THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with Pro Therapeutics, LLC (University Employee Lisa Larkin, Owner).

Background:

The University of Michigan Molecular and Integrative Physiology seeks approval to transact with Pro Therapeutics, LLC, to sell mesenchymal stem cells and bone marrow vials that contain 5 million cells. Pro Therapeutics, LLC was selected to pay for the cells which were created by the University of Michigan Molecular and Integrative Physiology and are being sold to Pro Therapeutics, LLC.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Lisa Larkin is a University employee as a Professor with the Molecular and Integrative Physiology Department and would be party to the agreement as owner of Pro Therapeutics, LLC.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.

b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.

c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:

i) The name of each party involved in the contract.

ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.

iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.
The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Molecular and Integrative Physiology Department and Pro Therapeutics, LLC.

ii) The agreement is Molecular and Integrative Physiology is selling mesenchymal stem cells and bone marrow vials containing 5 million cells to Pro Therapeutics, LLC for a one time purchase and cost $13,500. Pro Therapeutic, LLC will be supplying all the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract.

iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Lisa Larkin is owner of Pro Therapeutics, LLC.

Lisa Larkin has met state law requirements with the disclosure of her pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Lisa Larkin under the Medical School’s or OVPR’s Conflict of Interest Committee’s procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and Pro Therapeutics, LLC subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Lisa Larkin or the Medical School’s or OVPR’s Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

July 2024