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December 29, 2010

Phyllis Carlson-Riehm
The Ohio Chapter of the National Organization for Women, Inc
PO Box 1234
Columbus, OH 43210

Re: Department of Pathology at the OSU Medical Center

Dear Director Carlson-Riehm:

I am in receipt of your letter of November 18, 2010 in which you voice concerns related to Pap smear interpretation by the Department of Pathology at the OSU Medical Center.

As a physician who has devoted most of his career to providing health care for women, this issue is of great importance to me. First, let me assure you that the Department of Pathology and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology are committed to the highest quality of medical care for all of our patients, including women whose Pap smears are reviewed by our pathologists. In order to ensure that excellent medical care is provided by our Department of Pathology, we have assembled a highly respected and skilled group of cytopathologists to perform pathology services including the identification of potential cervical disease.

The high quality of care provided to our patients has been recognized through the national accreditation of our labs and national recognition of our programs. For example, the OSU Medical Center pathology laboratory fully complies with national guidelines and federal CLIA requirements for Pap smear reporting and correlations with subsequent tissue specimens. The pathology laboratory is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the College of American Pathologists. Our Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, including the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, has been recognized nationally and internationally as one of the premier programs for women with gynecologic disorders and cancer in the United States. We believe that the care we provide is of the very highest quality and is fully consistent with and sensitive to the issues raised in your letter.

I am sorry that you have somehow gained a different impression, perhaps from Dr. Gerard Nuovo, whom your letter references. As you may or may not be aware, Dr. Nuovo has sued the University, the Medical Center and a number of our most highly respected administrators and physicians, raising a variety of claims including a claim that

he had been unlawfully retaliated against for raising concerns referenced in your letter. Because of the pendency of this litigation, and University rules regarding confidentiality, I regret that I am not at liberty to discuss the issues in that litigation with you in greater detail, but I am sure you can appreciate that allegations by a disgruntled employee may not always be the most reliable source of information. Because it is a matter of public record, however, I can share with you the fact that the vast majority of Dr. Nuovo's claims, including, notably, his "whistleblower" claim, have already been dismissed by the Court, and we are confident of prevailing on the remaining claims.

In closing, let me reiterate that our University, our Medical Center, and our College of Medicine are committed to providing everyone who seeks our services the highest quality of medical treatment available anywhere. Our efforts were most recently recognized by U.S. News and World Report, ranking our hospital the best in Central Ohio and one of the best in the country. We are confident in the quality and the integrity of the dedicated health professionals who are currently providing diagnostic services and treatment for both men and women, but we will, of course, continue to rigorously monitor and review their performance to ensure that the highest standard of care is being provided.

With my best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year, I remain
Sincerely yours,



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Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

c: E. Gordon Gee
President, The Ohio State University

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