# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents September 19, 2013

#### **ACTION REQUEST**

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and

Ascentage Pharma Group Corporation, Ltd.

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. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with any conflict of interest was developed and approved by the Board and agreed to by the parties involved.

The proposed agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Shaomeng Wang is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and a partial owner of Ascentage Pharma Group Corporation, Ltd. ("Ascentage"). 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:

Dr. Shaomeng Wang, a Professor of Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pharmacology in the Medical School and a Professor of Medicinal Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called Ascentage (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled "Design and Development of New Anticancer Drugs" (ORSP# 13-PAF06572) in the Department of Internal Medicine – Hematology/Oncology under the direction of Dr. Wang. The purpose of this project is to support the Company and the University in optimizing small molecule (low molecular weight) inhibitors, which can then alter biological processes in cancer cells.

# **Agreement Terms:**

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately twenty-four (24) months. The amount of funding support from the Company will not exceed \$599,671. Since research projects are often amended, these agreements include provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of each 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 support an effort by Dr. Wang to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to further study, develop and test the

most promising small molecule inhibitors discovered and designed in Dr. Wang's laboratory, which will further advance cancer treatment and therapies.

# 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 <u>recommend</u> that the Board of Regents approve of the University's entering into this Agreement with Ascentage Pharma Group Corporation, Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Forrest

Vice President for Research

September 2013