

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Hammzoco Technologies, LLC

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 Professor Joseph Himle is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of Hammzoco Technologies, LLC (“Hamztec”). 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:

Joseph Himle, PhD, the Associate Dean for Research in the School of Social Work and a Professor in the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychiatry, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called Hamztec (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Improved Awareness Enhancement Device to Assist in the Treatment of Trichotillomania” (ORSP #17-PAF06990) in the School of Social Work under the direction of Dr. Himle. The purpose of this project is to gather information about the utility of a newly developed, electronic awareness enhancement device for persons with trichotillomania (compulsive hair pulling). Lessons learned from this trial will inform future device development.

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 \$8,824. 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. Himle to use his expertise in mental health interventions for anxiety disorders, as well as other University resources, to advance the treatment options for those suffering from trichotillomania.

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 Hammzoco Technologies, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

September 2017