



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DEC 22 2004

Ernest D. Prentice, Ph.D.
Chair, Secretary's Advisory Committee
On Human Research Protections
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
And Regulatory Compliance
987830 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska 68198-7830

Dear Dr. Prentice:

I am writing to extend my appreciation to you and the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP) for your recent recommendations.

I have asked the Office of Civil Rights, which has the lead on HIPAA privacy within my department, to carefully evaluate these recommendations as quickly as possible.

Thank you and the Committee for a job well done.

Sincerely,


Tommy G. Thompson

CC: Dr. Bernard Schwetz