UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

COMMITTEE: Finance and Administration

ITEM: Approval is requested to delegate authority to the Chancellor to negotiate and execute contracts with Taconic Farms not to exceed $1.7 million.

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY:

The University of Houston seeks approval to delegate authority to the Chancellor to allow the Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling to purchase, house, breed, and conduct experiments on transgenic mice for research purposes under an existing three-year pricing agreement not to exceed $1,700,000.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: See attached explanation of services.

FISCAL NOTE: Purchases under the three-year pricing agreement, which ends November 11, 2013, will not exceed $1,700,000. Purchases to date are $889,000.

RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED: Administration recommends approval of this item

COMPONENT: University of Houston

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PRESIDENT Renu Khator **DATE** 7/20/12

EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR Carl Carlucci **DATE** 7/19/2012

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CHANCELLOR Renu Khator **DATE** 7/20/12

Explanation of Contract to Purchase Transgenic Mice

On November 11, 2010, the University of Houston entered into a three-year pricing agreement (ending November 11, 2013) with Taconic Farms to purchase, house, breed, and conduct experiments on specialized mice for the research needs of the Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling (CNRCS). To date, CNRCS has purchased $889,000 under the pricing agreement and expects to purchase another $811,000 in specialized mice during the remainder of the agreement for total purchases not to exceed $1,700,000.

The sensitive strains of immunocompromised transgenic mice purchased from Taconic are used for developing and testing animal models for several diseases under active investigation by scientists at the CNRCS, including prostate cancer, bladder cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, several neurological diseases, and diabetes. These specialized mice benefit research by providing an appropriate in vivo model by which researchers can manipulate the animal's genome and as a result uncover biological pathways that can lead to new drugs for many chronic diseases.

The transgenic mice are necessary because they have become a standard for modern biomedical research aimed at discovering and testing chemicals for potential pharmaceutical activity against cancer, metabolic diseases, and degenerative neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Researchers at the CNRCS rely upon these mice to gather experimental data, publish findings in high impact biomedical research journals, and to apply for federal, state, and foundation research grants.