

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract 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 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 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 not-for-profit company called SARC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a NIH (prime) project entitled “SARC Sarcoma Spore – Core A” (ORSP #18-PAF01119) in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, under the direction of Dr. Laurence Baker. The purpose of this project is to provide funding to develop more effective rationale approaches to patients with synovial sarcoma, malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors, undifferentiated pleiomorphic sarcoma, liposarcomas and epithelioid hemangioendothelioma, which will lead to improved outcomes for these 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 \$210,375. 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. Baker to use his expertise and University facilities, as well as other University resources, to prepare the agenda for three in-person meetings including SPORE faculty retreat, Internal Advisory Committee, and External Advisory committee; oversee scientific direction of all projects; ensure action items from committee meetings are completed in a timely manner; and meet with the chair of EAB and IRB at least quarterly. He will also have shared responsibilities to prepare the annual report; facilitate and encourage investigator interactions to identify potential new collaborations and synergy across projects; and set annual budget and modify as needed.

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 Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

October 2017