

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Curl Bio 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 that 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 Jonathan Sexton is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of Curl Bio 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:

Jonathan Sexton, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called Curl Bio LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a NIH (prime) SBIR Phase II project entitled “Identification of Novel Small Molecule AMPK Modulators- R44 transfer” (ORSP #18-PAF03879) in the Department of Internal Medicine-Gastroenterology under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Sexton. The purpose of this project is to evaluate novel small molecules in rodents for their ability to treat diabetes by reversing insulin resistance.

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 \$182,497. 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. Sexton to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to further pre-clinical development of small molecules for diabetes, as new medications are urgently needed to help patients maintain glycemic control.

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 Curl Bio LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

September 2018