

May 25-26, 2017

ITEM 175-2003-R0517**Request authorization of University system/employee intellectual property joint participation under MUSP 407-Wiedenheft; Montana State University**

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 SurGene, LLC. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes Montana State University to enter into research agreements, licensing agreements, and contractual arrangements with SurGene LLC for use of University facilities, if needed.

EXPLANATION

Blake Wiedenheft is an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at MSU. He seeks approval to hold an equity interest in and to serve as an employee and/or board member of SurGene, LLC, a Montana limited liability company established to conduct collaborative research with MSU and to 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 agreements (Sponsored Research Agreement, Option to License Agreement, License Agreement) issued by the MSU Office of Technology Licensing 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.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment #1 - Submission Form