

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Amendment to Master Agreement between the University of Michigan and Arbor Research Collaborative for Health

Action Requested: Approval of Amendment to Master 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 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 the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed amendment to the master agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Marianne Udow-Phillips and Paula Lantz are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and are paid members of the Board of Directors for Arbor Research Collaborative for Health. 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:

Marianne Udow-Phillips, Ph.D., a LEO Intermittent Lecturer in the Gerald R. Ford School for Public Policy, and Paula Lantz, Ph.D., a Professor of Public Policy in the Gerald R. Ford School for Public Policy, are paid members of the Board of Directors of the non-profit company called Arbor Research Collaborative for Health (the “Company”). The Company was formed to provide an empirical basis for improving the lives of patients by improving the practice of health care. The Company achieves this through interdisciplinary expertise in biostatistical analysis, clinical practice, management and integration of large data sets, economics and public policy. The Company wishes to continue to support research projects at the University and desires to use facilities of the University for projects related to research. The roles of Drs. Udow-Phillips and Lantz will be described in a project statement for each project and shall be subject to an approved conflict of interest management plan.

Agreement Terms:

The University will continue to use standard procedures for performance of projects as well as provisions implementing University and federal policies related to intellectual property and publications. The University has amended the Agreement with the Company to extend the end date of the Agreement to August 31, 2028 with the previously approved funding authorization cap so that the total authorization will not exceed \$30,000,000. The University will continue to use standard sponsored project accounting procedures to determine the cost of each project under this Agreement. Budgets will be reviewed and approved by authorized representatives of the applicable department(s) and

school(s)/college(s) where projects will be performed. The Agreement will allow the University and the Company to specify projects that the University will conduct under the terms of the Agreement. Since sponsored projects are often amended, the Agreement will include provisions for changes in the time and scope of each supported project. University procedures for approval of each project will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done on a project-by-project basis.

Impact of the Agreement:

The amended Agreement will continue to facilitate research that will assist the University in providing an empirical basis for improving the lives of patients by improving the practice of health care.

Recommendations:

These matters will be reviewed and approved by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee and a plan will be 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 approval of any individual project. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreement will be negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve of the University amending this Agreement with Arbor Research Collaborative for Health.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research and Innovation

February 2024