

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Services Agreement between the University of Michigan and Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration

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.

This proposed agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Denise Reinke is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University"), and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (SARC). 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:

Ms. Reinke, a Nurse Practitioner in the UMH Cancer Center, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit company called SARC (the "Company"). The Company wishes to enter into a contract agreement entitled, "Tissue and Pathology Core – SARC Sarcoma Spore" (ORSP #17-PAF00857) in the Department of Pathology under the direction of Dr. Rajiv Patel, to use human sarcoma specimens for translational research directed toward improving the treatment of sarcoma patients. Ms. Reinke is not involved in any manner in this project and was not involved in any manner in the negotiation of the Agreement terms.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately five (5) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$252,000. 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. Patel to use his expertise and University facilities, as well as other University resources, to work collaboratively with the Company to provide SPORE investigators with high-quality tissue samples from patients treated at SPORE- and SARC- associated institutions.

Recommendations:

The UMHS Compliance Office has put in place a management plan for this conflict which calls for Ms. Reinke to recuse herself from any University decisions involving a business relationship with the Company, and from participating in contract negotiations and approvals between the University and the Company. In light of this 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 Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

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