Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to the language in House Report 112-78, page 156, to accompany H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, which requests the Secretary of Defense to review the current processes and procedures of the various Military Health Systems (MHSs) to ensure that fair and open competition for medical research, consultation, and education is being conducted. This issue falls under my purview and I have been asked to respond.

In order to complete this report, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness issued a memorandum dated June 22, 2011, to the Deputy Surgeons General of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; the President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; and the Deputy Director of TRICARE Management Activity, requesting they review their current processes and procedures to ensure that fair and open competition for medical research, consultation, and education is being conducted, and that they provide a summary of their findings. A summary of findings from each addressee is provided at tabs 2-6 of the enclosure. The findings confirm that fair and open competition for medical research is being conducted by the various MHSs included herein. A similar letter has been sent to the Chairmen of the other congressional defense committees.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

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Acting

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As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman
The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

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Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeen  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

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[Signature]

John Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member
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Sincerely,

[Signature]

J.D. Boyle
Acting

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member
The Honorable Jim Webb  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Joe Wilson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Personnel  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

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Ann Rooney  
Acting  

Enclosure:  
As stated  

cc:  
The Honorable Susan A. Davis  
Ranking Member
The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Acting

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member
REPORT TO CONGRESS

CLARIFICATION ON COMPETITION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH CONSULTATION AND EDUCATION


Preparation of this report/study cost the Department of Defense a total of approximately $440 for the 2012 Fiscal Year.
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