

*Joe J. Charles Nemeroff*



**EMORY**  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Charles B. Nemeroff, MD, PhD  
*Reunette W. Harris Professor and Chairman*

November 20, 2006

Michael M.E. Johns, M.D.  
Executive Vice President for  
Health Affairs  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor WHSCAB

Thomas J. Lawley, M.D.  
Dean, Emory University School of Medicine  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, WHSCAB

Dear Drs. Johns and Lawley:

This is a reply to your letter of November 3, 2006 concerning my participation in activities outside of Emory. In the space below and as a follow-up to my recent discussions with one of you (Dr. Lawley), I have responded to each of the issues you raised in the your letter.

First, in principle, I certainly agree with the two of you about my past overcommitment and I am delighted that you agree in principle with my proposal to decrease my activities. In response to your collective view that my suggested decrease in activities did not go far enough, I have agreed and responded specifically to each of the seven items that you raised in your letter.

1. As I discussed with Dr. Lawley, I would propose to reduce my service on scientific advisory boards to 5 instead of 3 or 4 which would, indeed, be carefully selected free of conflicts of interest and driven by science so as to benefit Emory and the department. Indeed, my service on such advisory boards will focus on scientific research and not in the production of scholarly articles. Please know that these boards meet at the most twice per year and usually once per year or perhaps none at all. I would also ask permission to engage in one-time scientific consultations with pharmaceutical or start-up biotech companies when the science is exciting and of potential interest to Emory.
2. I was somewhat surprised by the suggestion that I serve as PI or co-PI in any research protocols funded by a company with which I have had a financial relationship. This is absolutely untrue. Quite some time ago, I made that decision based on the 2004 letter from Dr. Adkison and have stuck to it. Thus, this is not an issue.
3. Considerable discussion with Dr. Lawley centered around the issue of faculty development awards funded by the pharmaceutical companies. First and foremost is, I think it is important to

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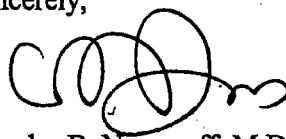
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recognize that there is an absolute firewall in each of these companies that fund such awards between educational departments that fund these awards and marketing, sales and basic/clinical scientists. This is a system that has been put in place in virtually all companies in response to criticisms that these awards are used for marketing purposes. Please know that we have never identified a given faculty member as the "Pfizer Faculty Development Awardee" or the "Abbott Postdoctoral Fellowship Awardee." These awards are provided to the department in an unrestricted fashion for faculty development without any opportunity for these awards to be used by the sponsor for marketing. To the credit of the pharmaceutical companies, they have never requested anything of the sort.

4. I will inform both Lundbeck and Janssen that I must immediately cease my scientific collaborations with them, and that I will not serve as a co-author on any publications that emanate from the collaborations that we were in the midst of .
5. I have already resigned from all industry-sponsored speakers' bureaus and have made it clear that I will not engage in any "promotional" lectures on behalf of companies about their products.
6. This is the item that I have had the most difficulty with and I discussed this with Dr. Lawley in detail, namely, continuing medical education (CME). Continuing medical education is largely sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, but is overseen by an external body, the ACCCME, which has strict guidelines to prevent any financial conflicts of interest. I have always adhered to the guidelines very strongly. The vast majority of my presentations at CME courses are focused on the pathophysiology of disease. If they do deal with any treatments, the presentations are balanced. They could not in any way be construed as biased. Even the most stringent guidelines permit faculty and chairs to engage in CME at institutions throughout the United States. I believe that one of the reasons Emory continues to be highly ranked in the *US News and Report* survey is, in fact, the prominence of our faculty, including myself, in CME programs. For that reason, I would implore you to allow my participation in CME events.
7. As I indicated to Dean Lawley, once we have come to final agreement concerning my outside activities, I will be quite willing to speak at the Council of Chairs about the decisions I have made concerning changes in my interactions with pharmaceutical companies and plan to do the same at the next departmental faculty meeting.

You were both very kind in your laudable comments at the end of your letter concerning my leadership in the field. I very much want to give you a clear signal that I will adhere to the highest ideals of my specialty and academic medicine. If you require any further information from me, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to finally resolving these issues.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Nemeroff, M.D., Ph.D.  
Reunette W. Harris Professor and Chair