THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS’ COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Michigan Nanotechnology Institute for Medicine and the Biological Sciences

Action Requested: Approval of a New Institute

Background:

In accordance with Regents Bylaw 6.03 on institutes and centers, we propose the establishment of the Michigan Nanotechnology Institute for Medicine and the Biological Sciences. The institute will be an academic unit reporting to the Office of the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs. The Medical School Executive Committee approved the formation of the institute on March 31, 2005 and will provide space and administrative support to the unit.

The purpose of the institute will be to focus the capabilities and resources of the University in the support of nanotechnology applications to the life sciences. It will create and support relevant education and research across many units of the University, including (but not limited to) the Medical School, College of Engineering, School of Public Health, and College of Literature, Science and Arts. The institute will build on the strength of the collaborations formed in the Center for Biologic Nanotechnology, which will be integrated into the institute.

The University of Michigan is a recognized national and international leader in advancing nanotechnology and the formation of the institute will enhance this reputation. In the short-term, the institute will facilitate external support for cross-disciplinary research. In the long-term, it will support a clinical enterprise where new therapies will be introduced to patients, in conjunction with the University’s NIH-funded Clinical Research Center and Human Applications Laboratory.

Dr. James R. Baker, Jr., Ruth Dow Doan Professor of Biologic Nanotechnology; Professor of Internal Medicine, Medical School; and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering, will serve as the inaugural Director of the Institute for Nanotechnology in Biology and Medicine. Dr. Baker has had a significant impact in nearly every aspect of nanomedicine and is a pioneer in the field. His remarkable vision for the role of biology in nanosystem design, synthesis and utilization has rationalized modern nanomedicine approaches.

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the establishment of the Michigan Nanotechnology Institute for Medicine and the Biological Sciences, and that they approve the appointment of Dr. James R. Baker, Jr. as director, effective May 1, 2005.
Recommended by:

Robert P. Kelch  
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs

Allen S. Lichter  
Dean  
Medical School

Recommendation endorsed by:

Mary Sue Coleman  
President

April 2005