

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Michigan Aerospace Corporation

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

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Lennard Fisk is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of Michigan Aerospace Corporation (“MAC”). 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. Leonard Fisk, a Professor in the Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called MAC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a NIH (prime) SBIR Phase I project entitled “Point-of-Care Technology Development for Measuring Redox Potential in Biologic Fluids and Utilizing these Measures as a Biomarker for Shock, Resuscitation, and Therapeutics” (ORSP #17-PAF07868) in the Department of Pediatrics-Intensive Care under the direction of Dr. Rodney Daniels. The purpose of this project is to further develop and manufacture a POC redox platform, utilizing nano-porous gold electrodes and establishing the feasibility of performing real-time POC RP measures in clinical environments.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately six (6) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$69,978. 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. Daniels to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to develop a POC devices for measuring blood RP in real-time at the patient's bedside to begin establishing the feasibility of RP as a diagnostic tool for use in neonatal and pediatric critical care and other clinical settings.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by 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 Michigan Aerospace Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Jack Hu', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

September 2017