Research partnerships are critical for advancing the field of forensic science. Through research partnerships, laboratories and universities are able to collaborate on mutually beneficial research projects. By partnering together, each organization may leverage the partner organization's facilities, equipment, expertise, experience, knowledge, and skills. The foundation of a successful research partnership is a shared understanding of each partner's responsibilities and requirements. The topics below represent a brief list of discussion points that should be determined and agreed upon prior to the initiation of the research project. This helps ensure each partner’s expectations are known and the research partnership will be a successful relationship now and a long-lasting one in the future.

1. Memorandum of Understanding
2. Purpose & General Scope
3. Specific Projects/Activities
4. Funding
5. Agreement Duration, Extension, Renewal
6. Key POCs
7. Confidentiality
8. Intellectual Property/Rights
9. Institutional Research Review Process
10. Progress Review Meetings
11. Data Ownership & Protection
12. Publication/Presentation Rights & Review

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*as of June 2022

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