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Department Of Health  
Therapeutic Goods Administration

To whom it may concern,

RE: TGA Regulation of Autologous Stem Cell Therapies

I am a patient at the Melbourne Stem Cell Centre and am currently receiving treatment of my hip osteoarthritis. Please consider my thoughts in the TGA Consultation regarding the regulation of autologous stem cell therapies.

I sought advice on management of my hip as my only alternative was to consider a total hip replacement. As I run my own business and am also young I was concerned both by the effect this surgery would have on my work but also my lifestyle.

Dr Julien Freitag - a clinician within the Melbourne Stem Cell Centre - discussed with me a clear conservative management program for my hip. We discussed the current levels of understanding of stem cell therapy, the evidence of safety and what would be the expected outcome of any treatment. I understood that as most research had been conducted on knee osteoarthritis that we could not directly expect the same results when treating the hip.

Given that I did not want to consider the alternative of joint replacement and hope to at least delay the need for this until I am older I have embarked upon a course of autologous stem cells therapy.

I am very happy with the level of professionalism within the Melbourne Stem Cell Centre and the measures they take to ensure safe and appropriate levels of care of their patients. I remain very positive regarding my long term outcome and hope that such treatment will become more universally available to people suffering from significant pain due to their arthritis.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sarrou