

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Project Agreements with the University of Michigan

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into or amend Agreements

Preamble:

Statutory conflicts of interest situations were identified by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects while reviewing Proposal Approval Forms that then triggered a review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and/or the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee. Plans for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest will be developed and approved by the Board and/or Committee and may require agreement by the parties involved at time of award.

These proposed project (e.g., research, sponsored activity, and/or subcontract) agreements (“Agreement”) and/or amendments to Agreements (“Amendments”) fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because University of Michigan (“University”) employees have activities, relationships, or interests in the companies as described in Attachment A. The law permits such Agreements provided they are disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreements and/or Amendments conform to University policy. The funding support will not exceed the amount reported in Attachment A for each Agreement and/or Amendment. Since projects are often amended, these Agreements and/or Amendments include 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 Agreements and/or Amendments will provide support of investigator’s effort to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to execute the projects as reported in Attachment A.

Recommendations:

These matters have been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and/or the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreements and Amendments were negotiated in

conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University's entering into or amending the Agreements referenced in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Lupia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arthur" being more prominent than the last name "Lupia".

Arthur Lupia
Vice President for Research and Innovation

February 2026

Attachment A

Project #1

Research Agreement between the University and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Foundation Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: In vivo mechanisms of the MASLD-associated SUN1 H118Y variant	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF03397
Direct Sponsor: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Foundation	
Principal Investigator/Department: Graham Brady, MM Int Med-Gastroenterology	
Project Start Date: 7/1/2026 Project End Date: 6/30/2027	Funding Support: \$79,664
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to determine the impacts of wild-type and H118Y SUN1 in hepatocytes in vivo and the ability of H118Y SUN1 to function as a dominant negative driver of insulin resistance and MASLD in vivo.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grace Su; Professor, Int Med-Gastroenterology; Past President, Board of Directors	

Project #2

Research Agreement between the University and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: Lamin A/C-Mediated control of nuclear acetyl-CoA and epigenetics in MASLD	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF03467
Direct Sponsor: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases	
Principal Investigator/Department: Kapil Upadhyay, MM Int Med-Gastroenterology	
Project Start Date: 7/1/2026 Project End Date: 6/30/2029	Funding Support: \$300,000
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to investigate the sources and regulatory mechanisms of nuclear acetyl-CoA synthesis in MASLD driven by lamin A/C deficiency and characterize the mechanisms underlying aberrant histone and nuclear protein acetylation and its contribution to MASLD progression.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grace Su; Professor, Int Med-Gastroenterology; Past President, Board of Directors	

Project #3

Research Agreement between the University and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Foundation
Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board

Project Information

Title: The role of HIF2a in dysregulation of HNF4a and its promotion of chronic liver injury and fibrosis in MASLD **U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF04052

Direct Sponsor: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Foundation

Principal Investigator/Department: Marc Cantwell, MM Int Med-Gastroenterology

Project Start Date: 7/1/2026 **Funding Support:** \$300,000
Project End Date: 6/30/2029

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to identify how HIF2a down-regulates HNF4a in a model of MASLD/MASH and whether this loss of master regulator of hepatocyte function promotes chronic liver injury and fibrosis.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

- Grace Su; Professor, Int Med-Gastroenterology; Past President, Board of Directors

Project #4

Research Agreement between the University and the American College of Gastroenterology
Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board

Project Information

Title: Development and Feasibility of a Fiber-rich diet for prevention of recurrent C. difficile infection **U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF03497

Direct Sponsor: American College of Gastroenterology

Principal Investigator/Department: Kira Newman, MM Int Med-Gastroenterology

Project Start Date: 7/1/2026 **Funding Support:** \$30,000
Project End Date: 6/30/2027

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to test the feasibility of a fiber-rich diet (14g/1000kcal) in adults with CDI.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the American College of Gastroenterology

- William Chey; Professor, Gastroenterology; President, Board of Directors

Project #5

Research Agreement between the University and the American College of Gastroenterology Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: Patient, Procedure, and Practice differences between Male and Female Endoscopists	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF03508
Direct Sponsor: American College of Gastroenterology	
Principal Investigator/Department: Kira Newman, MM Int Med-Gastroenterology	
Project Start Date: 7/1/2026 Project End Date: 6/30/2027	Funding Support: \$49,970
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to compare patient-level, procedure-level, and practice-level differences between male and female endoscopists that have the potential to influence billing and reimbursement.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the American College of Gastroenterology</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• William Chey; Professor, Gastroenterology; President, Board of Directors	

