July 22, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
Attn.: Docket No. 99D-0557

'99 JUL 28 A11:06

Dear Sirs/Ms.:

I wish to comment on a "Guidance for Industry" published in the Federal Register on "Public Health Issues Posed by the Use of Nonhuman Primate Xenografts in Humans," by the Food and Drug Administration on April 6, 1999.

I am opposed to any xenotransplant research. Responsible health authorities would ban all xenotransplants outright, regardless of the species, particularly because of the threats of inter-species virus transmission.

Pigs are being considered as the source animal of choice for xenotransplants. But there is no evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates. Pig viruses are just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses.

We should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999, the Council of Europe, representing 40 European countries, recommended a world-wide ban on xenotransplants.

There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplants, such as aggressively promoting preventive medicine and increasing human organ donation rates.

99D-0557 (over, please) C258

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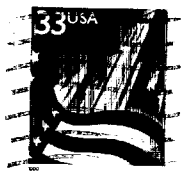

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