

# Varsity inks MoU with Scottish healthcare consultants

Special Correspondent

**CHENNAI:** Officials of the University of Madras on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding with a consortium of Scottish healthcare consultants to carry out collaborative research in virology, especially Hepatitis B and C and HIV/AIDS infections.

In a brief ceremony at the university, representatives from the Department of Microbiology, Dr. ALM Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, the Scottish group and YRG Care Centre for AIDS Research and Education exchanged documents in the presence of Vice-Chancellor S.Ramachandran to formalise the agreement.

Dr. Ramachandran said the partnership would facilitate academic, educational and cultural exchanges among the organisations. It would also be

based on principles of equality and reciprocal benefit.

Eric Walker, Dean, Travel Medicine, Royal college of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, who heads the team, said collaboration between Scotland and Indian researchers was going on for 15 years.

The MoU was a culmination of sorts. Issues such as ethics and confidentiality were being worked out between the research organisations.

All participants have agreed to collaborate on research projects, staff development programmes, staff and student exchange, educational initiatives and exchange publications, reports and other academic information. P. Rajendran, professor of microbiology, Madras University, said, Suniti Solomon, director, YRG Care, will lead her team. Dr. Walker's team comprises five research scientists.