

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Alight Sciences, 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 and the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by the Board and Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Nils Walter, Alexander Johnson-Buck, Muneesh Tewari, and Dr. David Olson are all employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Alight Sciences, 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:

Nils Walter, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Alexander Johnson-Buck, MD, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Muneesh Tewari, MD, a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, and David C Olson, an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Alight Sciences, LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “A novel platform for the ultra-sensitive detection of biomarkers” (ORSP #17-PAF07712) in the Department of Chemistry under the direction of Dr. Nils Walter. The purpose of this project is to apply known SiMREPS techniques and strategies to achieve single molecule detection for protein analytes.

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 will not exceed \$269,586. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision 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 Drs. Walter, Johnson-Buck, and Tewari to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to test the SiMREPS and target analytes for multiple protein targets.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and the UMOR 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 the University's entering into this Agreement with Alight Sciences, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Jack Hu', is positioned above the printed name.

S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

September 2017