

September 16-17, 2020

**ITEM 190-2008-R0920**

**Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-Wiedenheft; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves MSU Bozeman employee Blake Wiedenheft to have an equity interest in and to serve as an employee of VIRIS Detection Systems, a Montana limited liability corporation. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes Montana State University to enter into licensing agreements and contractual arrangements with VIRIS Detection Systems LLC for use of University facilities, if needed.

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**EXPLANATION**

Blake Wiedenheft is an Associate Professor in the Microbiology & Immunology Department at MSU. He seeks approval to hold an equity interest in and to serve as an employee of VIRIS Detection Systems, LLC, a Montana limited liability corporation established to further develop intellectual property.

Wiedenheft will work in accordance with a Conflicts Management Plan developed by the MSU Office of Research Compliance. 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 share ownership of intellectual property with, the university, relating to the development, licensing or commercial exploitation of that intellectual property. All License Agreements (and possible future licenses as provided for by Option Agreements) issued by the MSU Technology Transfer Office are contingent upon BOR 407 approval.

MSU and MUS will benefit from this approval, including in-state economic development, technical advancements, and collaborative research opportunities for the University and its students.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Submission Form