

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Arcascope 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 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 agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Daniel Forger and Dr. Olivia Walch are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Arcascope 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:

Daniel Forger, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Mathematics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and Olivia Walch, PhD, a Research Fellow in the Department of Neurology, Medical School, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Arcascope LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a NIH (prime) SBIR Phase I project entitled “Developing a Circadian Wellness Tool for Cancer Patients” (ORSP #18-PAF01029) in the Department of Mathematics under the direction of Dr. Daniel Forger. The purpose of this project is to develop a mobile application for cancer patients that recommends lighting interventions to correct disrupted circadian rhythms as well as the best times for drug consumption for optimal circadian effect.

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 \$96,661. 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. Forger to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to further the study of the role of circadian rhythms in the efficacy and tolerability of cancer treatments.

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 Arcascope LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

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