

SUBMITTED BY: STEPHEN M. LANIER, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

**UNIVERSITY SUBCONTRACT TO LICENSE TECHNOLOGY
TO A COMPANY OWNED BY A
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FACULTY**

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee to enter in to an option with Neulink, Inc. for an exclusive license for commercialization of the intellectual property encompassing Fc-folate conjugates as a breast cancer therapeutic.

BACKGROUND

Cecilia Speyer, Ph.D., assistant professor of surgery at Wayne State University, has developed IgA-Fc-folate conjugates for targeting and destroying triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) cells. The technology has been disclosed to the university and is described in a disclosure entitled "IgA Fc-Folate Conjugates, Pharmaceutical Compositions and Methods to Treat Cancer," (Wayne State File #14-1221) and for which a patent application (US Ser. No. 15/227,747) has been filed by Wayne State University.

NeuLink, Inc., incorporated in Michigan in 2013, and was founded to develop and commercialize Fc-folate conjugates for the treatment of cancer and autoimmune disorders. Dr. Cecilia Speyer is the cofounder and majority owner of the company located at 2727 Second Ave, Suite 4105, Detroit, Michigan.

NeuLink, Inc. is the recipient of a recent Phase I Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health, R43HD092295, entitled "A Platform for Safe, Noninvasive Prenatal Genetic Testing at Five Weeks of Pregnancy," which includes a subcontract for services to Wayne State University.

Michigan Conflict of Interest law requires specific sunshine procedures in order for a University employee, or a company owned by a university employee, to contract directly or indirectly with the university:

- (A) The employee must disclose any pecuniary interest in the contract to the Board and the disclosure must be made a matter of record in the Board's proceedings.
- (B) The contract must be approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the Board in open session.

- (C) The Board's minutes must report:
 - (i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
 - (ii) The terms of the contract, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the contract, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the contract.
 - (iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

If the Board approves this Recommendation, the minutes will report as follows:

The Board of Governors authorized the President, or his designee, to enter into a contract with NeuLink, Inc.

- (i) The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and NeuLink, Inc.
- (ii) The contract will provide that:
 - (a) Scope: An option to acquire an exclusive, worldwide royalty bearing license
 - (b) Duration: The term of the option shall be for twelve (12) months with the opportunity to extend for a further period of twelve (12) months upon payment of additional consideration.
 - (c) Financial Consideration: An initial option fee of \$1,500.
 - (d) No University employees are assigned in connection with the licensing contract.
- (iii) Dr. Speyer's pecuniary interest consists of a current majority (51%) ownership of Neulink, Inc, with family members holding the remaining 49% equity. Dr Speyer will therefore have the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company. Dr. Speyer has filed a Financial Conflict of Interest with the Office of Research Integrity.