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August 23, 2010

The Honorable Margaret A. Hamburg
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
White Oak Building 1
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

We read with interest the letter of July 12, 2010, from Senators Baucus and Grassley concerning Avandia-related manuscripts published in the cardiovascular literature. As the chairman of the AHA's Scientific Publishing Committee, I and other volunteers and staff members on the committee have reviewed the accompanying attachments, and we realized that some of the information is in error and requires correction or clarification, particularly as it relates to *Circulation*.

The letter stated that Attachment H and Attachment I (iterations of a review article entitled, "Modifying Cardiovascular Risk in the Type 2 Diabetes Patient") were published in *Circulation* in July, 2002. Attachments H and I are versions of the review article (first iteration by Haffner, second iteration by Haffner and Cassel, respectively) to which reference is made. However, this paper was never published in *Circulation*. In fact, in Attachment H, the included e-mail from Julia M. Eastgate makes specific reference to a planned submission to the *American Journal of Cardiology*; and in Attachment I, the included e-mail from Sarah Mooney makes specific reference to adjusting the word count for publication in yet another journal, *Clinical Cardiology*.

Since *Circulation* has never published a review article by Haffner and Cassel entitled, "Modifying Cardiovascular Risk in the Type 2 Diabetes Patient," as claimed in the letter to you, the letter and its appendices are misleading. We have requested that Senators Grassley and Baucus provide a correction for the record.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Donna K. Arnett, PhD, MSPH, FAHA
Chair, Scientific Publishing Committee

Cc: Honorable Max Baucus; Honorable Chuck Grassley

**"Building healthier lives,
free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke."**

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.

