

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and The TruEnamel Company, LLC

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 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 Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Brian Clarkson, Mr. Sywe-Ren Chang, and Mr. Jun Liu are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of The TruEnamel Company, LLC. 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. Brian Clarkson, a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences, and Endodontics, Mr. Sywe-Ren Chang, a Research Laboratory Specialist Intermediate in the Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences, and Endodontics, and Mr. Jun Liu, an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, are the partial owners of a for-profit company called The TruEnamel Company, LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a NIH (prime) STTR Phase II project entitled “A tooth whitening Desensitizing Agent for the Treatment of Dentin Hypersensitivity” (ORSP #18-PAF93769) in the Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences, and Endodontics under the direction of Dr. Peter Yaman. The purpose of this project is to advance development of a novel agent that would address dentin sensitivity while whitening teeth.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately two (2) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$540,111. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions 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. Yaman to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to investigate a novel agent by measuring the bond strength to enamel and dentin, determining the penetration and coverage of tooth surfaces, examining substantively, and determining the effect of hydraulic conductance of dentin.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by 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 The TruEnamel Company, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Hu', is written above the printed name.

S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

February 2018