

GIST-Mokpo Catholic University to heal 'addiction' in local communities by strengthening the health system through mutual cooperation

- On Wednesday, May 14, GIST Administrative Building signed an MOU for education and research cooperation to solve addiction problems in the community... Promoting multi-faceted cooperation from sharing education infrastructure to digitalizing addiction prevention platforms
- GIST faculty introduces the latest research results such as biochips, digital therapeutics, and neural circuit analysis for addiction treatment



▲ On Wednesday, May 14, GIST and Mokpo Catholic University signed a business agreement (MOU) to foster excellent local talent and establish a cooperative system for joint development of local universities, and attendees took a commemorative photo.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that it signed a business agreement (MOU) with Mokpo Catholic University (President Bin-ho Yoon) to foster excellent local talent and establish a cooperative system for the joint development of local universities.

The agreement ceremony was held in the small conference room of the GIST Administrative Building on Wednesday, May 14, and was attended by about 10 key officials, including GIST President Kichul Lim, Vice President for Public Affairs Yonghwa Chung, International and Public Affairs Dean Jae Gwan Kim, Department of Biomedical Science and Engineering Professor of Biomedical Engineering Sangjun, and Mokpo Catholic University President Bin-ho Yoon, Director of External Cooperation Il-doo Kim, and Planning Director Nam-soo Koh.

Through this agreement, GIST and Mokpo Catholic University plan to cooperate in various fields, including education and research cooperation to solve local addiction problems, as well as digitalization of addiction prevention platforms, and to contribute to the development of the local community.

The main contents of the agreement are: ▲ Development and operation of educational programs to enhance the competitiveness of local talents ▲ Joint use of educational infrastructure to revitalize local universities ▲ Support for educational and research cooperation to solve addiction problems in local communities ▲ Cooperation in the development of digitalization of addiction prevention platforms ▲ Joint use of research facilities and equipment of both institutions, etc., to promote mutual exchange and cooperation in a total of five areas.

A presentation session on the topic of 'Research cooperation in the field of addiction' was also held along with the agreement ceremony.

Dr. Ho-yeon Lee, who gave the presentation on behalf of Director of the Science and Technology Innovation Division, Professor of Chemistry, shared his research vision on 'Development direction of biochips for drug addiction treatment', and Director of External Cooperation, Department of Biomedical Science and Engineering Professor Jae Gwan Kim, discussed the possibility of utilizing digital technology in the field of addiction treatment under the topic of 'Current status and outlook for development of digital therapeutics'.

In addition, Department of Biomedical Science and Engineering Professor Sangjun Lee introduced cutting-edge research results to elucidate the neural circuit mechanism of addictive behavior under the theme of 'Module decomposition of addictive behavior and optogenetic circuit analysis.'



▲ On Wednesday, May 14, GIST and Mokpo Catholic University signed a business agreement (MOU) to foster excellent local talent and establish a joint development cooperation system for local universities and took a commemorative photo. (From left) GIST President Kichul Lim and Mokpo Catholic University President Bin-ho Yoon

GIST President Kichul Lim emphasized, “The problem of addiction is not just a simple social issue, but a task that must be reflected on from the perspective of humanism in the AI era,” and “The key in the end is humanity.”

He continued, “If humanity weakens, we may become isolated or dependent on mass media, machines, etc. rather than people,” and emphasized, “If GIST’s research capabilities are combined with a religious and humanistic approach, we will be able to present practical solutions for a future society centered on people.”

President Bin-ho Yoon of Mokpo Catholic University also said, “This agreement will serve as a practical foundation for education and research to solve addiction problems facing local communities,” and “In particular, the digitalization of the addiction prevention platform will play an important role in establishing a prevention-centered local health system, and we will actively work to create innovative results through cooperation with GIST.”

