

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorize Execution of Investment Agreements Under the Accelerate Blue Fund or similar funds managed by Innovation Partnerships for Ocutheia, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”).

Background:

In October 2019, the Board of Regents approved the Accelerate Blue Fund (“A-B Fund”), managed by Innovation Partnerships, and its guidelines. Innovation Partnerships also may manage certain funds similar to A-B Fund as approved by formal university processes (together with A-B Fund, such funds, (“Innovation Partnerships Managed Funds”).

The proposed investment agreements (the "Agreements") fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because the listed Interested Individuals are employees of the University and have sufficient pecuniary interest in the Agreements as partial owners of the company, and/or undertake a senior company officer or board role. The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Board.

No use of University services or facilities, nor any assignment of University employees, is obligated or contemplated under the Agreement.

If the transaction proceeds, the parties to the Agreements would include the University and the Company, and the University would receive an equity interest or future equity interest in the Company in return for its investment(s). The Agreements would reflect typical venture capital investing documentation.

Innovation Partnerships is seeking approval for financing agreements up to a total of no more than 10% of the total assets under management in the respective Innovation Partnerships Managed Funds in potential investments (through one or more rounds of financing) in the Company. It is understood that, upon approval of this item, Innovation Partnerships Managed Funds will have no obligation to enter into the Agreements or proceed with any investment in the company.

The Company, founded in 2023, is a company that is focused on understanding the metabolic signals that drive retinal cell function and survival to develop novel therapeutics that improve vision in those afflicted with retinal degenerative diseases.

Interested Individuals:

Cagri Besirli - Associate Professor of Ophthalmology Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Jason Rech - Director of the Vahlteich Medicinal Chemistry Core, Associate Research Scientist in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy.

Thomas Wubben -Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences University at the University of Michigan Medical School.

We believe state law requirements have been met with the disclosure of the interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan.

We recommend that the Board of Regents authorize execution of agreements between the University of Michigan and Ocutheia, Inc., as set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Lupia".

Arthur Lupia
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation

December 2024