

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Courage Therapeutics, 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 Roger Cone is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of Courage Therapeutics, 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. Roger Cone, the Vice Provost and Director of the Biosciences Initiative in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director and Research Professor of the Life Sciences Institute, Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology in the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts, and Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology in the Medical School, is a partial owners of a for-profit company called Courage Therapeutics, Inc (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a National Institutes of Health (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled, “Development of MC3R Peptide Antagonists for the Maintenance of Weight Loss” (ORSP #20-PAF06742) in the Life Sciences Institute under the direction of Dr. Cone. The purpose of this project is to understand the physiological functions of the melanocortin-3 receptor (MC3R) antagonist peptide.

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 \$127,673. 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. Cone to use his expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to characterize the MC3R peptide at four melanocortin receptors.

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 Courage Therapeutics, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

October 2020