

**Government of India  
Department of Biotechnology  
Ministry of Science and Technology**

**Call for Proposals  
Indo-US Programme on Contraceptive and Reproductive  
Health Research**

In pursuance of a Joint Statement issued in November, 1997 between the Government of India and Government of USA on the Expansion of Indo-US Collaboration on Contraceptive and Reproductive Health Research, the Indian scientists are invited to propose Joint Research Projects with US scientists. The following specific areas have been identified for collaborative research emphasis.

- New reversible male contraceptive methods;
- Long-acting injectables for women;
- Barrier methods for contraception and sexually transmitted diseases prevention;
- Emergency contraceptives;
- Social and behavioural research;
- Epidemiological studies, including studies on STDs and RTIs Immunocontraception; and
- Basic, applied and clinical research in reproductive health.
- Expanded areas:

**Microbicide and Spermicide Research:** Development of improved microbicides/spermicides for contraception and disease prevention; Effect of microbicides, e.g. buffer gel, bacterial vaginosis; Irritation and safety aspects of spermicides/microbicides and behavioral response to more promising compounds into clinical trials; Social, behavioral and cultural factors influencing barrier methods and to increase the potential use of microbicides; Promotion of condom use and the acceptability of a range of spermicide/microbicide formulations.

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Reproductive Tract Infection Research:** Improved diagnostics for detection of STDs; Development of instruments to improve surveillance; Behavioural research; factors influencing health seeking behaviour/accessing health care; social/cultural antecedents of sexual behaviour; factors affecting adolescent reproductive health; and role of health care providers in delivering of appropriate contraceptive methods.

Twenty copies of the Jointly Agreed Collaborative research project on specific formats would be received by the Secretariat of the Programme. Research proposals will be peer-reviewed in India and the United States and approved research projects would be supported appropriately on Indian and US side to meet research costs and other resources. The implementing agencies in India are the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The US implementing agencies are the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH, the US Agency for International Development and Contraceptive Research and Development Programme. The Research projects would be implemented subject to necessary clearances from the Government and laws and regulations of the host and sponsoring countries. Indian investigators interested in establishing collaborative research projects with US scientists should contact for Format and Submission of projects:

Dr B. M. Gandhi  
Adviser,  
Department of Biotechnology  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Block-2 (7th Floor)  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi 110 003, India

Tel: 436 0984 (Direct), 436 3012/Extn. 238  
Fax: 436 0984, 436 2884  
E-mail: Gandhi@dbt.nic.in  
Hotmail: gandhidbt@hotmail.com