Project #6

Research Agreement between the University and the American College of Gastroenterology Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: Do private equity investments in gastroenterology benefit patients? Evidence from colonoscopy quality measures	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF03617
Direct Sponsor: American College of Gastroenterology	
Principal Investigator/Department: Eric Shah, MM Int Med-Gastroenterology	
Project Start Date: 7/1/2026 Project End Date: 6/30/2027	Funding Support: \$50,000
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to examine how private equity acquisition of gastroenterology practices impacts the quality of care delivered in America, focusing on colonoscopy quality metrics.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the American College of Gastroenterology</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• William Chey; Professor, Gastroenterology; President, Board of Directors	

Project #7

**Subcontract Agreement between the University and Applied Dynamics International, Inc.
Reviewed by OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

Project Information

Title: Knowledge-Guided Satellite Constellation Test & Evaluation with an Evolving Digital Engineering Platform	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF03933
Direct Sponsor: Applied Dynamics International, Inc.	Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Air Force, Department of the-Subcontracts
Principal Investigator/Department: Patrick McNally, Space Physics Research Lab	
Project Start Date: 5/1/2026 Project End Date: 4/30/2028	Funding Support: \$425,000
Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to develop an adaptive, knowledge-guided test-planning capability to serve as a decision aid in support of Test & Evaluation (T&E) activities for the Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture (PWSA), which is a continuously evolving constellation in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) designed to deliver resilient, threat-responsive capabilities to the joint force.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Applied Dynamics International, Inc.</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Drake; Policy Advisor to Vice Provost/Dean, Office of Advancement, College of Engineering; Member, Board of Directors 	

Project #8

**Subcontract Agreement between the University and Applied Dynamics International, Inc.
Reviewed by OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

Project Information

Title: Knowledge-Guided Satellite Constellation Test & Evaluation with an Evolving Digital Engineering Platform	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF04010
Direct Sponsor: Applied Dynamics International, Inc.	Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Air Force, Department of the-Subcontracts
Principal Investigator/Department: Giusy Falcone, Aerospace Engineering	
Project Start Date: 5/1/2026 Project End Date: 4/30/2028	Funding Support: \$425,000
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to develop a prototype knowledge-guided test-planning tool for proliferated LEO constellations.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Applied Dynamics International, Inc.</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Drake; Policy Advisor to Vice Provost/Dean, Office of Advancement, College of Engineering; Member, Board of Directors 	

Project #9

**Research Agreement between the University and Arbor Medical Innovations, LLC
Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and OVPR Conflict of Interest
Committee**

Project Information

Title: Development of an Autonomous Desktop Assembly System for Wearable Device	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF03491
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Direct Sponsor: Arbor Medical Innovations, LLC

Principal Investigator/Department: Grant Kruger, Mechanical Engineering

Project Start Date: 1/1/2026 Project End Date: 12/31/2026	Funding Support: \$27,879
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Purpose: The purpose of this project is to design and develop a storage system for a sub-component, transfer of sub-component from storage to assembly area, installation of sub-component within assembly, and an inspection to ensure assembly stage was successfully completed.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Arbor Medical Innovations, LLC

- Steven Harte; Associate Professor, Anesthesiology; Partial Owner
- Grant Kruger; Associate Research Scientist, Mechanical Engineering; Partial Owner

Project #10

**Subcontract Agreement between the University and Arborsense, Inc.
Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and OVPR Conflict of Interest
Committee**

Project Information

Title: A Portable device for point-of-need detection of Ketamine, Cocaine, and Fentanyl in sweat	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF00659
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Direct Sponsor: Arborsense, Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Xudong Fan, Biomedical Engineering

Project Start Date: 4/1/2026 Project End Date: 3/31/2027	Funding Support: \$63,219
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Purpose: The purpose of this project is to detect drugs of abuse in sweat.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Arborsense, Inc.

- Xudong Fan; Professor, Biomedical Engineering; Partial Owner
- Mark Ilgen; Professor, Psychiatry; Partial Owner
- Zhaohui Zhong; Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECS – ECE) Division; Partial Owner

Project #11

**Other Sponsored Activity Agreement between the University and Beijing Zenithnano Technology Co., Ltd.
Reviewed by OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

Project Information

Title: Scalable, site-selected, fluidic assembly of micro-particles and micro-LED chips **U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF04243

Direct Sponsor: Beijing Zenithnano Technology Co., Ltd.

