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**Wyeth**

March 10, 2008

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing on behalf of Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, a division of Wyeth, in response to your letter dated February 26, 2008, concerning the transparency of the pharmaceutical industry's financial relationships with medical organizations. In particular, you raised two issues for Wyeth to consider: (1) What steps is your company taking, or planning to take, to enhance the transparency of its financial relationships with medical organizations? (2) If your company does not yet have any efforts or plans in place, please explain why not.

Wyeth shares the overarching objectives identified in your letter of protecting the health of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and safeguarding taxpayer dollars. In fact, Wyeth has a long history of pioneering developments in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology and is fully committed to improving the health of all patients, including Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Further, Wyeth supports policies and initiatives that both improve healthcare transparency and benefit patients and healthcare professionals (HCPs), such as providing timely and accurate information about the cost and quality of health care to better understand value.

At this time, Wyeth is carefully evaluating the best course of action to take in connection with providing additional public information about the grants and donations we extend to medical and health organizations. In principle, we are open to the concept of releasing additional information, but we have some reservations about the potential unintended consequences for patients that might result if this initiative is implemented. In this regard, we believe disclosures that are transparent in form but lacking in substance are of limited utility and may lead to misuse and greater confusion.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals  
Wyeth Consumer Healthcare  
Fort Dodge Animal Health



As part of this evaluation process, we would like to gain a better understanding from you of how this initiative would fulfill the objectives outlined in your letter of protecting the health of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and safeguarding taxpayer dollars. An overwhelming body of evidence currently exists about the under-treatment of many high cost chronic diseases including mental illnesses, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension and others; and your initiative may reduce efforts to provide valuable scientific information to improve the medical knowledge of HCPs and programs to educate consumers about their conditions.

In addition, as a company whose mission is to improve patient lives and whose focus is on operating efficiently, it appears that the added administrative complexity of this initiative could run counter to your objectives and, ultimately, increase costs to patients. Moreover, the release of otherwise confidential information about our business practices could reduce competition that is critical to lowering patient and healthcare costs.

As noted earlier, Wyeth is evaluating the best course forward and open to providing public information about our support of medical and health organizations. Before taking these additional steps, we would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss the issues raised in your letter with you and your staff. In the interim, if you have any questions regarding our response or if you require additional information, please contact Leo Jardot in Wyeth's Washington, DC office at (202) 659-8320.

Sincerely,

  
Geno Germano