilment of the necessary prerequisites and implementation of an investigative and evaluative activity conducted by the Founding Members themselves, as set out in article 4 of this agreement;

- that the Founding Members could, if need be (for instance, for an extraordinarily significant spread of the NHN entailing possible managerial complexities), temporarily or permanently delegate the investigative activities and the assessments on the merit, as well as other specific managerial and supporting tasks, to different reference hubs of the NHN authorised to that end or to other competent institutions established for that purpose;





• that any temporary or permanent delegation of the tasks and functions referred to in the preceding point might only take place pursuant to a decision adopted by unanimous favourable opinion expressed through appropriate formalisation by the Founding Members;

• that the cultural and scientific development within the NHN could materialise through facilities, equipment and resources (computer for writing and processing data, a variety of instruments depending on availability, classrooms, offices, working and meeting spaces) the partners might make available, pursuant to their own assessment, in total decisional autonomy and in compliance with the general rules and the specific Regulations in force in the individual institutions belonging to the NHN, with a view to:

– sharing in various forms and circumstances the experiences and the activities conducted or planned on the issue of narrative practices in therapeutic contexts, organising, jointly among them as well, conferences around the topic of narrative Medicine, and also facilitating participation, as speakers in such conferences, by their professionals;

– gathering periodically to adopt decisions of common interest;

– drawing up and signing a Manifesto on caregiving relationship;

– actively collaborating in an easier procurement of funds for the sustainability of narrative practices in therapeutic contexts, for teaching, education and research;

– facilitating, consistently with the construct of “practice community”, the spread and development of know-how and practices concerning treatment from a narrative and reflective viewpoint among professionals of hospital centres and within medical-healthcare contexts;

– running stages and other educational activities and cultural exchanges involving operators;

– conducting research activities and facilitating teaching activities and other forms of scientific collaboration (production of articles in scientific journals, authorship and translation of books) and anything else deemed useful to divulge a narrative approach within medical-healthcare contexts as well as recourse to medical humanities in the educational programs addressed at caregiving professionals.

The research and advisory activities undertaken in the interest of the contracting parties that envisage participation by the staff of Institutions involved in said activities will be regulated by specific agreements in accordance with the respective regulations in force, and will end with the draft, by the Parties, of a report on the results achieved.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING IS AGREED UPON AND STIPULATED**

**Article 1 – Recitals**



The recitals are an integral and substantial part of this agreement.

## **Article 2 – Subject-matter**

The parties agree to establish a collaborative relationship in the manner and around the issues mentioned in the recitals in order to undertake a thrusting action aimed at developing, within Hospital Centres and medical-healthcare contexts, organisational cultures revolving around the enhancement and implementation of practices traceable to Narrative Medicine and, more generally, around the adoption of a narrative paradigm in therapeutic practices, as well as the promotion of study and research activities, including through the formalisation of suitable forms of collaboration and partnership.

## **Article 3 – Organisational representatives and scientific coordinators of the agreement**

ASL BI indicates as its organisational representative and scientific coordinator of the collaboration Mr Vincenzo Alastra, managerial psychologist, head of the Simple Human Resources Training and Development Structure, as well as professor on a contract basis at the Department of Cultures, Policies and Society of the Turin University (Università degli Studi di Torino).

CHIC indicates as its organisational representatives and scientific coordinators of the collaboration Prof Jean-Marc Baleyte, professor and head physician in Child Neuropsychiatry and Dr Christian Delorenzo, narrative consultant.

UNIMIB indicates as its organisational representative and scientific coordinator of the collaboration Prof Micaela Donatella Castiglioni, professor at the Department of Human Sciences for Education “R. Massa” of Università di Milano-Bicocca.

UPEC indicates as its organisational representative and scientific coordinator Prof Roberto Poma, Lecturer from the 17<sup>th</sup> section and Research Director.

Any substitution of the organisational representative and scientific coordinator of the collaboration for one of the parties must be notified to and approved by the other parties.

