

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Hangzhou CalyGene Biotechnology Co., Ltd

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 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 Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Haoxing Xu is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of Hangzhou CalyGene Biotechnology Co., Ltd (“CalyGene”). 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. Haoxing Xu, a Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called CalyGene (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Small molecule TRPML modulators; yrs 5, 6” (ORSP #19-PAF06756) in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology under the direction of Dr. Haoxing Xu. The purpose of this project is to test compounds in mouse and human fibroblasts.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately two (2) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$230,000. 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 Dr. Xu to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to test TRPML modulators in mouse and human fibroblasts.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by 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 Hangzhou CalyGene Biotechnology Co., Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Interim Vice President for Research

September 2019