

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

### **Subject: Project Agreements with the University of Michigan**

#### **Action Requested: Authorization to enter into or amend Agreements**

##### **Preamble:**

Statutory conflicts of interest situations were identified by the Conflict of Interest Offices while reviewing Proposal Approval Forms that then triggered a review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board (“Board”) and/or the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee (“Committee”). Plans for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest will be developed and approved by the Board and/or Committee and may require agreement by the parties involved at time of award.

These proposed projects (e.g., research, sponsored activity, and/or subcontract) agreements (“Agreement”) and/or amendments to Agreements (“Amendments”) fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because University of Michigan (“University”) employees have activities, relationships, or interests in the companies as described in Attachment A. The law permits such Agreements provided they are disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

##### **Agreement Terms:**

The terms of the Agreements and/or Amendments conform to University policy. The funding support will not exceed the amount reported in Attachment A for each Agreement and/or Amendment. Since projects are often amended, these Agreements and/or Amendments include 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 Agreements and/or Amendments will provide support of investigator’s effort to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to execute the projects as reported in Attachment A.

##### **Recommendations:**

These matters have been reviewed and approved by the Board and/or the Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreements and Amendments were negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University’s entering into or amending the Agreements referenced in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Lupia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Arthur Lupia**

Vice President for Research and Innovation

May 2026

Attachment

## Attachment A

### Project #1

**Research Agreement between the University and American College of Chest Physicians**

**Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board**

**Title:** Defining and Targeting Distinct Metastatic Programs in Lung Adenocarcinoma

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF07084

**Direct Sponsor:** American College of Chest Physicians

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Heather Schofield, MM Int Med-Pulm./Critical Care

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 10/31/2029

**Funding Support:** \$150,000

**Purpose:** Identify and target programs that drive lung adenocarcinoma metastasis; this research aims to improve understanding of how lung cancer spreads and to support the development of more personalized, effective treatments for patients with advanced disease.

**University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the American College of Chest Physicians:**

- Kevin Chan; Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine, Medical School; Board of Directors Member

### Project #2

**Research Agreement between the University and American College of Chest Physicians**

**Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board**

**Title:** Ineffective Triggering in the Elderly: Investigating its Prevalence, Complications, and Treatments Using Ventilator Waveform Data

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF07109

**Direct Sponsor:** American College of Chest Physicians

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Anna Barker, MM Int Med-Pulm./Critical Care

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 10/31/2029

**Funding Support:** \$150,000

**Purpose:** To automate identification of ineffective triggering in ventilator waveform data and investigate its prevalence, complications, and treatment among elderly patients on invasive mechanical ventilation.

**University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the American College of Chest Physicians:**

- Kevin Chan; Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine, Medical School; Board of Directors Member

### **Project #3**

#### **Amendment to Subcontract Agreement between the University and Eleven Therapeutics Corporation Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

**Title:** Development of negative allosteric modulators of the mu-opioid receptor for the management of opioid use disorder

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF06255

**Direct Sponsor:** Eleven Therapeutics Corporation

**Prime Sponsor:** Health and Human Services, Department of National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

**Principal Investigator/Department:** John Traynor, MM Pharmacology

**Current Project Start Date:** 1/1/2025

**Current Project End Date:** 12/31/2025

**Revised Project End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Current Funding Support:** \$1,179,066

**Additional Funding Support:** \$87,665

**Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to add funds so that Dr. Traynor may continue to identify novel chemical entities to be developed into a drug for the management of opioid use disorder.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Eleven Therapeutics Corporation:**

- Andrew Alt; Associate Research Scientist, Life Sciences Institute; Partial Owner
- Jason Rech; Associate Research Scientist, Director, Vahlteich Medicinal Chemistry Core, Medicinal Chemistry; Partial Owner

### **Project #4**

#### **Research Agreement between the University and GC Mobility & Energy, Inc.**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

**Title:** Virtual Validation & SaaS Framework for Smart Energy Management

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF06990

**Direct Sponsor:** GC Mobility & Energy, Inc.

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Wencong Su, Dearborn Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Project Start Date:** 6/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 12/31/2026

**Funding Support:** \$5,500

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to develop a high-fidelity simulation environment and a functional SaaS-based management interface to validate the technical and economic feasibility of "No-Grid-Upgrade" charging solutions using Reinforcement Learning (RL) optimization before physical hardware deployment.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with GC Mobility & Energy, Inc.:**

- Wencong Su; Professor, Dearborn Electrical and Computer Engineering; Partial Owner

## **Project #5**

### **Other Sponsored Activity Agreement between the University and Metria Oncology Oy Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board**

**Title:** Testing targeted therapies in preclinical models of cancer

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF04636

**Direct Sponsor:** Metria Oncology Oy

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Goutham Narla, MM Int Med-Genetic Medicine

**Project Start Date:** 2/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 1/31/2027

**Funding Support:** \$185,000

**Purpose:** This project aims to test a series of defined targeted therapies in disease relevant cellular models of cancer and to test the effects on cell viability, cell growth, cell death and the effects on specific signaling pathways. Drugs will be tested both alone and in combination, and the study team will test targeted therapies both as monotherapy and in combination in disease relevant cell line and patient derived xenograft models.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Metria Oncology Oy:**

- Goutham Narla; Professor, Internal Medicine; Partial Owner
- Caitlin O'Connor; Research Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine; Partial Owner

## **Project #6**

### **Research Agreement between the University and the Midwest Nursing Research Society Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

