

January 14, 2010

ITEM 146-1003-R0110 Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUSP 407; The University of Montana

THAT: The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves UM-Missoula employee Dr. John Gerdes for ownership of an equity interest in, for service on the governing board of, and for work as a part-time employee of Rio Pharmaceuticals, LLC, a California limited liability company. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes The University of Montana-Missoula to enter into licensing agreements and contractual arrangements with Rio Pharmaceuticals, LLC for use of University facilities.

EXPLANATION: Dr. John Gerdes, an Associate Professor, is a UM employee in the Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences. He seeks approval to hold equity in, to serve as part-time employees of, and serve on the governing board of Rio Pharmaceuticals, LLC, a limited liability company established to develop small molecule biomedical research tools (agents for pre-clinical research purposes) and related emergent clinical therapeutic drugs.

Dr. Gerdes will work in accordance with conflict management plans developed by UM. Under Policy 407 and MCA 20-25-109, university employees must have board approval to serve as officers, employees, or members of a governing board of a business entity, or to hold an equity interest in a business entity which has an agreement with, or shares ownership of intellectual property with, the university, relating to the development, licensing or commercial exploitation of that intellectual property.

UM benefits from this approval. By allowing this University-private sector relationship, intellectual property developed at The University of Montana can be used to grow a faculty spin-off company, will set an example for other entrepreneurs from the University looking for opportunities for commercialization of their innovations and creations, and will generate goodwill for University employees and the private sector. The University will incur no net cost by entering into any arrangements covered by this agreement.

ATTACHMENT: Submission Form