#### THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents **July 15, 2010** 

### **ACTION REQUEST**

Subject:

License Agreement between the University of Michigan and

Synaptin, LLC

Action Requested: Approval of License Agreement

### Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Technology Transfer while reviewing the technology transfer agreement that 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 by this Board and agreed to by the parties involved in this plan.

This proposed license agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Vineet Chopra and Dr. Prasanth Gogineni are employees of the University of Michigan ("University") and partial owners of Synaptin. The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents of the University of Michigan.

## Background:

Drs. Gogineni, Instructor and Chopra, Assistant Professor, in Internal Medicine, are the partial owners of a for-profit company called Synaptin, LLC (the "Company"). The Company was formed recently to commercialize a medical communication system centered on patient-related tasks (initially referred to as MCOMM) and desires to license from the University of Michigan the University's rights associated with the following technology:

UM OTT File No. 4248, entitled: "MCOMM" (Vineet Chopra, Prasanth Gogineni, Shuang Zhao, Bret Abel, Stephen Metz, Marc Schweikert)

The Office of Technology Transfer selected the Company as a University partner and negotiated the terms of the proposed Agreement in accordance with University policy and its accepted licensing principles.

# Parties to the Agreement:

The Regents of the University of Michigan and Synaptin, LLC

# Agreement Terms Include:

Agreement terms include granting the Company an exclusive license with the right to grant sublicenses. The Company will pay a royalty on sales and reimburse patent costs. The University will retain ownership of the licensed technology and may continue to further develop it and use it internally. No use of University services or facilities, nor any assignment of University employees, is obligated or contemplated under the Agreement. Standard disclaimers of warrantees and indemnification apply, and the Agreement may be amended by consent of the parties. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

## **Pecuniary Interest:**

The pecuniary interests of Drs. Gogineni and Chopra arise from their ownership interest in Synaptin.

### Net Effect:

The Office of Technology Transfer has negotiated and finalized the terms of a world-wide exclusive license agreement for patents related to UM OTT File No. 4248 for all fields of use.

Synaptin will obtain use and commercialization rights to the above listed University technology.

#### 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 Agreement between the University and Synaptin, LLC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mewn & Parner for Stephen R. Forrest

Vice President for Research

July 2010