

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 16, 2008

Via Electronic Transmission

Lee C. Bollinger
President
Columbia University
2960 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Dear Mr. Bollinger:

The United States Senate Special Committee on Aging has jurisdiction over and a duty to, among other things, the continuing study of all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of older people, including their health. The Committee on Finance has jurisdiction over the Medicare and Medicaid programs and, accordingly, has a responsibility to the more than 80 million Americans who receive health care coverage under those programs. As Chairman and Ranking Member of these Committees, respectively, we have a duty to protect the health of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and safeguard taxpayer dollars authorized and appropriated by Congress for those programs.

For the last several years, our Committees have been investigating various aspects of the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, including consulting arrangements and funding for Continuing Medical Education (CME). We have compiled evidence documenting the strong ties between these industries and physicians.

As part of our oversight responsibilities, we have been analyzing the policies and practices that universities and hospitals have in place requiring their physicians to report outside income. We have concluded that there is a lack of transparency in this area.

To help us better understand these relationships, we would appreciate your office providing our Committees the following information detailing the outside income from the following persons from January 1, 2003 to the present:

1. Martin B. Leon, MD;
2. Gregg W. Stone, MD;
3. Jeffrey W. Moses, MD;
4. Mark A. Apfelbaum, MD;
5. Stephane Carlier, MD, PhD;
6. Michael B. Collins, MD;
7. Antonio Colombo, MD;
8. William A. Gray, MD;
9. Ajay J. Kirtane, MD, SM;
10. Susheel K. Kodali, MD;

11. Edward M. Kreps, MD;
12. Warren Sherman, MD;
13. Robert Sommer, MD;
14. Paul Teirstein, MD;
15. Giora Weisz, MD;
16. Gary Mintz, MD;
17. Steven Wolff, MD;
18. Alexandra Lansky, MD;
19. Roxana Mehran, MD;
20. George Dargas, MD;
21. Manuela Negoita, MD; and
22. Victor Yick.

Because reporting practices vary widely from one institution to another, we would appreciate you also placing this income into a chart, detailing compensation from outside sources to the persons referenced above. For each payment to the persons mentioned above from a company or organization, please provide the following information:

1. Name of payment source;
2. Date of payment;
3. Payment description (CME, honorarium, research support, etc.);
4. Amount of payment; and
5. Annual total from the payment source.

We would also appreciate a report of all funding provided to Columbia University from the following companies and organizations from January 1, 2003 to the present:

1. Abbott Laboratories;
2. Medtronic Inc.;
3. Medinol;
4. Boston Scientific;
5. Johnson & Johnson; and
6. Cardiovascular Research Foundation.

Also, please explain the nature of the relationship between Columbia University and the Cardiovascular Research Foundation (CRF). In response to this request, please provide all pertinent documents and communications between the University and CRF. The time span of this request covers January 1, 2003 to the present.

In cooperating with the Committees' review, no documents, records, data nor information related to these matters shall be destroyed, modified, removed or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committees.

We look forward to hearing from you by no later than October 30, 2008. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jack Mitchell or Adam Weaver (202-224-5364) of Chairman Kohl's Special Committee on Aging staff and/or Paul Thacker (202-224-4515) of Ranking Member Grassley's Committee on Finance staff. All documents responsive to this request should be sent electronically, on a disc, in searchable PDF format to Adam Weaver at Adam_Weaver@aging.senate.gov and to Brian Downey at Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
Chairman
Special Committee on Aging



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance