The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

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July 15, 2016

Dear Mr. Schwab,

Bruce Darling has asked me to respond to your letter of June 29 concerning the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on Future Biotechnology Products and Opportunities to Enhance Capabilities of the Biotechnology Regulation System.

The task for this study is to describe major advances and future biotechnology products likely to emerge over the next 5-10 years, describe the existing risk analysis system for biotechnology products, determine whether potential future products could pose different types of risks relative to current products, and make recommendations about the scientific capabilities, tools, and expertise that may be needed by regulatory agencies in the future to effectively do their job. Importantly, the study is not about whether there should be restrictions on the development and production of some or all biotechnology products, or what those restrictions should be.

To address these questions about the capabilities, tools, and expertise that will be needed for effective regulation of biotechnology products in the future, we sought expertise in a variety of areas, including industrial biotechnology, agricultural biotechnology, genetics and genomics, energy, risk analysis, economics of biotechnology development, and the current regulatory framework. As Doug Friedman said in his message to you on May 17 in response to your April 21 email, we believe that we have assembled a committee with the range of scientific expertise and balance of perspectives needed to address the study's statement of task.

Thank you for your comments and interest in this study.

Respectfully,

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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