

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

July 15, 2014

Karisa King
Chicago Tribune
kking@tribune.com

Re: FOIA Request 14-461

Dear Ms. King:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on June 30, 2014, in which you requested:

“All documents, including but not limited to any and all calendar items, itineraries, tasks, memos, or emails that were deleted or archived from the calendars, computers or electronic accounts of Dr. Dmitri Azar or those maintained on his behalf and which pertain to his role with Novartis. The date range of this request is limited to only those items that were deleted or archived after January 1, 2014.

All communications, including but not limited to current, deleted or archived emails, memos, letters, voicemail transcriptions, written or sent between University of Illinois staff or faculty regarding Dr. Dmitri Azar’s role with Novartis. The date range of this request is limited to only those items that were created after January 1, 2014.”

Information responsive to point one your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 27 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted and other documents have been withheld pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:

- 140/7(1)(b) that exempts from disclosure “Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order.” This includes a private email address.
- 140/7(1)(c) that exempts from disclosure “Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.” This includes references to family members, personal travel plans and the resignation of a person who does not work for the University.
- 140/7(1)(f) that exempts from disclosure “Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda, and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record of relevant portion of a record shall not be

Office for University Relations

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exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.” Pursuant to this exemption, draft documents have been withheld.

Our office has conducted a preliminary search for the documents responsive to point two of your request.

Your request for documents and information listed in point two your email is considered unduly burdensome to the University. Without having a specific name or office to search for the requested records, records would have to be collected from across the University. Compliance with the request would unduly burden the public body by requiring over 40 working hours to attempt to locate, review, and redact the thousands of emails, memos, and letters, generated by any University employees from January 1, 2014 to present.

Pursuant to Section 3(g) of the Act, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it of more manageable proportions. Specifically we request the names of specific employees from which you are seeking records. This change will help narrow your request to more manageable proportions. If you do not reduce the request, it shall be treated as a denial.

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