

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and  
NOTA Laboratories 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 and 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 Board and Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Mark E. Meyerhoff, Mark A. Zacharek, and Marc B. Hershenson are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of NOTA Laboratories 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:

Mark E. Meyerhoff, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Mark A. Zacharek, MD, a Clinical Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, and Marc B. Hershenson, MD, a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, are partial owners of a for-profit company called NOTA Laboratories LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund an NIH (prime) SBIR Phase II project entitled “Antimicrobial Intravascular Catheter Lock Solutions Based on Endogenous Nitric Oxide Release Agent” (ORSP #20-PAF06550) in the Department of Transplant Surgery under the direction of Dr. Alvaro Rojas Pena. The purpose of this project is to produce a novel intravascular (IV) catheter lock solution with antimicrobial and antithrombotic properties that contains an endogenous nitric oxide (NO) release agent, along with additives, in a physiological background electrolyte.

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 \$702,006. 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. Pena to use his expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to oversee lab staff responsible for surgery set-up and providing surgical expertise in the animal models.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and 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 NOTA Laboratories LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham  
Vice President for Research

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