

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and PP2A Therapeutics Oy

Action Requested: Authorization to amend an 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 Medical School Conflict of Interest Board. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by the Board and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Goutham Narla is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of PP2A Therapeutics Oy. 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:

Goutham Narla, MD, PhD, an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine – Genetic Medicine, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called PP2A Therapeutics Oy (the “Company”). The Company wishes to amend a research agreement originally approved by the Regents on October 17, 2019, to include the proposal entitled, “Testing of small molecule PP2A activators in cellular systems – Amendment 2” (ORSP #20-PAF06005) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Genetic Medicine under the direction of Dr. Narla. The purpose of this amendment is to add funding to test the effects of a series of small molecule activators of PP2A on a series of cancer cell lines.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is extended to December 31, 2020. The amount of funding support will be increased by \$100,000. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision 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 amended Agreement will provide continued support of an effort by Dr. Narla to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to test the compounds sent from PP2A Therapeutics Oy on a panel of 3 cancer cell lines and quantitate the effects of these compounds on phosphorylation of MYC, ERK and AKT.

Recommendations:

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 was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University's amending this Agreement with PP2A Therapeutics Oy.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Interim Vice President for Research

March 2020