



## CODE OF ETHICS

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## **I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

The reputation of Inhibitex, Inc. (the “Company”) as a fair, reputable and honest organization can only be maintained if all of its employees, officers and directors adhere to high moral and ethical standards in conducting the Company’s business. Establishing and maintaining the trust and confidence of all stakeholders, including employees, the Board of Directors (the “Board”), existing or potential stockholders, creditors, customers, suppliers, vendors and governmental agencies, is of paramount importance to the Company. In order to do so, the Company has adopted this Code of Ethics (the “Code”). The purpose of this Code is to document and govern the basic standards and principles that the Company has adopted to promote honest and ethical business conduct by and among its directors, officers and employees, and to reasonably deter wrongdoing and inappropriate or illegal acts.

## **II. BUSINESS CONDUCT**

The Company’s directors, officers and employees shall conduct themselves in a fair, ethical, legal and honest manner. In conducting the Company’s business, trust and integrity must be a cornerstone in all of the business dealings and relationships these individuals establish with stockholders, customers, vendors, competitors, governmental officials, communities, the media and the general public, as well as each other.

The Company’s directors, officers and employees shall not engage in conduct or activity that could raise questions as to the Company’s honesty or reputation or otherwise cause embarrassment to the Company or its stakeholders. In order to preserve and perpetuate the reputation and successful business operation of the Company, there should be careful observance of laws and regulations, as well as high regard for appropriate standards of conduct and personal integrity.

While it is impracticable to describe every improper act or practice, the Company deems the following standards of conduct to be particularly important.

### ***Use of Company Assets***

The Company’s directors, officers and employees are responsible for the proper use of the Company’s physical resources and properties, as well as its proprietary information. The Company’s offices, equipment, supplies and other resources may not be used for personal use or activities that are not related to the employment or responsibilities of its directors, officers and employees, except for any activities that have been approved in advance in writing. Any request for such approval should be directed to the Director of Human Resources.

### ***Competition and Fair Dealing***

The Company will compete fairly and honestly, and will seek competitive advantage through superior performance and not unethical or illegal business practices. Each director, officer and employee will respect the rights of and deal fairly with the Company’s customers, suppliers, competitors and each other. No director, officer or employee will knowingly make false or defamatory public remarks about a competitor or improperly, unethically or illegally obtain or

use proprietary information, intellectual property or trade secrets of a competitor, collaborator or any other third party.

### ***Payments to Customers or Vendors***

No effort may be made, directly or indirectly, to improperly influence any customer, supplier or vendor of the Company. A director, officer or employee may not provide a gift, favor or entertainment to a customer, vendor, or other person or organization in connection with the Company's business unless all of the following criteria are met: (i) it is reasonable and not excessive in relation to customary industry practices; (ii) it cannot, in the circumstances, be reasonably construed as a bribe, payoff or kickback; (iii) public disclosure of it would not embarrass the Company; (iv) the item is consistent with the normal and accepted business ethics of the industry and country in which it is provided; (v) it does not violate the laws of the United States or the country in which it is provided; and (vi) it is not in the form of cash or cash equivalents.

### ***Payments from Customers and Vendors***

A director, officer or employee may not accept a gift, favor or entertainment from a customer, vendor, or other person or organization in connection with the Company's business unless all of the following criteria are met: (i) it is reasonable and not excessive in relation to customary industry practices; (ii) it cannot, in the circumstances, be reasonably construed as a bribe, payoff or kickback; (iii) public disclosure of it would not embarrass the Company; (iv) the item is consistent with the normal and accepted business ethics of the industry or country in which it is provided; (v) it does not violate the laws of the United States and the country in which it is provided; and (iv) it is not in the form of cash or cash equivalents.

### ***Political Contributions and Payments to Government Officials or Employees***

No corporate funds, merchandise or service may be paid or furnished, directly or indirectly, to a political party, committee, organization, political candidate or incumbent, government official or government employee, except if legally permissible and approved in advance in writing. Any assistance or entertainment provided to any government official or office should never, in form or substance, compromise the Company's arm's-length business relationship with the government agency or official involved. Any request for such approval should be directed to the Director of Human Resources.

