

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Athena Vision, Ltd.

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 agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Robin Ali is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University"), and Chief Scientific Officer and partial owner of Athena Vision, Ltd. 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:

Robin Ali, Ph.D., FMedSci, a Visiting Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School, is the Chief Scientific Officer and partial owner of a for-profit company called Athena Vision, Ltd. (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled "Athena Vision – Clinical Trials Infrastructure" (ORSP# 16-PAF04382) in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science under the direction of Dr. Ali. The purpose of this project is to establish an infrastructure, including personnel support, within the University of Michigan for the conduct of ocular gene therapy clinical trials.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately five (5) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$1,590,675. 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 under the direction of Dr. Ali to acquire and develop University resources and hire personnel necessary to support new and novel clinical approaches to the treatment of retinal dystrophies.

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 Athena Vision, Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jack Hu', written in a cursive style.

S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

April 2016