

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Oncopia Therapeutics, LLC

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 Professors Shaomeng Wang and Arul Chinnaiyan are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Oncopia Therapeutics, LLC. (“Oncopia”). 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:

Shaomeng Wang, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine – Hematology/Oncology, and Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Pathology, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Oncopia (the “Company”). The Company wishes to amend a research agreement previously approved by the Regents on March 29, 2018 to include the project entitled “Development of protein degraders” (ORSP #20-PAF05501) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Hematology/Oncology under the direction of Dr. Wang. The purpose of this amendment is to add funding to continue to support optimization and testing of potent small molecule degraders for several targets to select one or more compounds suitable for clinical development and identification and validation of potential biomarkers for clinical trials.

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 \$1,800,000 and will not exceed \$4,800,000 total. 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 amended Agreement will provide continued support of an effort by Dr. Wang to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to develop small-molecule protein degraders for the treatment of human cancers.

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 Oncopia Therapeutics, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

May 2020