

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Michigan Association of Occupational Health Nurses

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Research 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. The Board has reviewed the disclosed conflict and determined it to be of minimal risk not requiring a formal management plan to be developed or entered into prior to proceeding.

The proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Christine Pionk, N.P., is both an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and the Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Association of Occupational Nurses (“MAOHN”). The law permits such Agreements 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. Christine Pionk, a Nurse Practitioner in the University Employee Health Services and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Nursing, is the Treasurer on the Board of Directors of a non-profit organization called MAOHN (the Organization). The Organization wishes to fund a project entitled “Employee Health and Blood Pressure Outcomes by Job Family” (ORSP #14-PAF06237) in the School of Nursing under the direction of Dr. Marjorie McCullagh. The purpose of this project is to support the Organization in training nursing researchers and studying the relationship between job, family and blood pressure among University employees. UM personnel will access and study data sets regarding the impact of wellness programs on certain diseases.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$800. Since research projects are often amended, these agreements include provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of the supported project. 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 allow the Organization and the UM to evaluate and improve the relationship between wellness programs and blood pressure while training a young nursing researcher in research techniques.

Recommendation:

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 MAOHN.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Interim Vice President for Research

June 2014