

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Arcascope Inc.

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 subcontract agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Daniel Forger is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”) and a partial owner of Arcascope Inc. 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. Daniel Forger, a Professor in the Department of Mathematics, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called Arcascope Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund an NIH (prime) SBIR Phase I project entitled: “Development and testing of a sleep tracking app for clinicians and researchers built on open-source algorithms” (ORSP #20-PAF06003) in the Department of Neurology under the direction of Dr. Cathy Goldstein. The purpose of this project is to ensure that a clinician-facing app provides meaningful feedback to clinicians on the data recorded by patients through the device to assess their sleep prior to a clinic visit.

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 \$84,109. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes 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 Agreement will support an effort by Dr. Goldstein to use her expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to ensure that a clinician-facing app provides meaningful feedback to clinicians on the data recorded by patients through the device to assess their sleep prior to a clinic visit.

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 Arcascope Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cunningham'.

Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

September 2020