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Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry

University of Tromso

Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area

National Research Center in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NAFKAM)

City Tromso **Reference Number** NOR-20

Title WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine

Report Year 02-2013 to 02-2014

1. Please briefly describe the progress made in the implementation of your agreed workplan as WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (or the reporting period listed above). Please report on how each workplan activity was implemented, if any outputs have been delivered, if any results have been achieved and if any difficulties have been encountered during this time. If an activity has previously been completed, has not started yet, or been placed on hold, please indicate this.

Activity 1

Title: Collaborate with WHO on analysis of global survey data on regulation and legal status of TM/CAM.

Description: NAFKAM will, together with WHO, in Geneva analyze the data collected from all member countries with regard to regulation and legal status of TM/CAM. The data have been collected by questionnaire, and the analysis will be done using descriptive statistics. The analysis will also involve appropriate standardization of information and presentation of the data online.

Regulation data for 39 countries in Europe is reported through the EU-funded FP7 Framework program CAMbrella. Updating and dissemination of this information has been executed during 2013.

A meeting between NAFKAM and WHO was arranged June 18, 2012 in Tromsø, Norway. The purpose of the meeting: To discuss activities ID1 and ID2 in the designation document between NAFKAM and WHO.

Agreements from the meeting: To include NAFKAMs representative in the analysis of the WHO global regulation questionnaire and to arrange discussion meetings with the WHO and stakeholders about a global web portal on CAM regulation.

The agreed activities from that meeting have not been fulfilled.

In 2013/2014 NAFKAM continued to develop the data on CAM regulation in Europe.

Activity 2

Title: Collaborate with WHO on establishing and maintaining a proposed website for global access to country-specific data on regulation and legal status of TM/CAM

Description: NAFKAM has already developed country-specific data on regulation and legal status of TM/CAM in 39 European nations. This has been possible through EU funding from the 7th Framework Program on research. These data will be made available online for health administrators, clinicians, researchers and politicians.

Together with WHO, and partly based on the WHO global survey data, we will develop country-specific data for the rest of the nations of the world.

NAFKAM is interested in strengthening the collaboration with WHO on regulation data and the development of global web portal(s) on T & CM regulation.

In 2013-2014 NAFKAM initiated planning of a NAFKAM web portal on CAM regulation in Europe based on the CAMbrella EU project results.

There were also discussions with WHO on how to collaborate within CAM regulation development and research.

Activity 3

Title: Organize training programs/workshops/symposia on research approaches and evaluation of TM/CAM in collaboration with WHO and WHO CCs.

Description: NAFKAM will continue to host a yearly international training program/workshop/symposium in the field of research methodology in TM/CAM. The topics and venue will vary from year to year.

In the four coming years the topics will be chosen in collaboration with WHO and the other WHO CCs in TM.

The arrangements will last 3 1/2 days and consist mainly of group work with the addition of two or three keynote presentations.

2013- NAFKAM researchers are supervisors for medical students and PhD students in research programs within T&CM and acupuncture.

Example of research collaboration in the Norway – China program in 2012/2013:

Alleviating treatment continues at Xiyuan – a TCM hospital in Beijing. The data from patients at that hospital have now been linked with matching data from the Norwegian colorectal cancer registry.

Barthold Vonen has assisted in getting access to the Norwegian data and in communicating these to our Chinese collaborating partners.

2013:

Discussions with representatives for the WHO Patient safety group for including CAM in the WHO Patient safety development.

Discussions with WHO- the department of Technical Cooperation for Essential Drugs and Traditional Medicine (TCM) for combining the WHO and NAFKAM network building and public information about CAM in Europe.

May 2013

Acupuncture and Hot Flashes: lessons to be learnt from a clinical trial” and “Designing Clinical Studies that Take Into Account East Asian Medicine’s Systems and Methods”– Terje Alræk invited speaker. TCM Kongress, Rothenburg, Germany, May 10.

October 2013

International Pattern Identification Network Group (iPING).

The iPING is an international research network for researching PI as they are found and used in practice according to TEAM based medical theories. It was initiated after the 'International Brainstorming for Standardization of Pattern Identification' on October 1, 2013 at KIOM in Daejeon, Korea. Five international speakers and 14 KIOM researchers participated. Terje Alræk attended from NAFKAM, UiT The Arctic University of Norway. The iPING is a non-profit scientific research network aimed at exchanging information about PI and international collaboration on PI research.

October 2013

“Designing Clinical Studies that Take Into Account East Asian Medicine’s Systems and Methods – with focus on Pattern Identification” – Terje Alræk invited speaker on The 19th Anniversary of KIOM 2013.10.2

International Symposium of Current Research Trends in Traditional Medicine.

Activity 4

Title: Engage in international collaborative efforts, and to provide consultation relative to TM/CAM research and training, upon the request of WHO.

Description: NAFKAM will take an active part in international efforts with regard to collaborative research as well as information issues around TM/CAM. Such efforts can be, but is not limited to, research projects, surveys of TM/CAM practices, consulting with regard to organizational issues concerning TM/CAM, TM/CAM training, coordinated public information.

NAFKAM will provide consultation services globally in the same areas at the request of WHO .

2013-2014

Norway – China collaboration (NCC) on TCM.

Terje Alræk is the NAFKAM coordinator for our collaboration with China. Research programmes within TCM and acupuncture are still ongoing, and the collaboration is wanted from both parties.

2013/2014

NAFKAM – Patient safety, international work and WHO collaboration

NAFKAM has from 2013/2014 dedicated human resources (currently senior adviser Solveig Wiesener) for strengthening the work on patient safety and international collaboration on T & CM. Collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) as a WHO Collaborating Center will be given priority in this work.

Solveig Wiesener passed in January 2013 a Master's degree in Risk Management and societal safety. The Master thesis is based on the CAMbrella data collection on regulation, and research on CAM regulation and patient safety continues during 2013 and 2014.

2. Please briefly describe your collaboration with WHO in regards to the activities of the WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (e.g. means of communication, frequency of contact, visits to or from WHO). Please feel free to mention any difficulties encountered (if any) and to provide suggestions for increased or improved communication (if applicable).

The collaboration activities have been followed up by NAFKAM by emails, telephone conferences and meetings with WHO and collaborating partners. The communication has been constructive and positive. However, regarding activity 1 and 2, there has been little response from the WHO regarding supporting them on analysing the WHO questionnaires on T & CM regulation in the member states. NAFKAM will be interested in strengthening the collaboration with WHO on T & CM regulation and patient safety.

3. Please briefly describe any interactions or collaborations with other WHO collaborating centres in the context of the implementation of the above activities (if any). If you are part of a network of WHO collaborating centres, please also mention the name of the network, and describe any involvement in the network during the last 12 months.

Director Vinjar Fønnebø has met with the directors of the other T&CM collaborating centers.

Senior Adviser Solveig Wiesener has discussed possible collaboration on Risk and patient safety with the WHO Patient safety group.

4. Please briefly describe any type of technical, programmatic, advisory or other support received from WHO during the past 12 months for the implementation of the agreed activities listed above (if any).

None except for discussions already mentioned.