



October 5, 2015

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State Representative Jodi Hack
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900 Court St NE, H-385
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State Representative Cedric Hayden
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900 Court St NE, H-379
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State Representative Dallas Heard
HD 2
900 Court St NE, H-386
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State Representative Bill Kennemer
HD 39
900 Court St NE, H-380
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State Representative Andy Olson
HD 15
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State Representative Bill Post
HD 25
900 Court St NE, D- 373
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State Representative Jim Weidner
HD 24
900 Court St NE, H- 387
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State Representative Gail Whitsett
HD 56
900 Court St NE, H- 474
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representatives Hack, Hayden, Heard, Kennemer, Olson, Post, Weidner and Whitsett:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your letter dated September 29, 2015.

As part of our multifaceted mission, OHSU strives for excellence in education, research, scholarship, clinical practice and community service. As the only public academic medical center in Oregon, OHSU is committed to pursuing research that can lead to significant medical breakthroughs to better the health of Oregonians and people across the world.

In pursuit of these missions, OHSU has an unwavering commitment to high ethical standards and compliance with state and federal laws.

Below please find specific responses to the questions raised in your letter that pertain to OHSU.

Question 1 and Responses

“Does the tissue that Planned Parenthood sends to OHSU include the tissue of the deceased embryo or fetus?”

OHSU is conducting two placental tissue research studies with Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette (PPCW). One study includes a focus on early detection of ectopic pregnancy (study 1), and the other study seeks to predict the risk of stillbirth, preterm birth and growth restrictions (study 2).

- 1. For study 1, OHSU receives placental tissue from some pregnancies at less than seven weeks gestation; this tissue is less than 1 centimeter in diameter. In some cases where the placental tissue is*

too small to be distinguished, the tissue from the embryo is received. When it can be distinguished, only the placental tissue is received.

2. *For study 2, OHSU receives about a centimeter of a women's uterine lining and a centimeter of placental tissue from terminations at six to 14 weeks gestation. Only the uterine lining and placental tissue are received.*

“Where is the deceased human embryo or fetus separated from the placenta?”

1. *For study 1, the tissue is examined at PPCW and is separated there if it can be visualized. In some cases involving tissue at less than five weeks gestation, the microscopic embryo tissue may not be able to be distinguished and is not separated.*
2. *For study 2, the tissue is separated at PPCW.*

“Who is responsible for this process?”

1. *For study 1, the OHSU lead scientists or the OHSU research study coordinator.*
2. *For study 2, the OHSU lead scientists.*

“How much money does OHSU provide to Planned Parenthood for “facility fees and other payments for direct service related to the studies?”

1. *Study 1 includes a review of medical chart documents from PPCW and Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties (PPOSBC). Tissue collection for placental tissue research only occurs at PPCW.*

For this study, the fees paid by OHSU to PPOSBC total \$7,000 for IT coordinator salary support and \$3,000 for administrative costs for the data collection. Fees paid by OHSU to PPCW total \$6,500 for facility use that accounts for use of and impacts to space, including storage, use of technology, and assistance with data collection.

2. *For study 2, the fees paid by OHSU to PPCW for facilities use total \$5,000 for the use of an exam room and storage of an OHSU ultrasound machine at PPCW; PPCW study coordinator time of \$22/hour (maximum of \$5,000) to manage patient consent for the study; and \$2,500 maximum for ancillary supplies (e.g., ultrasound gel, syringes, needles, patient blood draws).*

“Are the payments per specimen received? If so, how much money does OHSU provide to Planned Parenthood per specimen?”

There are no payments per specimen to PPCW.

Question 2 doesn't apply to OHSU

Question 3 and Response

“According to an article published in the Statesman Journal on August 12, 2015, data from the Associated Press show that OHSU received money from the National Institutes of Health from 2011-2014 for research involving human fetal tissue. OHSU received \$1 million in 2013 and 2014. Which organization(s) provided OHSU with the fetal tissue? How much money did OHSU provide to the organization for the tissue? Were fees paid per specimen? What type of fetal tissue did researchers obtain?”

The AP data cited in the Statesman Journal article is inaccurate. The study referenced uses rodent fetal tissue and does not use human fetal tissue.

Question 4 and Responses

“Has OHSU ever purchased fetal tissue from ABR? If so, how much did OHSU pay per specimen?”

OHSU has paid a service fee to obtain fetal livers and fetal thymus from Advanced Bioscience Resources (ABR). The service fee price range to obtain the tissue is \$230-\$340 per specimen.

How many specimens has OHSU purchased from ABR?

OHSU has acquired a total of 123 specimens from ABR.

Question 5 and Response

“Has OHSU ever done research on fetal tissue obtained from aborted fetuses who were aborted during the second or third trimester of pregnancy? If so, what type of fetal organs were obtained for this type of research?”

OHSU research includes the use of tissue from second-trimester pregnancies. The tissue includes fetal livers and fetal thymus from ABR (see answer to Question 4).

OHSU is committed to setting the example for integrity, compassion and leadership in pursuit of our missions. We are educating students for a lifetime of learning, leadership and contribution, and our faculty and staff are vigorously exploring research frontiers and delivering excellence in health care. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with factual information about our research work.

Sincerely,



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President, OHSU



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Senior Vice President for Research, OHSU

CC: Stacy Cross, Planned Parenthood of Columbia Willamette; Lisa Gardner, Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon