

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and IFM Therapeutics, Inc.

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 Medical School Conflict of Interest Board. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by the Board and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Anthony Pipari Jr. and Luigi Franchi are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of IFM Therapeutics, Inc. (“IFM”). 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:

Anthony Pipari, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Luigi Franchi, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, are partial owners of a for-profit company called IFM (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Analyzing Small Molecules that Modulate Targets in the Innate Immune System in Tumor Brain Cancer” (ORSP# 17-PAF05824) in the Department of Pediatrics under the direction of Dr. Franchi. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the biochemical and pharmacological properties of small molecules that modulate innate immune signaling in pathways in tumor brain cancer.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately two (2) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$587,926. 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 Dr. Franchi to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to support the University’s participation in the research project.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board. 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 IFM Therapeutics, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Jack Hu', is positioned above the printed name.

S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

April 2017