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July 27, 2006

Sir David Cooksey
Advent Venture Partners
25 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6LD

Re: Health Research Review

Dear Sir David Cooksey:

Thank you very much for your note of July 26 which is indeed very helpful

I understand that one of the options under consideration as the NIHR proceeds with strengthening, developing and implementing a robust clinical research program in the UK is to have the MRC focus on basic research while the NIHR focuses on "clinical research." I believe a more desirable way forward would be to tightly integrate NIHR/MRC to maximize the potential to accomplish the overall goal. For the NIHR, this would bring not only the vast experience of the MRC but also insure that the links between basic science, discovery research and clinical trials are built into the system. Basic science and discovery research represent the fundamental building blocks for clinical trials.

These comments are based on my previous experience directing a research program at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease of the National Institutes of Health where I was in charge of the Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation Division under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Fauci (responsible for clinical trials in asthma, allergy, autoimmunity and transplantation) as well as my current experience guiding research programs for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation which aims to find a cure for type 1 diabetes (we spent 125 Million US this year of which 38% was international- a large proportion in the UK (partnering with both the MRC and Wellcome Trust).

Sincerely yours