

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and PhotoSonoX LLC

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 agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Xueding Wang and Yannis Paulus are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of PhotoSonoX LLC. 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:

Xueding Wang, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering - Medical School, and Yannis Paulus, MD, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, are partial owners of a for-profit company called PhotoSonoX LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a National Institutes of Health (prime) SBIR Phase I project entitled “Photo-mediated Ultrasound Therapy for Treatment of Cutaneous Vascular Malformations” (ORSP# 20-PAF06335) in the Department of Biomedical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Wang. The purpose of this project is to develop a clinically ready a-prototype photoacoustic (PA)-guided photo-mediated ultrasound therapy system to treat cutaneous vascular malformations.

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 \$159,962. 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. Wang to use his expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to advise and consult for all clinical aspects to determine the efficacy and safety of photo-mediated ultrasound therapy for treatment of cutaneous vessels.

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 PhotoSonoX LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham  
Vice President for Research

May 2020