

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and GreenMark Biomedical Inc.

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 UMOR 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 the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Joerg Lahann is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a member of the Board of Directors of GreenMark Biomedical Inc. 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. Joerg Lahann, a Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, is a member of the Board of Directors of a for-profit company called GreenMark Biomedical Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund an NIH (prime) SBIR Phase II project entitled “Bioresorbable Nanoparticles for Visual Detection of Early-Stage Dental Caries” (ORSP #19-PAF04053) in the Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Endodontics under the direction of Dr. Carlos Gonzalez. The purpose of this project is to develop a diagnostic test which will be used by dental professionals as part of the routine dental exam to better detect and predict progression of dental caries.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately two (2) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$477,182. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions 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 Dr. Gonzalez to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to work collaboratively with the Company to support the University's participation in the research project involving nanoparticles and dental caries on various tooth surfaces.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. 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 GreenMark Biomedical Inc.

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 2019