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February 7, 2000

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 99D-5347

Dear Sirs/ Madam:

I am writing in regard to the guideline that has been proposed to defer indefinitely blood donations from patients who have received xenotransplantation, as well as their close contacts.

It is well-known that preventive measures to ban the donation of blood do not protect the blood supply adequately. Also, if a registry was begun which listed such patients it would infringe on their civil right to privacy.

Often diseases transmitted through xenotransplant are latent and may not show up until years later. Thus, by excluding all xenotransplant patients from donating blood because of their being carriers of unknown, and latent diseases, as well as their close contacts and health-care personnel would greatly reduce the pool of blood donors.

The blood-supply of our nation, and indeed the world, would be better served by xenotransplantation itself being banned effective immediately.

Very truly yours,



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99D-5347

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