**Title:** Using Video Elicitation Focus Group Interviews to Explore Emergency Nurse Perspectives on the Nurse Work Environment, Workplace Violence, and Suicidal Ideation

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF05922

**Direct Sponsor:** Midwest Nursing Research Society

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Milisa Manojlovich, School of Nursing-Grants

**Project Start Date:** 4/15/2026

**Project End Date:** 3/31/2027

**Funding Support:** \$2,335

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to explore the workplace experiences of emergency nurses, as well as their perceptions of risk for suicidal ideation.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Midwest Nursing Research Society:**

- Sheria Robinson-Lane; Associate Professor, Nursing; Vice President, Board of Directors

## **Project #7**

### **Subcontract Agreement between the University and Outhaul Medical Devices LLC**

#### **Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board**

**Title:** Development of a novel sternal closure device to reduce complications in patients with poor bone quality

**U-M Project ID:** 25-PAF07152

**Direct Sponsor:** Outhaul Medical Devices LLC

**Prime Sponsor:** Health and Human Services, Department of National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Kenneth Kozloff, MM Orthopaedic Surgery

**Project Start Date:** 12/1/2025

**Project End Date:** 11/30/2026

**Funding Support:** \$111,119

**Purpose:** The goal of this study is to determine the efficacy of the novel BoneDry sternal wire additive in protecting against the erosion of sternal tissue by a wire used in sternal closure.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Outhaul Medical Devices LLC:**

- Jonathan Haft; Professor of Cardiac Surgery, Medical School; Partial Owner
- Jeff Plott; Assistant Research Scientist of Cardiac Surgery, Medical School; Partial Owner
- Gardner Yost; House Officer, Thoracic Surgery; Partial Owner

## **Project #8**

### **Instructional Agreement between the University and Pleiades Inc.**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

**Title:** Portable Retinal Oximetry (RO) Device

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF04324

**Direct Sponsor:** Pleiades Inc.

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Rachael Schmedlen, Biomedical Engineering

**Project Start Date:** 1/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 12/31/2026

**Funding Support:** \$2,000

**Purpose:** The purpose of this activity is for students in a class design project (BME-451/452) to construct and provide a portable RO device that objectively measures parameters clinically proven to correlate with concussions.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Pleiades Inc.:**

- Joseph Myers; Optometrist, Co-Assistant Director, Eye Care – Health Service Clinic Operations, Student Life - University Health & Counseling; Partial Owner

## **Project #9**

**Subcontract Agreement between the University and Prevada Medical, Inc.**

**Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board**

**Title:** Development of an absorbent, antimicrobial mouthguard to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia

**U-M Project ID:** 25-PAF07339

**Direct Sponsor:** Prevada Medical, Inc.

**Prime Sponsor:** Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

**Principal Investigator/Department:** J VanEpps, MM Emergency Medicine UM Adult

**Project Start Date:** 1/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 12/31/2028

**Funding Support:** \$838,993

**Purpose:** This project will develop a mouthguard device for intubated patients that prevents respiratory tract microbial colonization, in turn reducing the pathogen load within the lungs, and subsequently preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia.

**University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Prevada Medical, Inc.:**

- Kevin Ward; Professor of Emergency Medicine, Medical School; Partial Owner

## **Project #10**

**Subcontract Agreement between the University and PRO Therapeutics LLC**

**Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board**

**Title:** Tissue-Engineered Muscle for Research Studies and Repair of Volumetric Muscle Mass Injuries

**U-M Project ID:** 26-PAF01308

**Direct Sponsor:** PRO Therapeutics LLC

**Prime Sponsor:** Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

**Principal Investigator/Department:** Lisa Larkin, MM Molec & Integratv Physiolog

**Project Start Date:** 4/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 3/31/2028

**Funding Support:** \$779,669

**Purpose:** Design, fabricate and validate the "MyoBox" to fabricate and deliver patient-specific skeletal muscle tissue to the surgical arena for repair of acute volumetric muscle loss.

**University Employee; University Title; Relationship with PRO Therapeutics LLC:**

- Lisa Larkin; Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, Medical School; Partial Owner

## **Project #11**

### **Subcontract Agreement between the University and Pyogenix, Inc.**

#### **Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board**

**Title:** ITS amplicon profiling for bacterial identification

**U-M Project ID:** 25-PAF03264

**Direct Sponsor:** Pyogenix, Inc.

**Prime Sponsor:** National Science Foundation-Subcontracts

**Principal Investigator/Department:** J VanEpps, MM Emergency Medicine Research

**Project Start Date:** 9/1/2025

**Project End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Funding Support:** \$143,950

**Purpose:** Optimize sample processing procedure to maximize yield of bacterial DNA. Develop the bacterial species identification algorithm based on a combination of melt and electrophoretic analyses of ITS amplicons.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Pyogenix, Inc.:**

- Vishwaratn Asthana; Clinical Instructor in Internal Medicine, Medical School; Partial Owner

## **Project #12**

### **Subcontract Agreement between the University and Saros Therapeutics, Inc.**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

**Title:** (Resubmission) Demonstrating Safety and Combination Therapy Potential of a Novel Nanoparticle Delivery System

**U-M Project ID:** 25-PAF04615

**Direct Sponsor:** Saros Therapeutics, Inc.

**Prime Sponsor:** Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

**Principal Investigator/Department:** James Moon, Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Project Start Date:** 4/1/2026

**Project End Date:** 3/31/2028

**Funding Support:** \$250,000

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to develop new technologies for inducing immune activation against cancer.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Saros Therapeutics, Inc.:**

- James Moon; Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences; Partial Owner