## **III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Company's directors, officers and employees have an obligation to be loyal to the best interests of the Company and, therefore, should avoid any actions or affiliations that may involve, or appear to involve, a conflict of interest with the Company. Directors, officers and employees should not have any financial or other business relationship with suppliers, customers or competitors that might impair, or even appear to impair, their independence or cloud any judgment they may need to make on behalf of the Company. If an employee who is not an officer of the Company is aware of a possible or actual conflict of interest concerning himself or herself or another employee, or is concerned that one might develop, he or she should bring the matter to the Director of Human Resources, or if the matter concerns an officer or director, an

employee may bring it to the Chairman of the Audit Committee. If an officer or director is aware of a possible or actual conflict of interest regarding himself or herself, an employee who is not an officer of the Company or another officer or director, or concerned that one might develop, he or she should discuss it with the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has the ultimate responsibility for the review and resolution of conflicts of interest and approval of related party transactions involving directors and officers of the Company.

### ***Actions Counter to the Company's Best Interests***

A director, officer or employee may not divert a business opportunity that could reasonably be expected to be of interest or benefit to the Company, for his or her own personal benefit. If an employee who is not an officer of the Company becomes aware of such a business opportunity, he or she should disclose the matter and the relevant facts to the Director of Human Resources. If an officer or director becomes aware of such a business opportunity, he or she should disclose the matter and the relevant facts to the Chairman of the Audit Committee for consideration. If the Company makes a determination that it is not interested in pursuing the disclosed opportunity and has no reasonable objections, the director, officer or employee may then pursue the opportunity for his or her own benefit.

### ***Other Employment***

Except for intermittent activities on behalf of recognized and legitimate not-for-profit or charitable organizations, an officer or employee may not engage in employment outside the Company without the Company's approval. Any request for such approval should be directed to the Director of Human Resources.

### ***Outside Directorship and Investments***

A director, officer, or employee may not serve as a director of, or have a business or material financial interest in, any organization competing with the Company or engaged in current or prospective dealings with the Company (i.e., a competitor, customer, vendor, landlord or tenant) without prior written approval by the Company. In the case of an employee who is not an officer of the Company, such matters should be disclosed to the Director of Human Resources for consideration, and in the case of an officer or director, any such approvals need to be made by the Audit Committee. For purposes of this issue, the business and financial interests of immediate family members of a director, officer or employee shall be considered the financial interests of such director, officer or employee. The Company will presume that ownership of less than one percent (1%) of a company's securities does not represent a material financial interest and therefore need not be disclosed or approved in advance.

### ***Government Service***

Although a director's, officer's or employee's individual participation in routine political or community activities or service in government positions outside of the Company's normal business hours is not discouraged, such activities or service could potentially give rise to a conflict of interest. Any employee, officer or director wishing to be a candidate for any public office, whether elective or appointive, must obtain the Company's prior written approval. Any request for such approval by an employee who is not an officer of the Company should be

directed to the Director of Human Resources. Any officer or director seeking to become a candidate for or appointed to a political office must obtain such approval from the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. A director, officer or employee holding a government office or position should abstain or recuse him or herself from any vote or decision that involves, or could potentially be perceived to involve, the Company's interest or otherwise appear as a conflict of interest.

#### **IV. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

All directors, officers and employees shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations applicable in the country, state and local jurisdictions where the Company's business is conducted. The laws discussed below are some of the laws that may have particular importance to the Company.

##### ***Foreign Corrupt Practices Act***

Among other restrictions, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (the "FCPA") prohibits companies from paying or offering to pay anything of value to any non-U.S. government official, government employee, political party or political candidate to obtain or retain business or to influence a person working in an official capacity. Violations of this act can result in significant penalties to the Company and any individual involved.

##### ***Use of Non-Public Information and Insider Trading***

Directors, officers and employees shall maintain the confidentiality of any non-public information learned in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Company, except when disclosure is authorized or legally mandated. In addition, United States and foreign securities laws, as well as the Company's policies, prohibit officers, affiliates and other "insiders" from trading the Company's securities, or those of other companies (for example, a vendor or the subject of a possible acquisition), while that individual is in the possession of material, non-public information regarding the Company or such other company. These "insider trading" laws also prohibit providing material, non-public information to other individuals who ultimately trade the security. Because of the severity of the penalties provided by law and the potential for damage to the Company's good name and reputation as a result of such unlawful trading, directors, officers and employees are expected to strictly adhere to the Company's Securities Trading Policy, which has been distributed to the Company's directors, officers and employees separately. In addition to Company sanctions, violation of "insider trading" laws may result in serious criminal penalties for the individual, including fines and imprisonment, if trading is found to involve a willful violation of the law.

