

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

Office of the Chancellor

February 25, 2025

Legal Division
State Ethics Commission
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Alice Y. Cheung - Disclosure under M.G.L. Chapter 268A, Section 6

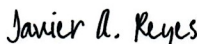
Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 268A, Section 6, I enclose the following documents for filing with the Ethics Commission as required under the statute:

1. Disclosure of Financial Interest form and Memorandum, both dated January 10, 2025 from Professor Alice Y. Cheung requesting permission to re-appoint her spouse, Dr. Hen-Ming Wu, as a Research Professor A on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, "Deciphering Male- and Female-coordinated Gating Mechanisms that Ensure Plant Reproductive Success" in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

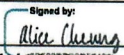
2. My letter of determination, dated February 25, 2025, which permits Professor Alice Y. Cheung to re-appoint her spouse, Dr. Hen-Ming Wu, as a Research Professor A on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, "Deciphering Male- and Female-coordinated Gating Mechanisms that Ensure Plant Reproductive Success", in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Very truly yours,

Signed by:

E2C62B100C8B443...
Javier A. Reyes
Chancellor

Enclosures

**DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED STATE EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
AND DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 6**

| | |
|---|---|
| | STATE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION |
| Name: | Alice Y. Cheung |
| Title or Position: | Distinguished Professor |
| State Agency: | University of Massachusetts Amherst |
| Agency Address: | Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 710 North Pleasant Street Amherst, MA 01003 |
| Office Phone: | (413) 545 - 4027 |
| Office E-mail: | acheung@biochem.umass.edu |
| | My duties require me to participate in a particular matter, and I may not participate because of a financial interest that I am disclosing here. I request a determination from my appointing authority about how I should proceed. |
| | PARTICULAR MATTER |
| Particular matter E.g., a judicial or other proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, decision, determination, or finding. | Please describe the particular matter. Dr. Hen-Ming Wu, my husband, is working in my laboratory as a Research Professor A. His salary (17.8% time, at \$24,806.59 annually) will be 100% funded by the NIH grant entitled "Deciphering Male- and Female-coordinated Gating Mechanisms that Ensure Plant Reproductive Success" on which he is a co-investigator. Dr. Wu holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry and his expertise in molecular biology, biochemistry and biophysics are synergistic with my expertise in genetics and cell biology. His combination of skills would be impossible to find in another hire as he has been working in the area of plant reproduction and signal transduction since 1988. Dr. Wu is an invaluable member of my research laboratory who participates in all aspects of the research. Dr. Wu has been the co-author of close to seventy publications—many widely cited—in our field of studies and therefore clearly has the skills and expertise to perform this work. |
| Your required participation in the particular matter: E.g., approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, rendering advice, investigation, other. | Please describe the task you are required to perform with respect to the particular matter. As a PI on this grant and in the laboratory, my duties are to train students and postdocs and direct and publish research. As a major contributor of work in the same laboratory, as the sole or co-PI on several previously funded projects, current, and recently approved projects, and also pending grant applications, Dr. Wu shares the same goals and responsibilities. All of our respective duties and responsibilities are described in detail in multiple documents at OGCA and the departmental office. |
| | FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR MATTER |
| Write an X by all that apply. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have a financial interest in the matter. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My immediate family member has a financial interest in the matter. <input type="checkbox"/> My business partner has a financial interest in the matter. <input type="checkbox"/> I am an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee of a business organization, and the business organization has a financial interest in the matter. <input type="checkbox"/> I am negotiating or have made an arrangement concerning future employment with a person or organization, and the person or organization has a financial interest in the matter. |
| Financial interest in the matter | Please explain the financial interest and include a dollar amount if you know it. Dr. Wu is co-PI on federal grants that pay his salary, as described above. His annual salary is \$24,806.59 for 17.8% time. Salary is based on union requirements and expertise. |
| Employee signature: | Signed by:  |
| Date: | 1/10/2025 |

DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING OFFICIAL

| | |
|---|---|
| | APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION |
| Name of Appointing Authority: | Javier A. Reyes |
| Title or Position: | Chancellor |
| Agency/Department: | University of Massachusetts / Office of the Chancellor |
| Agency Address: | 374 Whitmore Building Amherst MA 01003 |
| Office Phone: | (413) 545-2211 |
| Office E-mail | chancellorreyes@umass.edu |
| | DETERMINATION |
| Determination by appointing authority: Write an X by your selection. | As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 6, I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified above by a state employee. <input type="checkbox"/> I am assigning the particular matter to another employee, or <input type="checkbox"/> I am assuming responsibility for the particular matter, or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Commonwealth may expect from the employee. |
| Appointing Authority signature: | Signed by: <i>Javier A. Reyes</i> |
| Date: | E2C62B100CBB443... <i>02/25/2026</i> |
| Comment: | |

Attach additional pages if necessary.

