

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and tranSMART Foundation

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into 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 research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Gilbert Omenn is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and is Chair of the Board of Directors of tranSMART Foundation (“tranSMART”). 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:

Dr. Gilbert Omenn, M.D., Ph.D., the Director of, and Professor in, the Center for Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics and a Professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine/Molecular Medicine & Genetics Human Genetics at the Medical School and the School of Public Health, is the Chair of the Board of Directors of a non-profit organization called tranSMART (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Supporting the Open Science tranSMART Community” (ORSP# 17-PAF05329) in the Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics under the direction of Dr. Brian Athey. The purpose of this project is to provide the services of Jonathan Poisson as Systems Engineer/Administrator of tranSMART.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$29,579. 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 Agreement will support an effort by Jonathan Poisson to use his expertise and a University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to perform his duties in the aforementioned role.

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 entering into this Agreement with tranSMART Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Jack Hu', is positioned above the printed name.

S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

May 2017