

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration

Action Requested: Authorization to amend an 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 agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Ms. Denise Reinke is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (“SARC”). 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:

Ms. Denise Reinke, a Nurse Practitioner in the UMH Cancer Center, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of a non-profit company called SARC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to amend a research agreement previously approved by the Regents on December 6, 2018 to include the project entitled, “Leiomyosarcoma (LMS): New Targets, New Therapies, New Models” (ORSP #21-PAF02154) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Hematology/Oncology under the direction of Dr. Laurence Baker. The purpose of this amendment is to add funds to continue supporting Dr. Baker’s efforts related to strategic LMS vulnerabilities.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Amendment conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is extended to December 31, 2020. The amount of funding support will be increased by \$46,798 and will not exceed \$275,002 total. 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 amended Agreement will provide continued support of an effort by Dr. Baker to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to work collaboratively with the Company to organize investigators focused on researching strategic LMS vulnerabilities and developing effective therapies.

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 amending this Agreement with Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

December 2020