

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

April 16, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER)

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into the Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration while reviewing the research agreement, which then triggered a review by the OVPR 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.

This proposed Research Agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Dirgha Ghimire is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and is Director and a member of the Board of Director's of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER). 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 of the University of Michigan.

Background:

Dr. William Axinn, Professor, Survey Research Center and Research Professor, Population Studies, Institute for Social Research, is the Principle Investigator on the Pilot Award from National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, Assistant Research Scientist, Population Studies Center in the Institute for Social Research, is the Co-Investigator on the award from the NIH. Dr. Ghimire is also the Director and a member of the Board of Director's of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER). The NIH pilot award includes a portion of survey work that will be done by ISER.

Nature of the Agreement:

This Pilot Study under the MiCDA from NIH is to design and pilot new measures of HIV/AIDS prevalence, risk factors, knowledge, and attitudes. They propose to design approximately 30 minute long survey instrument -

questionnaire – pretest the questionnaire to a small number of respondents and pilot to capture these dimensions. Completion of this pilot project will lead to a proposal for NIH funding to add the new survey instrument to ongoing data collection in Nepal.

As a Co-Investigator, Dr. Ghimire will work with the research staff of the ISER in Nepal throughout the study period. First, in order to evaluate the survey questions the ISER research team will pretest the draft questionnaire to a small number of people. Based on the lessons learned from the pretest, the survey questionnaire will be revised and piloted among approximately 350 elderly people in Nepal. These interviews will then be entered into a computer through a specially designed data entry program. Dr. Ghimire will then return to Michigan with the notes, interview transcripts and the survey data. These data will then be linked to the CVFS data. The team of investigators will work together to analyze the data.

The grant from NIH includes a fee for service contract with ISER in the amount of \$14,060 for the project.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the proposed Agreement are acceptable and conform to University policy. The period of performance is July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

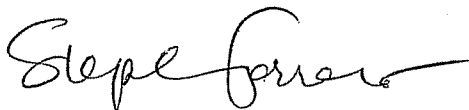
Impact of the Agreement:

The work with ISER will allow the University to meet the Specific Aims of the Pilot study originally submitted and approved by the NIH.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University entering into this Agreement with the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER).

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen R. Forrest
Vice President for Research

April 2009