Dear Dr. Noguchi:

I'm alarmed that the Food and Drug Administration has been advised by its own Xenotransplant Advisory Subcommittee to begin "limited" human clinical trials of xenotransplantation.

Xenotransplantation will needlessly kill animals, and may very possibly kill humans too. Even with limited trials, an epidemic may result if a virus is transmitted from just one animal to a human. Witness the worldwide epidemics of influenza in 1918 (from a swine virus) or AIDS today. It's already known that about 75 pig viruses have the potential to cause disease in humans. What is not known at all is the potential of pig retroviruses to cause disease in humans.

The decision to begin even limited human clinical trials affects the public in profound and possibly dangerous ways, yet so far the public has had no say in any government decisions regarding xenotransplantation. You must direct the FDA to begin educating the public on the government's position toward xenotransplantation, and you must allow public input in the "informed consent" decision.

Even more important, please stop human clinical trials now – before it's too late.

Sincerely, Anita Margolis
SIGNATURE

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