

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and EVOQ Therapeutics LLC

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form which then triggered a review by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors James J. Moon and Anna A. Schwendeman are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of EVOQ Therapeutics LLC. The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University of Michigan and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

Background:

Dr. James J. Moon, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Dr. Anna A. Schwendeman, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, are partial owners of a for-profit company called EVOQ Therapeutics LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a NIH (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled “Nanomedicine for Personalized Cancer Immunotherapy” (ORSP #18-PAF04215) in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences under the direction of Dr. James Moon and Dr. Anna Schwendeman. The purpose of this project is to optimize nanodisc formulation, to benchmark it against other gold standards in cancer vaccination, and to evaluate their therapeutic potency in large, established, difficult-to-treat models of colon carcinoma and melanoma.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$90,000. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions for changes in time and scope. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

Impact of the Agreement:

The Agreement will support an effort by Drs. Moon and Schwendeman to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to develop a new powerful, convenient, and safe approach for peptide-based cancer immunotherapy.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University's entering into this Agreement with EVOQ Therapeutics LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

February 2018