

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and InheRET, 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 Medical School Conflict of Interest Board. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by the Board and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed subcontract agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors David F. Keren, Sofia Merajver, and Lee Schroeder, Ms. Lynn McCain, and Ms. Kara Milliron, are all employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of InheRET, 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:

David F. Keren, MD, a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pathology; Sofia Merajver, MD, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine – Hematology/Oncology; Lee Schroeder, MD, PhD, an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology; Lynn McCain, MHSA, PMP, a Senior Project Manager for the Genetic Testing Resource and Quality Consortium in the Department of Pathology; and Kara Milliron, MS, CGC, a Genetic Counselor in the Department of Pathology, are partial owners of a for-profit company called InheRET, Inc (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a National Institutes of Health (prime) STTR Phase II project entitled, “InheRET 3.0: An Updated SaaS solution that integrates hereditary disease risk, genetic testing, and education” (ORSP #20-PAF04143) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Gastroenterology under the direction of Dr. Elena Stoffel. The purpose of this project is to clinically implement the InheRET tool and assist healthcare providers in identifying and referring patients with at greater risk of genetic susceptibility to cancer.

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 \$1,000,562. 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. Stoffel to use her expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to oversee the clinical implementation of the InheRET tool at clinical study sites.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board. 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 InheRET, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham  
Vice President for Research

October 2020