##### ***Anti-Trust***

Federal and state anti-trust laws are based on the premise that open and fair competition in a free marketplace will lead to appropriate prices and promote an efficient, productive economy. These laws, while complex, generally prohibit the following general types of behavior or activities: (1) unreasonable agreements among competitors that fix prices or otherwise reduce or limit competition; (2) unreasonable agreements between buyers and sellers that impose uncompetitive restrictions on either party; (3) the maintenance of monopoly power through anti-competitive conduct or the attempt to create a monopoly through unreasonable conduct; and (4) charging

competing buyers different prices for the same product or group of products (i.e. price discrimination). Federal and state antitrust laws also prohibit mergers and acquisitions that may substantially lessen competition. Directors, officers and employees shall not knowingly act in a manner that would result in a breach of any anti-trust laws. The costs and consequences of investigation or litigation in this area can be significant. Violation of any antitrust laws could expose a director, officer, or employee and the Company to criminal penalties.

### ***Industry Regulations***

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and their products are extensively regulated by numerous governmental authorities in the United States and other countries. In the United States, drugs and the drug development process are subject to rigorous regulation by the Food and Drug Administration. The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, and other federal and state statutes and regulations govern, among other things, the research, development, testing, manufacture, storage, record keeping, labeling, promotion and marketing and distribution of pharmaceutical and biotechnology products. Further, upon approval, the Company's products may be subject to reimbursement standards and policies established by various state or federal regulatory bodies. If the Company fails to comply with these applicable regulatory requirements, the Company may be subject to a variety of administrative or judicially imposed sanctions. Directors, officers and employees are expected to comply with applicable laws, rules and regulations, including good clinical and manufacturing practices.

If any employee who is not an officer of the Company has any question about the applicability of these or other laws or regulations to any activities or contemplated activities by such person, he or she should discuss this matter with the Director of Human Resources. If an officer or director has any question about the applicability of these or other laws or regulations to any of their current or contemplated activities, he or she should discuss the matter with the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

## **V. DISCLOSURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### ***Public Reporting***

The Company and its directors and officers shall provide full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure in the reports and documents filed or submitted by the Company to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and in other public communications made by the Company. The Company has established a Disclosure Committee to oversee its Disclosure Controls and Procedures, which are intended to provide reasonable assurance that, among other things, all necessary disclosures are made in the Company's periodic quarterly and annual reports filed with the SEC, and that any other material disclosures are made on an as needed basis consistent with the SEC's Form 8-K rules. For further information, please refer to the Memorandum on Disclosure Policy, which has been separately distributed and a copy of which may be obtained from the Director of Human Resources.

### ***Accounting Procedures and Documentation***

All transactions shall be properly recorded in a timely manner in the Company's books and records. No director, officer or employee shall intentionally or knowingly omit or

mischaracterize any transaction in order to disguise or hide its true nature. Further, an officer or employee shall not intentionally falsify or incorrectly record or report any transaction or entry into the Company's books and records that will knowingly result in financial statements and/or financial statement balances that are not materially accurate or otherwise not in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Finally, officers and employees must comply with the system of internal controls the Company has established that have been designed to safeguard its assets and to ensure its financial statements conform to GAAP.

### ***Communications with Analysts, the Media, Governmental Agencies and Others***

For publicly-held companies, U.S. securities laws require that public dissemination of material, non-public information be made in a fair and non-discriminatory manner so that all investors, or potential investors, have the opportunity to receive such information at the same time. Selective disclosure, or the disclosure of material, non-public information to selective audiences or individuals, is prohibited under U.S. securities laws. In order to avoid unintended selective disclosure, all inquiries from securities analysts, investors, stockholders, investment bankers, etc. should be immediately directed to the Company's CEO or Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"). Directors, officers and employees are expected to adhere to the Company's Fair Disclosure Policy and Procedures, which has been separately distributed and a copy of which may be obtained from the Director of Human Resources.

In the event a director, officer or employee receives an inquiry from a governmental or regulatory agency on matters outside his or her specific area of responsibility, such inquiries should be directed to the appropriate officer of the Company, or the CFO. All inquiries from the media should be immediately directed to the Company's CEO or CFO.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

### ***Enforcement***

In the event that a director, officer or employee or any other third-party has a question, becomes aware of an issue or has a personal complaint, question or suspicion (1) regarding the Company's accounting, accounting procedures or accounting personnel, (2) related to an audit of the Company or the auditors charged with handling the audits, (3) reporting or disclosure of a matter contained in the Company's financial records, financial reports or audit reports or (4) regarding the internal accounting controls of the Company, such person should report their concern under the procedures outlined in the Company's Accounting Matters Complaint Policy, which has been distributed to directors and employees under separate cover and a copy of which may be obtained from the Director of Human Resources.

