

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Phenomics Health 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 agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Brian Athey is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of Phenomics Health Inc. 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:

Brian Athey, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called Phenomics Health Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund an NIH (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled “Pharmaco-informatics Platform to Enable Three-Dimensional (3D) Chromatin Spatial Network Measurements to Improve Clinical Research in Psychiatry” (ORSP #19-PAF06091) in the Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics under the direction of Dr. Brian Athey. The purpose of this project is to enhance the accuracy of pharmacogenomic diagnostics in psychiatry by mapping the substrate of psychotropic drug spatial networks within 3D genome architecture using chromosome conformation methods.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately nine (9) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$269,232. 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. Athey to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to enhance the accuracy of pharmacogenomic diagnostics in psychiatry.

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 Phenomics Health Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham  
Interim Vice President for Research

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