March 3, 2014

Karisa King
Chicago Tribune
kking@tribune.com

Re: FOIA Request 14-076 narrowed

Dear Ms. King:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request of February 6, 2014, and received in my office on February 7, 2014, in which you requested:

“Any and all Reports of Non-University Activities for Dimitri Azar.
Any and all documents regarding contracts or grants from Intuitive Surgical Inc. to the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System and or the University of Illinois, including but not limited to any research or education grants provided by the company.
Any and all documents regarding contracts or grants from Novartis to the University of Illinois and or the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System, including but not limited to any research or education grants provided by the company.
Additionally, as soon as the documents are completed and released, please provide me with any all documents relating to Vice President for Research Larry Schook’s review of the circumstances surrounding the NYT advertisement and concerns regarding the compliance with the University’s Report of Non-University Activities.”

On February 10, 2014, you narrowed your request to:

“I’d be happy to narrow all of the items in my request to only those records since 2009. Hopefully, 5 years is a reasonable timeframe to research. I should have limited the request to start with – my oversight.”

On February 18, 2014 records responsive to point one of your request were provided to you. Information responsive to points 2 and 3 your request is now available. These are public documents, and if printed, would number 246 pages. The link below will provide you access to the responsive records. As stated previously, records responsive to point 4 of your request will not be available until that review is completed. Please refile that portion of your request later this spring.

Portions of these documents have been redacted pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:
140/7(1)(g) that exempts from disclosure “Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person or business where the trade secrets or commercial or financial information are furnished under a claim that they are proprietary, privileged or confidential, and that or where disclosure of the trade secrets or commercial or financial information would cause competitive harm to the person or business…” Intuitive Surgical Inc. and Novartis have asserted that the redacted information, which was provided under a claim that it is confidential, a trade secret or proprietary, would cause competitive harm if released.

Should you wish to inspect or receive a physical copy of these documents, please call Melanie Kuehn at the phone number below and she will provide you with all necessary details.

You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Attorney General. The PAC may be reached by phone at 217-782-1396, by email to publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, or by postal mail at the Public Access Bureau, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. You also have the right to seek judicial review under section 11 of this Act.

If you have questions for our office, please contact 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy
Executive Director
and Chief Records Officer

To access your files, please go to:
[link]
This link will expire in ten business days.