With respect to any non-accounting issues, complaints, questions, concerns or suspicions regarding any conduct of which an employee who is not an officer of the Company becomes aware and that he or she reasonably believes may constitute a violation of this Code should be promptly reported to the Director of Human Resources, who will hold such reports in confidence. Depending on the nature of the issue and the related facts and circumstances, the Director of Human Resources may direct the matter or otherwise involve the CFO, the CEO, the Chairman of the Audit Committee, the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance

Committee or the Company's counsel, as appropriate. If an officer or director becomes aware of any conduct that he or she reasonably believes may constitute a violation of this Code, such director should promptly report such conduct to the Chairman of the Audit Committee or the Chairman of the Board, as appropriate.

The Director of Human Resources shall regularly report to the Audit Committee all matters or issues arising under this Code (including resolution of such matters or issues) that are brought to their attention. The Chairman of the Audit Committee will provide a report to the Board of Directors, at least once per year, or more often if the circumstances dictate, that summarizes any matters arising under this Code.

Suspected violations will be investigated under the supervision of the Director of Human Resources or the Chairman of the Audit Committee, as they deem appropriate upon consultation with the Board, if necessary. Each officer, director and employee of the Company is expected to cooperate in the investigation of reported or alleged violations.

When practical and appropriate under the circumstances, and in order to protect the privacy of the persons involved, those individuals investigating a suspected violation will attempt to keep confidential the identity of the individual or individuals who reports a suspected violation or who participates in an investigation. There may be situations, however, when this information, or the identity of the individuals involved, must be disclosed as part of the investigation process.

A violation of this Code may result in disciplinary action, including removal from office or termination of employment. Legal proceedings may also be commenced, if necessary, to recover the amount of any improper expenditures, any profits realized by the offending director, officer or employee, and any financial harm sustained by the Company. In certain circumstances, violations of this Code will be reported by the Company to the applicable authority if such violations likely violate state or federal criminal laws.

### ***Non-Retaliation***

In order for this Code to be effective, directors, officers and employees must feel free to bring forth their good faith concerns without the fear of retribution or retaliation from the Company or any other director, officer or employee. The Company does not condone nor will it not tolerate any retaliation against an individual who lawfully and in good faith reports any misconduct or violations of this Code. Further, an employee who provides information regarding any conduct the employee reasonably believes constitutes a violation of the securities laws or financial fraud statutes (1) to any governmental authority, (2) by testimony or otherwise in any proceeding pending or about to be commenced concerning such a violation or (3) to any person with supervisory authority over the employee or authorized by the Company to investigate such conduct, may not be discharged, demoted, discriminated or otherwise retaliated against based upon the information they have provided.

Directors, officers and employees if asked, are expected to fully cooperate in internal and external investigations of any reported or alleged misconduct or violation of this Code.

## **VII. WAIVERS AND AMENDMENTS**

Any request for a waiver of any provision of this Code shall be communicated immediately to the CEO or in the case where the waiver relates to the CEO, the Chairman of the Audit Committee. Any waiver of this Code with respect to directors or officers may be made only by a majority of the Board and shall be promptly disclosed (along with the reason(s) for the waiver) as required by law and Nasdaq regulation.

This Code may be modified, amended or supplemented from time to time. Any amendment of this Code shall be approved by a majority of the Board and shall be promptly disclosed as required by law and Nasdaq regulation.

## **VIII. GENERAL**

This Code is a corporate statement of policy, the contents of which may be modified substituted or altered at any time by the Company. This Code does not create a contract of employment or alter the employment relationship that exists between the Company and its employees. The Company has many specific policies and procedures contained in its employee handbook which address a number of areas of this Code. In the event that a specific policy or procedure exists, the provisions of that policy shall prevail over the general provisions in this Code. The Employee Handbook and the Company's specific policies and procedures should be read in conjunction with this Code.

This Code is posted on the Company's web site and will be provided to all of the Company's directors, officers and employees. Officers are encouraged to explain and discuss this Code with employees to ensure they recognize the existence and understand the applicability of this Code. Written certification of compliance with this Code is required from the CEO, CFO and Chief Accounting Officer on an annual basis.

Adopted: 4/30/04

Last updated: 9/\_\_/10

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE**

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the Company’s Code of Ethics. I also have had an opportunity to review any questions on the interpretation of the policies described in this Code.

Except as noted below, I acknowledge that I have been in compliance for the prior [quarterly/annual period], and will continue for the duration of my service as a director, officer or employee of the Company to comply, with the policies and guidelines set forth in the Code.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Exceptions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT  
AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE CODE**

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the Company's Code of Ethics. I also have had an opportunity to review any questions on the interpretation of the policies described in this Code.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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