

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Sponsored Activity Agreement between the University of Michigan and FibrosIX 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 sponsored activity agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Scott Larsen is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of FibrosIX 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. Scott Larsen, a Research Professor in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Co-Director of the Vahlteich Medicinal Chemistry Core, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called FibrosIX Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a sponsored activity entitled, “FibrosIX Efficacy study” (ORSP #21-PAF01134) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Pulmonary/Critical Care under the direction of Dr. Thomas Sisson. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the efficacy of two experimental FibrosIX drugs in the bleomycin model of lung fibrosis.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately two (2) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$4,416. Since 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. Sisson to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to seek to improve current treatments of lung fibrosis.

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 FibrosIX Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rebecca Cunningham  
Vice President for Research

December 2020