

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Food Allergy Research & Education, 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 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 research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor James R. Baker, Jr. is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer of Food Allergy Research & Education, Inc. (“FARE”). 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. James R. Baker, Jr., a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Internal Medicine, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer of a non-profit company called FARE (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “FARE Clinical Network Membership Renewal 2017” (ORSP# 17-PAF06627) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Allergy and Clinical Immunology under the direction of Dr. Georgiana Sanders. The purpose of this project is to renew the University’s participation in the FARE Clinical Network.

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 \$70,000. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision 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. Sanders to use her expertise and University resources to support the University’s continued participation in the FARE Clinical Network.

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 Food Allergy Research & Education, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Jack Hu', written in a cursive style.

S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

July 2017