



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Washington D.C. 20201

MAR 14 2007

Arthur Bracey, M.D.
Chair, Advisory Committee on Blood
Safety and Availability
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 250
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Bracey:

I appreciate the thoughtful consideration that the Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability (ACBSA) provided regarding the development of a biovigilance system for improving outcomes in transfusion and transplantation therapy.

I am please to report that the Department has already formed an inter-agency working group to review all current systems and to develop a gap analysis. This working group is being co-chaired by Dr. Matthew Kuenhert of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith of the Food and Drug Administration. Discussion with the private sector has also been progressing to ensure that any biovigilance system will be a partnership between all relevant stake holders.

Thank you for your service. I am looking forward to more interaction with the Committee at the May meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O. Agwunobi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John O. Agwunobi
Assistant Secretary for Health