Principal Investigator/Department: L Jay Guo, EECS - ECE - SSEL

Project Start Date: 1/1/2026
Project End Date: 12/31/2026

Funding Support: \$139,167

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to build on previous work by scaling technology and exploring how to automate a manufacturing process to enable high-density micro-LED displays.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Beijing Zenithnano Technology Co., Ltd.

- L Jay Guo; Professor, EECS – ECE Division; Partial Owner

Project #12

**Research Agreement between the University and M3D, Inc.
Reviewed by OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

Project Information

Title: Lymphocam for primary hyperparathyroidism **U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF04707

Direct Sponsor: M3D, Inc.

Principal Investigator/Department: Lauren Krumeich, MM GSA - Endocrine Surg

Project Start Date: 1/1/2026
Project End Date: 12/31/2028

Funding Support: \$9,839

Purpose: The purpose of this clinical trial site activity is to evaluate the utility of the M3D lymphocam in identifying abnormal parathyroid tissue in primary hyperparathyroidism.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with M3D, Inc.

- Zhong He; Professor, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences; Partial Owner

Project #13

Research Agreement between the University and the Midwest Nursing Research Society Reviewed by OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Project Information

Title: Addressing the Nurse Faculty Shortage: Factors Driving PhD Students to Seek Academic Nursing Faculty Roles **U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF02783

Direct Sponsor: Midwest Nursing Research Society

Principal Investigator/Department: Olivia Halabicky, SON-Grants

Project Start Date: 2/1/2026
Project End Date: 1/31/2027

Funding Support: \$4,683

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to capture the full spectrum of factors in PhD programs affecting decisions for PhD students to pursue academic nursing positions and initiate the preliminary stages of building a questionnaire that can be used to assess the likelihood for students to pursue a nursing PhD faculty career.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Midwest Nursing Research Society

- Sheria Robinson-Lane; Associate Professor, Nursing; Vice President, Board of Directors

Project #14

Subcontract Agreement between the University and New Vital Signs, Inc. Reviewed by Medical School Conflict of Interest Board

Project Information

Title: Central Insight: A Bioimpedance-Based Monitor for Noninvasive Assessment of Central Venous Pressure **U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF03573

Direct Sponsor: New Vital Signs, Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Kevin Ward, MM Emergency Medicine UM Adult

Project Start Date: 7/1/2026
Project End Date: 6/30/2028

Funding Support: \$1,080,923

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to test the reliability and efficacy of a bioimpedance-based monitor for noninvasive assessment of central venous pressure.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with New Vital Signs, Inc.

- Kevin Ward; Professor, Emergency Medicine; Partial Owner

Project #15

**Subcontract Agreement between the University and NX Fuels, Inc. (dba Carbon Fuels, Inc.)
Reviewed by OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

Project Information

Title: Integration of GaN-based Nanostructures with Non-Thermal Plasma for Synthesizing Liquid Fuels from Methane	U-M Project ID: 25-PAF09054
Direct Sponsor: NX Fuels, Inc.	Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of Army, Department of the-Subcontracts
Principal Investigator/Department: Zetian Mi, EECS - ECE - SSEL	
Project Start Date: 1/1/2026 Project End Date: 6/30/2026	Funding Support: \$150,000
Purpose: The purpose of the project is to design and demonstrate the feasibility of non-thermal plasma-enhanced liquid fuel production from natural gas (methane) through integration with GaN-based photocatalysts under light irradiation.	
<p align="center"><u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with NX Fuels, Inc.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zetian Mi; Professor, EECS – ECE Division; Partial Owner 	

Project #16

**Research Agreement between the University and the Osteo Science Foundation
Reviewed by OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

Project Information

Title: Stem cell mediated bone regeneration with allografts	U-M Project ID: 26-PAF04070
Direct Sponsor: Osteo Science Foundation	
Principal Investigator/Department: Darnell Kaigler, DENT Periodontics and Oral Med	
Project Start Date: 2/15/2026 Project End Date: 2/14/2027	Funding Support: \$67,523
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to enable the advancement of SCT toward clinical investigation and implementation in treating bone defects and mitigating bone loss in periodontal and peri-implant diseases.	
<p align="center"><u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Osteo Science Foundation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Edwards; Clinical Professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Member, Board of Directors 	