

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

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 Dr. Christopher Maksym is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a member of the Board of Directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (“BCBSM”). 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. Christopher Maksym, the Pharmacy Director of HomeMed at Michigan Medicine, is a member of the Board of Directors of a non-profit organization called BCBSM (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Student Run Free Clinic – Strengthening the Safety Net 2017” (ORSP #17-PAF07060) in the Department of Internal Medicine under the direction of Dr. Hari Conjeevaram. The purpose of this project is to support community outreach to high-need populations in Livingston County and surrounding areas. Dr. Maksym is not involved in this project at the University nor at BCBSM.

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 \$12,500. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision 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. Hari Conjeevaram to support community outreach to high-need populations in Livingston County and surrounding areas.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board. The UMHS Compliance Office oversees this conflict and ensured that Dr. Maksym will not participate in this research nor have any involvement in negotiations and approvals between the University and the Company regarding research. 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 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Jack Hu', written in a cursive style.

S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

September 2017