File copy with:

State Ethics Commission, One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108

UMassAmherst

College of Natural Sciences
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

January 10, 2025

Chancellor Javier A. Reyes
Chancellor's Office
374 Whitmore Building
University of Massachusetts
Amherst MA 01003

Dear Chancellor Reyes,

I am writing to request permission to renew the appointment of my spouse, Dr. Hen-Ming Wu, from February 25, 2025 to February 24, 2026, who was appointed Research Associate Professor in September 1997 when I joined the faculty at the University of Massachusetts. He was promoted to Research Professor A starting in the 2014 academic year after a full review based on his research performance and adhering to the standards and criteria for promotion reviews in our department and the College of Natural Sciences, and without my participation. Dr. Wu was supported through these years by research grants from federal funding agencies including the NIH, DOE, NSF and USDA, some as co-investigator (NIH) or co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) with me (as PI), some Dr. Wu was the sole PI, or with me as the co-PI. These projects are all of a collaborative nature that utilizes our overlapping expertise in molecular biology and biochemistry, complementary knowledge in biophysics, genetics, and cell biology, and mutual interests in a broad range of biological phenomena.

Dr. Wu and I have been collaborators since before arriving on the UMass Amherst campus. Our research focuses on understanding the fundamental mechanisms that control how plants grow, develop, and reproduce. With these as the common core of our studies, Dr. Wu plays a leading role in investigating how various hormonal signals regulate cellular and molecular processes to achieve proper growth and development, an area broadly known as signal transduction, while I lead the investigation on dissecting the mechanisms that underlie pollination and fertilization. We contribute equally in different ways to every project in our laboratory as both areas of research depend on similar experimental expertise and both of us are knowledgeable with the fundamental principles behind each of these topics.

Dr. Wu is an invaluable member of my research laboratory who participates in all aspects of the research. He has made immense contributions to research in our lab as well as to the educational mission of our campus. He has been a co-author on close to 70 publications, with close to 60 of them from UMass in the last 27 years, some serving as either the first or

senior author, many of them are highly cited and in very reputable journals. He is instrumental in mentoring research trainees at all levels, including postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduates. His expertise in molecular biology, biochemistry, and biophysics are synergistic with my expertise in genetics and cell biology. His combination of skills would be impossible to find in another hire as he has been working in the area of plant reproduction and signal transduction since 1988. During our tenure at UMass, we have mentored more than eighty undergraduates, most of them on multi-year projects, and many are co-authors on papers with direct contributions to reported results. We are an internationally known team but Dr. Wu is known in his own right for having made important contributions to our field, and reputed to be creative and dedicated as well as generous in helping to advance the research of others in our field. His continued appointment on the UMass faculty not only ensures the success of our own research program but will also continue to contribute to the vibrancy and visibility of research activity at UMass. He is clearly an asset to the University.

Dr. Wu will need a reappointment for February 25, 2025. His salary (17.8% time, at \$24,806.59 annually) will be 100% funded by the NIH grant entitled "Deciphering Male- and Female-coordinated Gating Mechanisms that Ensure Plant Reproductive Success" on which he is a co-investigator.

Your permission for the renewal of Dr. Wu's appointment will allow a long-standing productive collaboration to continue.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Alice Y. Cheung
Distinguished Professor

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Office of the Chancellor

February 25, 2025

Professor Alice Y. Cheung
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Lederle Graduate Research Center
University of Massachusetts Amherst
710 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01003-9305

Dear Professor Cheung:

I acknowledge receipt of your Disclosure of Financial Interest and Memorandum, both dated January 10, 2025. You request permission to reappoint your spouse, Dr. Hen-Ming Wu, as a Research Professor A in your lab. You indicate that Dr. Wu would be paid through the NIH grant on which he is a co-investigator, entitled, "Deciphering Male- and Female-coordinated Gating Mechanisms that Ensure Plant Reproductive Success", at an annual salary of \$24,806.59, at 17.8% effort.

You report that you and Dr. Wu have been collaborators since prior to your joining the UMASS Amherst faculty, and that your research focuses on understanding the fundamental mechanisms that control how plants grow, develop, and reproduce. As further detailed in your Disclosure and Memorandum, you indicate that Dr. Wu's expertise in molecular biology, biochemistry, and biophysics are synergistic with your expertise in genetics and cell biology, and that his combination of skills would be impossible to find in another hire, as he has been working in the area of plant reproduction and signal transduction since 1988. You state that Dr. Wu has made immense contributions to research in your lab as well as to the educational mission of the campus by being a co-author on close to 70 publications, with close to 60 of them from UMass in the last 27 years. You believe that his appointment on the UMASS faculty not only ensures the success of your own research program, but also will continue to contribute to the vibrancy and visibility of research activity at UMASS.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A, Section 6, in part, prohibits a state employee from employing immediate family members and from compensating them for services rendered except when I "make a written determination that the interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Commonwealth may expect from [. . . you], in which case it shall not be a violation for [. . . you] to participate in the particular matter."

I determine that any personal interest you may have in this appointment is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of your services to the Commonwealth and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. This determination to re-appoint your spouse will allow you to utilize his services for one (1) year from February 25, 2025 to February 24, 2026.

The statute requires you to advise the Ethics Commission of the nature and circumstances of the particular matter and make full disclosure of the financial interest. As directed by statute, I am sending a copy of this written determination letter along with your memorandum and disclosure form, to the State Ethics Commission for filing.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Javier A. Reyes

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Javier A. Reyes

Chancellor

Enclosures

cc: Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, Provost

Allison B. Lepper, Amherst Chief Associate Counsel