

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents  
March 18, 2010

ACTION REQUEST

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

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration. This then triggered a review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest was developed and approved by the Board and agreed to by the parties involved.

This agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Robert Merion is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and President of Arbor Research Collaborative for Health ("ARBOR") and Dr. Robert Wolfe is both an employee of the University and Vice President for Biostatistics of ARBOR. 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.

Background:

Dr. Robert Merion, Professor of Surgery, Medical School, has been the Principal Investigator of an annually renewing project that is supported by ARBOR, under a prime contract between ARBOR and the US Health Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Merion has agreed to take on the role of President of ARBOR. Dr. Randall Sung, Associate Professor of Surgery, is taking on the role of PI for the University. Dr. Wolfe, Professor of Biostatistics in the School of Public Health, is not involved in the project.

Nature of the Agreement:

The proposed Agreement will be an amendment to the existing subcontract between ARBOR and the University, to permit the continuation of the project at the University, with Dr. Randall Sung as PI.

Agreement Terms:

Under the project, current annual funding is \$ 1,138,155. IRB approval, and Management Plan updates will continue to be obtained prior to annual renewals of the subcontract. 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 enable the University to continue to participate in an important public health research effort to related to the scientific registry of transplant recipients.

Recommendation:

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 conforms to standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve of the University's entering into this Agreement with the Arbor Research Collaborative for Health.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Forrest", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen R. Forrest  
Vice President for Research

March 2010