



**American Board  
of Medical Specialties**

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September 9, 2016

Ms. Lauren Lindenfeser  
Manager of Editorial Administration  
New England Journal of Medicine  
10 Shattuck Street  
Boston, MA 0215-0694

RE: Inaccurate assertion of failure to disclose a conflict of interest

Dear Ms. Lindenfeser:

This letter is in response to your email dated September 7, 2016 regarding the conflict of interest disclosures of Dr. Thomas Norris and myself with respect to the "Letter to the Editor" written jointly by us and published in the March 28, 2013 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

In your email, you referred to concerns raised by Westby Fisher, MD on both his external blog and his letter to you regarding whether there was an appropriate disclosure of the relationship of Dr. Norris and myself to ABMS Solutions, LLC. Specifically, Dr. Fisher asserted that we did not properly disclose a "significant financial relationship" with ABMS Solutions, LLC in connection with our "Letter to the Editor."

Dr. Fisher's assertion is incorrect. The operations, activities and finances of ABMS Solutions, LLC and the other subsidiaries of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) are consolidated for accounting purposes with those of ABMS. Likewise, the operations, activities and finances of ABMS, ABMS Solutions, LLC and all other subsidiaries of ABMS are consolidated for tax purposes and publicly reported on a combined basis on the IRS Form 990 for ABMS. The references in our disclosures to ABMS refer to the consolidated entity, as publicly reported, and as such our disclosures were full and complete.

We trust that this addresses any concerns you and the editorial staff may have. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois Margaret Nora".

Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, MBA  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Board of Medical Specialties

cc: Thomas Norris, MD