

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 the 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 II project entitled: “Assessing the effects of lighting interventions on fatigue in three populations of cancer patients” (ORSP #20-PAF07198) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Hematology/Oncology under the direction of Dr. Muneesh Tewari. The purpose of this project is to assess how light interventions delivered through an app affect fatigue in breast, prostate, and BMT cancer patients.

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 \$800,031. 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. Tewari to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to test the effects of a mobile app that recommends lighting interventions on fatigue and other quality of life metrics in a population of cancer patients, and use statistical analysis to assess the efficacy of the intervention in each group of patients with a given cancer type.

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,



Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

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