THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents
November 15, 2007

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Master Agreement between the University of Michigan and Oncomed Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration 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 will be developed by the Board and agreed to by the parties involved.

The proposed master agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Max Wicha and Sean Morrison are both employees of the University of Michigan (“University”) and partial owners of Oncomed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Oncomed”). The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Background:

Dr. Wicha, Professor, Internal Medicine, and Dr. Morrison, Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Oncomed. In addition, Dr. Wicha is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for OncoMed. Oncomed wishes to have the University participate in various projects that Oncomed will support independently or from grants from federal agencies related to technology licensed or optioned to the Company by the University. The roles of Drs. Wicha and Morrison, if any, in each project will be described in a project statement and a conflict of interest management plan.

Agreement Terms:

The University will enter into a master agreement with Oncomed that will cover standard procedures for performance of projects as well as provisions implementing University and federal policies related to intellectual property and publication. The master agreement will cover an initial five-year period with a total authorization not to exceed $1,000,000. The University will use standard sponsored project accounting procedures to determine the cost of each project. Budgets will be reviewed and approved by authorized representatives of each department and school/college where projects are to be performed.
The master agreement will allow the University and Oncomed to specify projects that the University will conduct under the terms of the master agreement. Since research projects are often amended, the master agreement includes provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of each supported project. University procedures for approval of each project will be followed and additional review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board will be done on a project-by-project basis.

Impact of the Agreement:

The master agreement will enable research to be performed in a timely manner to explore and further develop the technology licensed to Oncomed from the University related to cancer stem cell technology. It also provides for ongoing support and collaboration between the Medical School and a University start-up company.

Recommendation:

This matter will be reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board, and a plan will developed to manage the potential conflict of interest risks associated with each project that will be implemented under the terms of the master agreement prior to the University’s acceptance of any individual project. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the master agreement is negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve of the University entering into this master agreement with Oncomed Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Stephen R Forrest
Vice President for Research

November 2007