

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents  
September 19, 2013

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and STEL Technologies

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

The proposed agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Lisa Larkin and Ellen Arruda are both employees of the University of Michigan ("University"), and co-founders of STEL Technologies. 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. Larkin, an Associate Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology and a Research Associate Professor of Gerontology in the Medical School, and an Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering, and Dr. Arruda, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Macromolecular Science and Engineering in the College of Engineering, are the co-founders of a for-profit company called STEL Technologies (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund an NIH (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled "Validation and Cryopreservation of Ligament Engineered from Human Bone Marrow" (ORSP# 13-PAF07317) in the Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, under the co-direction of Dr. Larkin in the Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, and Dr. Arruda in the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Macromolecular Science and Engineering. The purpose of this project is to support Drs. Larkin and Arruda, and the Company in translating the Company's sheep model ligament-engineering technologies to human model ligament engineering technologies.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately twelve (12) months. The amount of funding support from the Company will not exceed \$80,030. 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 Drs. Larkin and Arruda to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources to translate their engineered ligament fabrication methodologies that they use in sheep to a cell line and methodologies suitable for human use, which has the potential to reduce biocompatibility issues (rejection) associated with current treatment options.

## Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. 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 of the University's entering into this Agreement with STEL Technologies.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Forrest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Stephen R. Forrest  
Vice President for Research

September 2013