

The Honorable Clyde E. Allen, Jr.
Chair, Board of Regents

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February 7, 2011

Carl Elliott, Professor
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Joan Liaschenko, Professor
Mary Faith Marshall, Professor
John Song, Associate Professor
Leigh Turner, Associate Professor
Susan Craddock, Associate Professor
Joan Tronto, Professor

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Dear Professors Elliott, Bartels, Liaschenko, Marshall, Song, Turner, Craddock, and Tronto:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 29, 2010, in which you raise significant questions related to the suicide of Dan Markingson, who was enrolled in a psychiatric research study at the University of Minnesota in 2003-04. On behalf of the entire Board, I take this opportunity to express again the University community's heartfelt sympathy to Markingson's family and friends for this tragic loss.

At the Board's request, our General Counsel has provided us with the extensive reviews of this case that were performed over the years by a number of independent experts and governmental units. They include careful examinations by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Hennepin County District Court, and the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice, assisted by the Minnesota Attorney General's office. In addition to these independent reviews, the University's IRB and a number of nationally recognized psychiatrists not affiliated with the University reviewed the course of treatment provided to Mr. Markingson. Each and every one of these reviews resulted in the same conclusion: there was no improper or inappropriate care provided to Mr. Markingson, nor is there evidence of misconduct or violation of applicable laws or regulations.

