

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and  
Advanced Technologies of Michigan

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Research 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 OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was developed by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed Agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Swaminathan Ramesh is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University"), and owner and CEO of Advanced Technologies of Michigan ("ATOM"). 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. Ramesh, a Lecturer I of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering is the owner of a for-profit company called ATOM (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a project co-funded under the Michigan Corporate Relations Network's Small Company Innovation Program entitled "Dispersion of Hydroxyapatite Nanoparticles for Fabrication of Bioactive Scaffolds" (ORSP# 13-PAF06114) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Gargi Ghosh. The purpose of this project is to establish the feasibility of a novel scaffold, ideal for bone tissue regeneration for the potential treatment of osteoporosis.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support is anticipated at \$40,000. Since research projects are often amended, these agreements include provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of each supported project. 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. Ghosh to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to establish the feasibility of a novel scaffold, ideal for bone tissue regeneration for the potential treatment of osteoporosis.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR 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 of the University's entering into this Agreement with Advanced Technologies of Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Forrest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Stephen R Forrest  
Vice President for Research

September 2013