

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Otzi Bio LLC

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 agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Nilay Chakraborty and Mr. Quinn Osgood are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Otzi Bio LLC. 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. Nilay Chakraborty, an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dearborn College of Engineering, and Mr. Quinn Osgood, a Professor Miscellaneous (Temp) in the Department of Athletics and Recreation, Dearborn, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Otzi Bio LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a Department of Defense (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled “Creation of a bioprinted 3D environment to mimic Neural Tissue” (ORSP #20-PAF02350) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Chakraborty. The purpose of this project is to develop a bioprinted 3D platform that mimics the mechanical and chemical properties of neural tissue of chosen cell types.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately six (6) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$89,694. 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. Chakraborty to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to develop a bioprinted 3D platform that mimics the mechanical and chemical properties of neural tissue of chosen cell types.

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 Otzi Bio LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Interim Vice President for Research

December 2019