## **Article 4 – Procedure for formalising membership of the NHN**

The body interested in belonging, as affiliated Member, to the NHN, shall fill out a specific application, setting out the information listed by ANNEX A and accompanied by a supporting documentation, while simultaneously signing in acknowledgment of the terms and conditions specified therein and communicating the name of its scientific-organisational representative.





The investigative and evaluative activity is, as a rule, conducted by at least two scientific-organisational representatives belonging to the Founding Members who, at the end of said activity, notify the outcomes of the evaluative procedure to the relevant body.

The Founding Members additionally reserve the right to invite to membership of the NHN other institutions that have come to distinguish themselves for having gained significant skills with regard to Narrative Medicine and, more generally, to the narrative paradigm relating to caregiving practices.

#### **Article 5 – Preservation of NHN membership**

Membership of the NHN is conditional on the affiliated Member conducting significant activities consistent with the scientific and cultural project underlying the establishment of the NHN, on sharing updated reports proving the implementation of said activities and the scheduled implementation plans, and on participation in working groups and conferences.

#### **Article 6 – Secretarial services**

The secretarial services (collection of membership applications, filing and storage of the documentation, keeping an up-to-date list of affiliated Members, etc.) are ensured, based on their availability, by the Founding Members.

During the initial stage of the NHN, ASL BI's Human Resources Training and Development Service might attend to that task.

#### **Article 7 – Secrecy and confidentiality of the data collected**

For the purposes of this agreement, the contracting parties view as reserved and confidential any information either party deems necessary to provide to the counterparty in order to implement the scientific and cultural project that is provided through a document or through other tangible support or verbally or pursuant to a visit at the company premises or laboratory, during encounters or meetings and/or the like (hereinafter, "confidential information").

The collection and use of the clinical data stemming from performance of the activities must be carried out in compliance with national and international laws.

#### **Article 8 – Publication of results**

Any publication of the results of the scientific and cultural project must first be agreed between the Scientific Coordinators mentioned in article 3 of this agreement, who will in any event abide by the following regulations.



If results are achieved jointly, with full and actual collaboration, consisting in homogeneous and objectively indistinguishable contributions by the parties, the parties undertake to jointly publish them, even where publication thereof contains data and information confidentially disclosed by one party to the other. In that instance, the publications must record the authors in conformity with national and international laws.

In the event of results achieved and consisting in autonomous and separable contributions by the parties, albeit susceptible of being organised in a unified form, each party may autonomously publish and/or disclose the results of its own studies, researches and experimental tests, while acknowledging the counterparty's contribution for the definition and implementation of the research program. If, however, said publications contain data and information confidentially disclosed by one party to the other, the parties must request the prior authorisation of the disclosing party and are obliged to cite the authors in any publications in conformity with national and international laws.

Publication of the results may be temporarily deferred to the time necessary for the legal protection of any inventive results.

Publication of the clinical data and the results arising therefrom may only take place in aggregate and anonymous form.

#### **Article 9 – Use of the name and/or logo of the Parties and/or the logo of NHN and communication activity**

Each party undertakes not to use for advertising purposes the name and/or logo of the other parties, unless otherwise agreed upon by them specifically. In all the communication actions aimed at providing a general information on the goals pursued by the NHN and on the actions deployed by the Founding Members for the development and governance of the NHN (e.g. reports presented at conferences, press releases, different forms of communication implemented through recourse to the Web), the parties undertake to lend visibility to joint participation by the partners themselves, citing their registered company names correctly, pursuant to principles and methods conforming to clear ethical foundations.

As regards the affixing of logos, besides the logo of the Founding Members, the logos of the Founding Members might be followed by the words: "Founding Organizations of NHN".

If the scientific-organisational representatives of the Founding Members define an NHN identification logo, the affixing of the NHN logo next to the logos of the Founding Members might be accompanied by the more concise expression: "Founding Organizations".





The other affiliated Members, wherever they want to highlight their affiliation to the NHN, shall cause the logo to be followed by the words: "Member of NHN".

If the scientific-organisational representatives of the Founding Members define an NHN identification logo, the phrase: "Member of NHN" may be replaced by the mere affixing of the NHN logo.

