

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Reassignment Agreement between the University of Michigan and Lingjie Jay Guo

Action Requested: Approval of Reassignment Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Technology Transfer while reviewing the technology transfer agreement that 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 this Committee and agreed to by the parties involved in this plan.

This proposed reassignment agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Lingjie Jay Guo is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”) and a direct party to an agreement with the University. 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. Lingjie Jay Guo, a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Electrical and Computer Engineering Division, has asked to have the rights to the following technology assigned to him personally:

UM OTT File No. 2019-480, entitled: "Transparent Colored Signage and Displays" (Inventors: Lingjie Jay Guo, Zeyang Liu)

The Office of Technology Transfer negotiated the terms of the proposed Agreement in accordance with University policy and its accepted principles related to reassignment procedures.

Parties to the Agreement:

The Regents of the University of Michigan and Dr. Lingjie Jay Guo

Agreement Terms Include:

Agreement terms include assigning ownership of the technology referenced above to Dr. Lingjie Jay Guo.

The University will retain an irrevocable, non-exclusive, non-transferable, royalty-free license to practice and have practiced the technology and/or patents for any noncommercial research, academic, or teaching purpose. No use of University services or facilities, nor any assignment of University employees, is obligated or contemplated under the Agreement. Standard disclaimers of warranties and indemnification apply, and the Agreement may be amended by consent of the parties, such as adding related technology. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

Pecuniary Interest:

The pecuniary interests of Dr. Lingjie Jay Guo arise from receipt of a reassignment agreement to the technology.

Net Effect:

The Office of Technology Transfer has negotiated and finalized the terms of a reassignment agreement for content related to UM OTT File No. 2019-480 for all fields of use. Dr. Lingjie Jay Guo will obtain use and commercialization rights to the above listed University technology.

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 Agreement between the University and Dr. Lingjie Jay Guo.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham  
Interim Vice President for Research

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