

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Nynex Therapeutics, LLC

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Research 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 Moshe Talpaz and Hollis Showalter, and Dr. Luke Peterson are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”) and partial owners of Nynex 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:

Moshe Talpaz, MD, a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Leukemia Research, Medical School, Hollis Showalter, PhD, a Research Professor in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, and Luke Peterson, PhD, an Assistant Research Scientist in the Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Nynex Therapeutics, LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Pre-clinical Studies of a Deubiquitinase Inhibitor” (ORSP# 17-PAF02184) in the Departments of Medicinal Chemistry (College of Pharmacy) and Internal Medicine and Leukemia Research (Medical School), under the direction of Dr. Talpaz. The purpose of this project is to support the effort to identify drug-like inhibitors of the Usp9x deubiquitinase enzyme implicated in several human cancers.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance is estimated to be three (3) months. The amount of funding is an amount not to exceed \$221,814. 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. Talpaz and Showalter to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other resources, to perform studies of preclinical candidate compounds for use in target pull-down.

Recommendations:

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

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

July 2017