

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and iReprogram, 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. 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 agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Indika Rajapakse, Dr. Lindsey Muir, and Mr. Walter Meixner are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of iReprogram, 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:

Indika Rajapakse, PhD, an Associate Professor in the Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, Lindsey Muir, PhD, a Research Investigator in the Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, and Mr. Walter Meixner, a Research Lab Specialist Senior in the Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, are partial owners of a for-profit company called iReprogram, LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a National Science Foundation (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled, “Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Production to End Graft-Versus-Host Disease” (ORSP #20-PAF07388) in the Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics under the direction of Dr. Rajapakse. The purpose of this project is to compare primary human hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) and in vitro analogue HSCs using Hi-C, RNA-seq, and imaging.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately nine (9) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$140,043. 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. Rajapakse to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to perform research on the reprogramming capability of transcription factor sets predicted to generate HSCs.

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 iReprogram, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

July 2020