

SUBMISSION FORM

University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation  
MUSP 407

This form is to be submitted with any Board of Regents item whereby a campus seeks the approval of an agreement with or arrangement regarding an employee pursuant to 20-25-109 MCA and Regents Policy 407.

When the submission concerns matters of trade secrets or confidential business information, or any other matter entitled to privacy under state or federal law (e.g., the federal statute known as Bayh/Dole) the submitting campus may request consideration of the submission, in whole or in part, in executive session.

The submitting campus should also provide the Commissioner a copy of the contract(s) that form the basis for the cooperative arrangement for which approval is sought. Submission of the contract does not indicate a conclusion that all or part of the contract is a public document and the question of whether it is in whole or in part protected from public disclosure will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

- 1. Summarize the nature of the intellectual property that was developed by the employee seeking approval. Indicate the sources of funding for the research that resulted in this invention.

Drs Poulsen and Rau have developed intellectual property, which covers the therapeutic use of methamphetamine as a neuroprotective agent to prevent neuronal loss leading to deficits in neuromotor function and cognitive impairment following stroke and traumatic brain injury. The patents filed cover both new use and formulation of the drug. This work was developed through research efforts conducted at The University of Montana.

- 2. a. Name(s) of the university employee(s) involved.

Dr. David J. Poulsen and Dr. Thomas Rau

- b. Name(s) of business entity(ies) involved.

Sinapis Pharma, Inc., a Delaware corporation

- 3. The university and employee(s) are seeking approval for (check as many as appropriate):

- a. The employee to be awarded equity interest in the business entity.
- b. The employee to serve as a member of the board of directors or other governing board of the business entity.

c. The employee to accept employment from the business entity.

4. How will approval of this relationship contribute to the objectives of the university's technology transfer and intellectual property development programs?

By allowing this University-private sector relationship to be established, intellectual property established and developed by the University faculty can be used to grow a faculty spin-off company, it will set an example for other entrepreneurs from the University looking for opportunities for commercialization of their innovations and creations, and it will generate revenue and goodwill for the University and its employees, in addition to the Montana private biomedical research domain and related regional business development sectors.

The benefits to U of M and the State of Montana arising from current and proposed research activities of Sinapis Pharma, Inc. are:

Dr. Poulsen and Dr. Rau have filed invention disclosures with the University of Montana Technology Transfer Office from technology developed under grants from the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technologies (MBRCT). These technologies have been protected with patent applications, were licensed to Big Sky Biotechnology, LLC (a Montana-based faculty spin-off company, 33% owned by Dr. Poulsen and previously approved by the Board of Regents on March 18, 2005). In 2009, Sinapis Pharma, Inc. was formed and license agreements for the neuroprotective intellectual property was transferred from Big Sky Biotechnology. At that time, Big Sky Biotechnologies retained a license agreement with the University of Montana for other intellectual property that covered gene therapy based treatments for deafness.

The primary goal of technology transfer is to use the University system as an engine to drive economic development and to transfer valuable technology into the public domain where it can have broad application. The development of University owned intellectual property in conjunction with Sinapis Pharma provides a means to do this and establishes a path forward that will serve as a model to facilitate similar development within the biomedical space in the future.