

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and EMPOWR-ME LLC dba HealthIntel 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 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 research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Prashant Mahajan is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of EMPOWR-ME LLC doing business as HealthIntel 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:

Prashant Mahajan, MD, a Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called HealthIntel LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled, “Early identification and prediction of COVID-19 in patients to optimize Emergency Department Utilization” (ORSP #21-PAF02236) in the Department of Emergency Medicine under the direction of Dr. Christopher Gillies. The purpose of this project is to identify and predict COVID-19 in patients.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately three (3) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$17,516. 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. Gillies to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to predict the probability of COVID-19 developing in patients and direct patients to appropriate healthcare.

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 EMPOWR-ME LLC dba HealthIntel LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

December 2020