

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

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AGREEMENT FROM A COMPANY
PARTIALLY OWNED BY A WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE**

RECOMMENDATION

The Office of the Vice President for Research recommends that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee to collaborate with SpinTech MRI, a company partially owned by a Wayne State University School of Medicine faculty member, Dr. E.M. Haacke, to further research neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and traumatic brain injury. This research agreement will allow researchers at Wayne State University to use software developed by SpinTech MRI – STAGE – to improve image quality and quantify tissue properties such as water content and susceptibility. There will be no charge for use of this software as this is a collaborative research endeavor.

BACKGROUND

There are several ongoing projects at Wayne State University studying neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and traumatic brain injury that use an imaging protocol referred to as STAGE. This is a rapid, multi-contrast, multi-echo, multi-flip-angle imaging protocol that provides multiple sources of contrast and quantification of tissue properties that can serve as biomarkers for disease status and progression.

This collaboration provides an opportunity to use STAGE in diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease and has the potential to serve as a foundation to apply for a multi-site U01 grant with SpinTech MRI. Currently, SpinTech MRI has several dozen collaborating sites all doing research utilizing STAGE. Utilizing the special STAGE processing software at Wayne State will open the door for more quantitative neuroscience research.

These collaborating sites have been very productive in publishing work on STAGE (which is clearly a benefit to SpinTech). Faculty here would also benefit from future publications using the STAGE processing software. Prof. Haacke would like to see this software made available to all MRI researchers at Wayne State University.

Dr. Haacke has shifted to a 50% appointment in the Department of Radiology, School of Medicine. He is also the Chief Science Officer at SpinTech MRI.

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 research agreement with SpinTech MRI of which Dr. E.M. Haacke, professor in Wayne State University's School of Medicine, is a partial owner.

1. The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and SpinTech MRI.
2. The contract will provide access to MR 3T whole body scanner time and SpinTech will provide the STAGE processing software needed for research.
3. The research agreement has an initial term of 3 years at no cost to the university.
4. The place to be used to execute research utilizing STAGE will be the MR Research Facility currently housed in Harper Hospital.

Dr. Haacke's pecuniary interest consists of ownership interest in SpinTech MRI. He currently holds 20% of SpinTech MRI's equity and is the Chief Scientific Officer. He has the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company.