

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and GreenMark Biomedical Inc.

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 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 Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed amendment to the research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Joerg Lahann is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a member of the Board of Directors of GreenMark Biomedical Inc. (“GreenMark”). 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. Joerg Lahann, a Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, and the Academic Program Director of the Biointerfaces Institute, is a member of the Board of Directors of a for-profit company called GreenMark (the “Company”). The Company wishes to add additional funding to a project entitled “Detection of Early Pre-Cavity Lesions Using Fluorescently Labeled Starch Nano Particles, in vitro” (ORSP #18-PAF08299) in the Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Endodontics in the School of Dentistry under the direction of Dr. Carlos Gonzalez. The original Agreement was approved by the Regents on October 19, 2017. The purpose of this project is to support the University’s research regarding the capabilities of fluorescently labeled nanoparticles in the diagnosis of early dental cavities.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the amended Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately an additional seven (7) months. The amount of additional funding support from the Company will be \$10,000. 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. Gonzalez to use his expertise and University resources to work collaboratively with the Company to support the University's participation in the research project involving the utility of fluorescently labeled nanoparticles in dental applications.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by 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 GreenMark Biomedical Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

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