

October 20, 2015

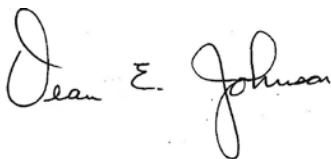
Dear President Kaler:

Thank you for the information provided by your administration on the matter of research using human fetal tissue at the University. The clarification on how such tissue is acquired and the legality of its acquisition and use is appreciated, as is the decision to change University policy regarding the disposal of fetal tissue to assure the respectful cremation or burial of tissue following Anatomy Bequest Program standards.

We continue to be concerned, however, that the University does not know the pre-vendor source of fetal tissue purchased for research. While our commitment to excellence in academic research and its potential for addressing grand challenges remains strong, we are seeking additional information regarding the exact sources of tissue sold to the University by Advanced Biosciences Resources (ABR) – specifically, whether ABR (or any other vendor the University might use) sources tissue from elective abortions. Pending the outcome of that inquiry, our intent would be to evaluate potential policy changes with the Board including but not limited to prohibiting human fetal tissue purchases from any vendor that acquires human fetal tissue resulting from an elective abortion.

We welcome the opportunity to better understand this issue, and to work with you toward a resolution.

Sincerely,



Dean E. Johnson
Chair



David J. McMillan
Vice Chair

c: Members of the Board of Regents
Vice President for Research Brian Herman
General Counsel William Donohue