

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Lycera Corp.

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

This proposed research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Gary Glick, Anthony Opipari, and Dr. David Canter are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Lycera Corp. 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. Gary Glick, a Professor in the Department of Biological Chemistry, Dr. Anthony Opipari, an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Dr. David Canter, the Senior Associate Vice President and Executive Director of the North Campus Research Complex, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Lycera Corp. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “ROR and Tumor Immunity” (ORSP# 15-PAF05727) in the Department of Surgery under the direction of Dr. Weiping Zou. The purpose of this project is to see that agonist enhances production of IL-9, IL-17, IL-22, and GM-CSF in patients that have RORg+ T cells (ILCs) in their PBMCs (or TILs).

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 \$210,997. 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 by Dr. Zou to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to see that agonist enhances production of IL-9, IL-17, IL-22, and GM-CSF in patients that have RORg+ T cells (ILCs) in their PBMCs (or TILs). Assessment of RORg-dependent cytokines will serve as a convenient measure for the activity of the RORg agonist, which is expected to modulate a number of genes. By comparing healthy volunteers and patients we expect to be able to show that RORg pathway operates in both populations.

## Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and the UMOR 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 the University's entering into this Agreement with Lycera Corp.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Interim Vice President for Research

October 2015