#### **Article 10 – Duration of the agreement and possible renewal thereof**

The effective date of this agreement is the date of its signature. It will have a 48 months' duration, with possible renewal pursuant to a written agreement approved by the competent organs of the parties.

If the Agreement is renewed, the report on the results of the scientific and cultural project shall be accompanied by a report on the future objectives.

#### **Article 11 – Withdrawal from and termination of the agreement**

The parties are entitled to withdraw from this agreement or consensually terminate the same. The withdrawal must be exercised by written notice to be sent to the other parties by registered mail with proof of receipt on 2 months' notice at least. The withdrawal or consensual termination will only have effect for the future and does not affect the part of agreement already carried out.

#### **Article 12- Processing of personal data**

Each party will process the personal data relating to this agreement in order to pursue its purposes in compliance with national and international laws, as well as the provisions of their own Regulations.

#### **Article 13 – Disputes**

Jurisdiction over any dispute that might arise from performance of this agreement is vested in the Court of Biella.

#### **Article 14 – Registration and costs**

This agreement will only be registered in the event of use, at a fixed rate in accordance with Articles 5 and 39 of Presidential Decree No. 131/86. All costs relating to this agreement will be borne by the party requesting its registration.

The stamp duty [Article 2 of the Rate List, annex A, part one of Presidential Decree No. 642 of 1972], amounting to EUR 64, is apportioned between the Parties equally, while ASL BI will see to payment to the Italian Tax Office in accordance with Article 6 of Ministerial Decree of 17/06/2014.

#### **Article 15 – Charges associated with performance of the agreement**

This agreement does not entail any financial charge against the contracting parties.



**Article 16 – Definition of further protocols on work implementation and assessments and checks on the program pursued**

The parties, on a consensual basis, reserve the right to define more specific work implementation protocols on the scientific and cultural program pursued as herein outlined, as well as to identify institutions that could facilitate its execution (e.g. Scientific Committee, Working Groups), while also making sure to conduct appropriate assessments about the processes by which the program itself might be actualised and about the results achieved, and to equip themselves with internal regulations.

Read, approved, signed.

**A.S.L. BI**

The Commissioner Adv. Diego Poggio



**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO - BICOCCA**

The Head of the Department of Human Sciences for Education "R. Massa",

(Prof Maria Grazia Riva) 21 MAG 2019

**Il Direttore di Dipartimento  
Prof.ssa Maria Grazia Riva**

**CENTRE HOSPITALIER INTERCOMMUNAL DE CRÉTEIL**

The General Manager (Directeur général)

Mr Stephane Pardoux

**UFR EN MÉDECINE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-EST CRÉTEIL**

The Dean (Président)

Prof Pierre Wolkenstein

**Le Doyen  
de la Faculté de Médecine de Créteil**

**Pierre WOLKENSTEIN**





## **ANNEX A: NHN membership application form**

The application must be drawn up on the institution's official letterhead, signed by its legal representative or its proxy.

The application must set out the following information:

- 1) Exact name of the institution, address of the registered office, tax data;
- 2) Name and surname of the scientific-organisational representative identified as reference person for the NHN and his contact details (address, telephone number and e-mail address).

The application must furthermore include a statement of acceptance of the terms and conditions and the articles making up the text of this agreement.

A synthetic description of the activities undertaken and deemed significant for NHN membership purposes must be attached to the application.

It should be noted that to become part of the NHN, at least one significant narrative action or a project traceable to one of the following fields of operation must have been implemented:

- 1) use of intervention practices, tools and methodologies that resort to narration as founding element employed in the different phases of the treatment (diagnosis, therapy, rehabilitation, palliation);
- 2) implementation of training programs aimed at the development of narrative skills for healthcare professionals;
- 3) stimulation and collection of narrations on disease and treatment produced by patients, caregivers and professionals, to search for directions better suited to an authentic and substantial caregiving relationship;
- 4) operations of sensitisation to narration and cultural animation within the hospital or training context, for the sake of a growing awareness of the anthropological, philosophical, pedagogical, psychological and social dimensions of the disease and the treatment;
- 5) research activities in the field of narrative Medicine and caregiving practices inspired by the narrative paradigm.