

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and MeiraGTx Limited

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 Robin Ali is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of MeiraGTx Limited. 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:

Robin Ali, PhD, FMedScia, a Visiting Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, is the Chief Scientific Officer and partial owner of MeiraGTx Limited (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Work Package of Final IND Enabling Pre-Clinical Studies of RDH12 Gene Supplementation” (ORSP #19-PAF07936) in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science under the direction of Dr. Debra Thompson. The purpose of this project is to focus on developing AAV-mediated gene therapy for the treatment of individuals with inherited retinal degeneration caused by RDH12 loss-of-function mutations by engaging in pre-clinical studies of AAV2/5-hGRK1p.hRDH12 for RDH12 gene supplementation.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately seventeen (17) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$281,282. 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. Thompson to use her expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to design experiments, perform them, and interpret data relative to AAV-mediated gene therapy for the treatment of individuals with inherited retinal degeneration caused by RDH12 loss-of-function mutations.

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 MeiraGTx Limited.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham  
Interim Vice President for Research

July 2019