

Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
October 11, 2021

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Related Agreements**  
**Long-Term COVID-19 Sewage Surveillance Project**

1. **Division and Department:** Vice President for Research, The Research Office (oversight and management); David Szlag/ Department of Chemistry (Principal Investigator)
2. **Introduction:** This collaboration between Oakland University and Aquasight, LLC, funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, continues a wastewater surveillance program at two Michigan universities and other congregate spots such as senior centers. Given the location of the sensors, this information provides a dashboard for actionable use, indicating not just the presence of COVID on the campus, but where the infection is likely to be centered.
3. **Previous Board Action:** None. While the collaboration is ongoing, the funding is new and previous Board action has not been required.
4. **Budget Implications:** To-date, the contract has arrived in two increments: the first for \$419,560 and the second for \$1,362,846 for a total of \$1,782,406. The possible full amount of the award (future contract amendments) could bring the total to \$2,483,851. There are no budget implications for Oakland University's base budget. The project is fully funded through the contract award and no change on that point is expected; the expected end date is July, 2023.
5. **Educational Implications:** Research benefits Oakland University students insofar as it creates a culture where students observe new knowledge being created. Because this knowledge is important and urgent, this research has a particular benefit in that respect. However, it is also true that, funded by the contract, 3 undergraduate students are employed in Professor Szlag's lab as part of the investigative team.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None. Professor Szlag is pursuing this research as part of his regular faculty appointment. No special arrangements have been made.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Office of Sponsored Programs within the Research Office had oversight of the proposal, which was also approved by the Chair and the Dean. Once an award was made, University Legal and President Pescovitz reviewed and approved the agreement.

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8. Recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the President-negotiated and executed agreements and amendments for this COVID-related research, not to exceed \$2,482,851, and extending through July 31, 2023 be approved by the Board of Trustees; and, be it further,

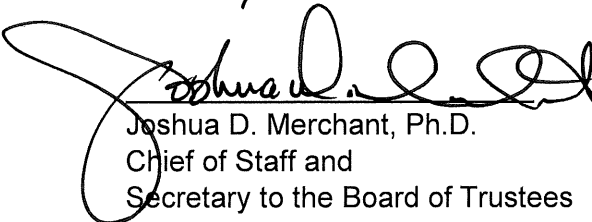
RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Research and/or his designee are authorized to negotiate the final modification of this agreement, not to exceed \$701,445; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that The Board of Trustees authorizes The Research Office and its respective designees to perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all contracts, instruments and documents that are necessary, expedient and proper in connection with the ongoing management of funds as well as any renewals; and, be it further

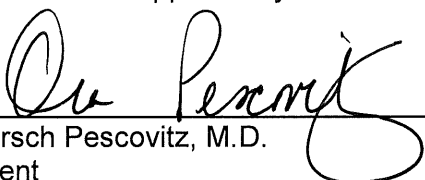
RESOLVED, that any further amendments to this contract shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and shall be in compliance with the law and University policies and regulations and shall conform to the legal standards and policies of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President  
on 10/8, 2021 by

  
Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff and  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Recommended on 10/8, 2021  
To the Board for approval by

  
Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President