**MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL**

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July 1, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

Harvard Medical School (HMS) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) have concluded a thorough review of our compliance with HMS and MGH conflict of interest policies and have determined that we violated certain requirements of those policies.
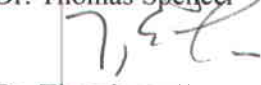
We know that this matter has received significant public attention, and we want to offer our sincere apologies to the HMS and MGH communities for our actions and express our deep regret for the unfavorable attention that this matter has brought to these two institutions.

We always believed that we were complying in good faith with the institutional policies and that our mistakes were honest ones. We now recognize that we should have devoted more time and attention to the detailed requirements of these policies and to their underlying objectives.

We conclude this process with a heightened appreciation for the importance of compliance with institutional policy. We accept responsibility for our actions and the subsequent remedial actions imposed: refraining from all paid industry-sponsored outside activities for a period of one year, with an additional two-year monitoring period during which we must obtain approval from institutional officials at HMS and MGH before engaging in any paid activities and then report upon our activities; additional training; and a delay of consideration for promotion or advancement. Going forward, we look forward to demonstrating appreciation for and exemplary compliance with both the spirit and the technical requirements of the HMS and MGH policies as members of the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard University and of the MGH community.

We have learned a great deal from this painful experience, and we profoundly hope that our mistakes will benefit our colleagues by bringing clarity and attention to these important issues.

Respectfully,

Dr. Joseph Biederman

Dr. Thomas Spencer

Dr. Timothy Wilens

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