

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and the International Association for Dental Research

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 research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Nisha J. D’Silva, is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and Treasurer of the Board of Directors for International Association for Dental Research (“IADR”). 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. Nisha J. D’Silva, a Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine in the School of Dentistry, is the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for a non-profit organization called IADR (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Redefining the Tumor Microenvironment” (ORSP #20-PAF02694) in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine under the direction of Dr. D’Silva. The purpose of this project is to establish the mechanism by which a tumor suppressor is silenced in head and neck cancer.

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 \$10,000. 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. D’Silva to use her expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to identify a potential mechanism that makes head and neck cancer aggressive.

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 the International Association for Dental Research.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rebecca Cunningham
Interim Vice President for Research

December 2019