

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of  
Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with Ripple Science (University of  
Michigan Employees, Nestro Lopez-Duran, Owner, and Savannah Mueller,  
Employee)

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry seeks approval to transact with Ripple Science for the development of a database and tracking software for research participants.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Nestro Lopez-Duran and Savanna Mueller are University employees as Associate Professor of Psychology and Lecturer 1, respectively, with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and would be parties to the contract as Owner and Employee, respectively, of Ripple Science.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
  - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
  - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.


The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Department of Psychiatry, and Ripple Science.
- ii) The agreement is for development of a database and tracking software for research participants at a total cost of \$1,512. Ripple Science will be supplying all the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employees, Nestro Lopez-Duran and Savannah Mueller, are Owner and Employee, respectively, of Ripple Science.

Nestro Lopez-Duran and Savannah Mueller have met state law requirements with the disclosure of their pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisors of Nestro Lopez-Duran and Savannah Mueller under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and Ripple Science subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisors of Nestro Lopez-Duran and Savannah Mueller or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin P. Hegarty  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

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