

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Project Agreements with the University of Michigan

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into or amend Agreements

Preamble:

Statutory conflicts of interest situations were identified by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects while reviewing Proposal Approval Forms that then triggered a review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and/or the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. Plans for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest will be developed and approved by the Board and/or Committee and may require agreement by the parties involved at time of award.

These proposed project (e.g., research, sponsored activity, and/or subcontract) agreements (“Agreement”) and/or amendments to Agreements (“Amendments”) fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because University of Michigan (“University”) employees have activities, relationships, or interests in the companies as described in Attachment A. The law permits such Agreements provided they are disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreements and/or Amendments conform to University policy. The funding support will not exceed the amount reported in Attachment A for each Agreement and/or Amendment. Since projects are often amended, these Agreements and/or Amendments include 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 Agreements and/or Amendments will provide support of investigator’s effort to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to execute the projects as reported in Attachment A.

Recommendations:

These matters have been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and/or the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreements and Amendments were negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University’s entering into or amending the Agreements referenced in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cunningham', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Cunningham  
Vice President for Research

July 2023

**Attachment A**

**Project #1**

<b>Other Sponsored Activity Agreement between the University and Arbor Batteries LLC Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee</b>	
<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Title:</b> Patterned Anodes for Li-ion Battery Samples	<b>U-M Project ID:</b> 23-PAF08380
<b>Direct Sponsor:</b> Arbor Batteries LLC	
<b>Principal Investigator/Department:</b> Neil Dasgupta, Mechanical Engineering	
<b>Project Duration:</b> Six (6) Months	<b>Funding Support:</b> \$1,941
<b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this activity is investigate a manufacturing technique that will allow for fast charging of Li-ion batteries.	
<b><u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Arbor Batteries LLC</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Jeff Sakamoto; Professor, Mechanical Engineering; Partial Owner</li><li>● Neil Dasgupta; Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering; Partial Owner</li></ul>	

## Project #2

<b>Amendment to SBIR Phase II Subcontract Agreement between the University and Arborsense, Inc. Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee and Medical School Conflict of Interest Board</b>	
<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Title:</b> Rapid and non-invasive device for drug detection through sweat - additional funds	<b>U-M Project ID:</b> 23-PAF08249
<b>Direct Sponsor:</b> Arborsense, Inc.	<b>Prime:</b> National Institutes of Health
<b>Principal Investigator/Department:</b> Xudong Fan, Biomedical Engineering	
<b>Agreement Initially Approved by the Regents:</b> March 24, 2022	
<b>Project Duration:</b> Two (2) Years	<b>Funding Support:</b> \$475,284 <b>Additional Funding Support:</b> \$32,563
<b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this amendment is to add funds so that Dr. Fan may complete drug testing in sweat using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry and complete the microfluidic design for drug detection in sweat.	
<b><u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Arborsense, Inc.</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Xudong Fan; Professor, Biomedical Engineering; Partial Owner</li><li>● Zhaohui Zhong; Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Electrical and Computer Engineering Division; Partial Owner</li><li>● Mark Ilgen; Professor, Psychiatry; Partial Owner</li></ul>	

### Project #3

**STTR Phase I Subcontract Agreement between the University and Fourth State LLC  
Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee**

**Project Information**

**Title:** Towards a Scalable Continuous Flow Plasma Water Treatment Architecture for PFAS Remediation and Water Reuse

**U-M Project ID:** 23-PAF02501

**Direct Sponsor:** Fourth State LLC

**Prime Sponsor:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
United States Department of Agriculture

**Principal Investigator/Department:** John Foster, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences

**Project Duration:** One (1) Year

**Funding Support:** \$52,500

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to support Fourth State LLC's goal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) removal by investigating a scalable 10 gallons/min flow system with capacity for up to 50 gallons/min to gain a better understanding of the scalability of plasma-based water treatment systems which can provide a significant commercial and societal benefit.

**University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Fourth State LLC**

- Roxanne Walker; Graduate Student Research Assistant, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences; Partial Owner
- John Foster; Professor, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences; Partial Owner

#### Project #4

<b>Amendment to Research Agreement between the University and ONL Therapeutics, Inc. Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board</b>	
<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Title:</b> Feasibility of Fas inhibition in preventing photoreceptor cell death in inherited retinal degeneration	<b>U-M Project ID:</b> 23-PAF07122
<b>Direct Sponsor:</b> ONL Therapeutics, Inc.	
<b>Principal Investigator/Department:</b> David Zacks, Ophthalmology & Visual Science	
<b>Agreement Initially Approved by the Regents:</b> May 20, 2021	
<b>Project Duration:</b> Two (2) Years <b>Additional Time:</b> One (1) Year	<b>Funding Support:</b> \$495,072 <b>Additional Funding Support:</b> \$308,831
<b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this amendment is to add funds and time so that Dr. Zacks may test the potential for ONL Therapeutics, Inc.'s Fas inhibitors to protect photoreceptor cells in mouse models of inherited retinal degeneration.	
<b><u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with ONL Therapeutics, Inc.</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David Zacks; Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; Board of Directors Member</li></ul>	

#### Project #5

<b>STTR Phase I Subcontract Agreement between the University and Tuebor Energy Inc. Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee</b>	
<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Title:</b> Spray-On Separators for Metal-Sulfur Cathodes	<b>U-M Project ID:</b> 23-PAF05892
<b>Direct Sponsor:</b> Tuebor Energy Inc.	<b>Prime Sponsor:</b> U.S. Department of Energy
<b>Principal Investigator/Department:</b> Nicholas Kotov, Chemical Engineering	
<b>Project Duration:</b> Three (3) Years	<b>Funding Support:</b> \$300,000
<b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this project is to develop high throughput fabrication of structurally integrated cathode assemblies for LiS batteries based on patented technology of strong flexible aramid nanofibers (ANFs) deposited on a sulfur-encapsulating cathode composite.	
<b><u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Tuebor Energy Inc.</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nicholas Kotov; Professor, Chemical Engineering; Partial Owner</li><li>• Ahmet Emre; Research Fellow, Chemical Engineering; Partial Owner</li></ul>	