



December 12, 2012

James P. Scanlan
Attorney at Law
1529 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Re: Letter of October 26, 2012

Dear Mr. Scanlan,

I am writing to let you know the resolution of the concerns you raised to President Faust, Dean Flier, and Mr. Slavin about *Commissioned Paper: Healthcare Disparities Measurement*

A preliminary assessment was conducted by Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and concluded that the allegations you raised represent a difference of scientific opinion, and do not rise to the level of, or provide sufficient evidence of research misconduct to warrant proceeding to an inquiry of the matter.

We have brought this matter to the attention of the authors, and, as with all differences of opinion, it is the responsibility of faculty members to evaluate whether your observations warrant revisions to the paper. Absent concerns with falsification or fabrication of data, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital do not independently assess the merits of any individual paper, leaving such interchange to the natural discourse in the scientific literature as an inherent and healthy part of the development of the scientific record.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. While this may not be the outcome you had hoped for, I want to assure you that this was a thorough, fair and objective process.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Brodnicki
Dean for Faculty and
Research Integrity
Harvard Medical School

F. Richard Bringhurst, M.D.
Research Integrity Officer
Massachusetts General Hospital