



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

February 16, 2016

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lamborn:

In September 2015, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus wrote to you after you inquired about fetal tissue research occurring on campus. Today, I am writing to inform you that the university's previous document production was incomplete and to provide additional documents and corrective information.

Specifically, you previously inquired whether the campus had purchased any human fetal tissue from either Stem Express or Advanced Bioscience Resources. At the time we responded to your letter, we queried the University of Colorado's centralized procurement office and responded that we had been unable to find any records of purchases from Stem Express or Advanced Biosciences Resources.

In response to another inquiry on the use and procurement of human fetal tissue, the campus again searched for any records of transactions with Advanced Bioscience Resources. We found ten distinct invoices from transactions where faculty members procured human fetal tissue from Advanced Bioscience Resources. Unfortunately, these invoices were not in our September 2015 document production to you. I have therefore included with this letter those invoices, as well as other documents we have been able to locate between the University of Colorado and Advanced Bioscience Resources that pertain to those purchases. I would like to note that individual information has been redacted from these documents to allow those involved the ability to pursue their research in a secure place and manner.

The reason for this oversight is that the ten above-referenced invoices were from purchases made through individually-issued university credit cards, rather than through purchase orders. Although the university searched for both purchase order and credit card transactions at the time of your request, credit card data is often more difficult to search and, upon manual review of over 1.3 million lines of transactions potentially responsive to your request, the referenced invoices were overlooked. The records were discovered in response to the most recent request based on information from individual researchers who made the purchases.

While this mistake is regrettable, the university has found no evidence that the people performing the search acted intentionally to avoid your inquiry. Moreover, the university is taking the following corrective actions:

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- First, the centralized procurement office will impose a rule prohibiting the procurement of fetal tissue with a university credit card, no matter the value of the purchase.
- Second, consistent with a new policy that is being implemented at the Anschutz Medical Campus, any purchase of fetal tissue may only be made through a purchase order or other contract.
- Third, that purchase order or other contract will have to include a certification that the vendor complies with all state and federal laws, specifically 42 U.S.C. 289g-1 and 289g-2, which prohibit the acquisition of human fetal tissue for valuable consideration or profit.
- Fourth, all human fetal tissue research reviewed by the Colorado Multiple Institution Review Board, Institutional Animal Use or Animal Care Committee, the Institutional Biosafety Committee, and/or the Anschutz Medical Campus Scientific Ethics Committee, will include researcher attestations that the use of human fetal tissue is consistent with all state and federal laws.
- Fifth, we will be changing the processes by which we search for procurement data to not only use the formal names of the vendors, but also potential abbreviations and other identifiers. We will also cross reference databases and perform a more detailed manual search of potential transactions.

We believe these steps will avoid the mistakes that caused the university to respond inaccurately to your initial inquiry. As a public institution, the University of Colorado is committed to the highest standards of transparency and integrity. I apologize that we did not meet either your or our expectations.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss the information described in this response. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Vice President of Governmental Relations, Tanya Kelly-Bowry.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Elliman, Jr.
Chancellor
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus