



**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956)

Historic MoU Formalized Between

Anderson Center for Autism (ACA), New York, USA, and

Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University), Salem, India

Looking back with appreciation, on August 7, 2024, a landmark Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Anderson Center for Autism (ACA), New York, USA, and Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University), Salem, India. This agreement established a collaborative framework to address the pressing need for comprehensive services for young adults with autism in India and neighboring regions.

The partnership centered on developing a model residential and vocational facility for young adults with autism. The proposed center aimed to deliver cutting-edge medical care integrated with advanced, evidence-based therapeutic practices. Additionally, it focused on equipping staff with specialized training and expertise, ensuring the highest standards of care. The collaboration also fostered academic exchanges and research opportunities, facilitating knowledge sharing between the two institutions. With a rich legacy spanning over a century, ACA, a renowned non-profit organization, contributed its extensive expertise and intellectual resources to empower VMRF-DU in establishing a benchmark autism care system.

The MoU was officially signed by Hon'ble Dato' Seri Dr. Sharavanan Shanmugasundaram, Pro-Chancellor of VMRF-DU, and Hon'ble Mr. Patrick David Paul, CEO of ACA. The exchange of agreements was witnessed by an esteemed assembly, including Dr. Noor Younus Syed, Director, ACI -, USA; Datin' Seri Mrs. Kamatchi Sharavanan, Director, VMRF-DU; Shri Gokul Krishnan Sharavanan, Executive Director-Campus Development (VMKVMC); Ms. Vasundara Sharavanan, Executive Director-Campus Development (VMKVEC); Prof. Dr. P.K. Sudhir, Vice-Chancellor (VMRF-DU); Dr. A. Nagappan (VMRF-DU), Registrar; Prof. Dr. K. Ezhil Vendhan, Dean; Prof. Dr. S.R. Ranga Bashyam, Medical Superintendent; Prof. Dr. Deepti Shastri, Deputy Dean; Prof. Dr. E.M.J. Karthikeyan, Director, Hospital Development Committee of VMKVMC; Mr. M. Deepan Chakaravarthy, DGM, KV Star; Prof. Dr. V. Selvanayaki (VMACON); and Mr. Richard Rakesh Aaron (VACA).

This monumental collaboration marked a significant step toward advancing autism care and support systems in India, setting new standards for the integration of global expertise and local innovation.