



THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

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RE/GKH

13th December 2004

Dr Aubrey Blumsohn
Senior Lecturer in Metabolic Bone Disease
Clinical Sciences Centre
Northern General Hospital
Sheffield S5 7AU

Dear Aubrey

Re: letter of 8th November 2004

Thank you for your letter about the manuscript I have been preparing with Professor Pierre Delmas and Dr Ian Barton. I note from your letter that you would like to be a co-author of this work. I also note that you disagree with the approach we have taken to data analysis. You will realise that when we submit the manuscript to a journal that you will need to sign an authorship agreement form stating that you are in full agreement with the work. If you wish to be a coauthor then you need to work towards a resolution of the issues we described in our letter. We have listened carefully to your concerns, and we feel that we have addressed all of these. We have now prepared several drafts of the manuscript and would like to submit this shortly. Please reassure us that you are prepared to work with us constructively on this manuscript in a timely way. We would like you to respond to this letter within the next month and if you still wish to be a coauthor then we will send you the manuscript for your comments. We would appreciate you giving us your comments in a clear and constructive fashion within a month of us sending you the manuscript.

continued. . .



You mention the issue of probity and from your previous e-mails I understand that your major concern is that you have not had access to the original data. I have checked with Aventis and with other pharmaceutical companies in the field of osteoporosis for their guidelines to publication. They state that they take the approach described in the PhRMA guidelines and that in these guidelines there is not access to the data (other than those from your centre) for investigators. I think that the approach we have taken for this manuscript of working closely with the statisticians to identify the best approach to analyse the data is an example of best practice, particularly the visit that Ian Barton paid you to go through the data analysis in detail and actually conduct the data analysis during the visit.

Please let us know whether you still wish to be co-author on this manuscript,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R Eastell". The letters are dark and fluid, with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'l'.

Richard Eastell
Professor of Bone Metabolism