

# The University of Sheffield

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## Bone metabolism Group



Bone metabolism Group  
Clinical Sciences Centre  
Northern General Hospital  
Herries Road, Sheffield  
S5 7AU, UK  
Tel: (0114) 271-4705  
Fax: (0114) 261-8775  
E✉ :  
ablumsohn@sheffield.ac.uk

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8 November 2004

Professor Richard Eastell  
Professor of Bone Metabolism  
Research Dean and R&D Director for STHT  
University of Sheffield  
Clinical Sciences Centre (North)  
Herries Road  
Sheffield, S5 7AU

Dear Richard

Thank you for the letter from yourself, Ian Barton and Pierre Delmas (letter dated 29/6/04; received originally as an unsigned photocopy in August 2004 and more recently in hard copy). Pierre Delmas seems to be the primary author of the letter. The reason for his involvement in this process is not clear to me. I am therefore replying only to you.

You will be fully aware that the letter has only peripheral relevance to the fundamental issues I have raised about the probity of this work and our relationship with this pharmaceutical company. My requests have been clear, and there is no reason to think that another "meeting" will help to resolve the difficulty.

Although not directly pertinent, I should point out that the questions addressed in the letter have already been discussed, and I disagree with the approach. I believe that these issues are highly relevant but have no means of verifying whether this is the case.

Retrospective changes to the question being asked, addition of authors and elimination of primary investigators will not help to resolve the problem. From a scientific point of view, I would clearly be expected to wish to maintain authorship of this work (particularly since I spent more than a year its execution). I am more concerned about my general scientific and clinical obligations, the integrity of the scientific literature and my own integrity. This is particularly so since this work has considerable implications for patient management, and is unlikely to be repeated.

