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Office of Public Health and Science  
Washington D.C. 20201

John O. Agwunobi, M.D.  
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Dear Dr. Agwunobi:

The Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability (ACBSA) is grateful for your support of our previous recommendation for the establishment a comprehensive system for biovigilance in the United States. The recent change in our charter, with a broadening of oversight to include transfusion and transplantation safety, fits the strategic objectives recommended by ACBSA.

We appreciate your input at our recent meeting on May 10 and 11, 2007 and will take on your challenge for us look forward and aid in developing the best possible systems to promote the public health in those matters under our purview.

During our May 2007 meeting held in Washington, DC, ACBSA heard presentations on the status of safety systems for transfusion, tissue banking and transplantation from major blood collectors, accrediting agencies and practicing physicians. The Committee was impressed by the number of common issues facing these activities and the opportunity for process improvement.

The following statements contain our answers to the questions you presented to ACBSA regarding our thoughts on specific aspects of a biovigilance system.

