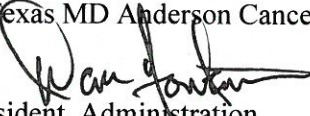
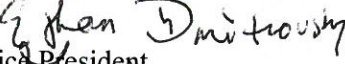


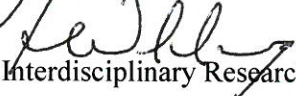
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 24, 2016

TO: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Industry Partners

FROM: Dan Fontaine, JD 
 Executive Vice President, Administration

Ethan Dmitrovsky, MD 
 Provost and Executive Vice President

George Wilding, MD 
 Vice Provost, Clinical & Interdisciplinary Research

RE: Streamlining Clinical Trial Contract Execution by Use of Electronic Signatures

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center has designated streamlining of its clinical trial activation processes as a major institutional priority to speed the access of the most promising novel agents to our patients who are waiting desperately for potentially life-saving treatment options.

In evaluating causes of delays in the activation of our industry-sponsored clinical trials, it became clear that the requirement for hard-copy, “wet ink” signatures from the relevant officials of both parties on the finalized, fully negotiated contractual agreements often results in days or even weeks of delay in executing those agreements.

Therefore, beginning November 2015, MD Anderson has implemented DocuSign®, an **electronic signature process** that is commonly used in banking and other highly security-sensitive business enterprises, for our sponsored clinical trial contractual agreements, with a goal to accelerate execution timelines for these institutionally binding contracts. Since its release, signature routing for several contractual agreements utilizing the DocuSign® software has been completed in as little as 1 business day, thus drastically reducing the time to contract execution for these studies. At the same time, we have also noted that some of our contracting partners either won’t allow or have inconsistent practices regarding use of electronic signatures.

We are urging all of our industry partners to utilize this legally binding and secure mechanism and to inform your legal/contract specialist teams, as applicable, of your support for this new, time-saving initiative to streamline the clinical trial activation process. Our Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) serves as the direct point of contact for any questions regarding the electronic signature application being utilized and/or the new electronic signature process. Please feel free to contact Renee Gonzales, Executive Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, by email at rkgonzales@mdanderson.org, or by phone at 713-792-3220.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and for your support of our mutual ongoing commitment to bringing the most promising agents into clinical trials for our patients battling cancer. We look forward to an enhanced partnership working towards more efficient and effective clinical trial activation timelines.

cc: Steven I. Sherman, MD, Associate Vice Provost, Clinical Research
 Renee Gonzales, Executive Director, Office of Sponsored Programs