

April 2, 2010

PRIORITY MAIL  
DELIVERY CONFIRMATION

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg  
University of Pittsburgh  
CL 107  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Chancellor Nordenberg:

I seek your assistance in getting a response from the University of Pittsburgh to the media query contained in my recent emails to various people there. Printouts of the emails are attached for your reference.

To date, the only response has come from Dr. Barbara Barnes, who emailed me that I would have to take up the matter with the media relations office. However, I have had no reply to email and voicemail messages directed to both the Medical Center and general University media relations offices. Most recently, I left a phone message earlier today for Mr. Hill.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing back.

Sincerely,  
Irvin Muchnick

Fw: Media inquiry

Thursday, April 1, 2010 10:08 AM

From: Irvin Muchnick

To: Robert Gene Hill

Mr. Hill:

Please let me know if you can help in getting a response from the University to the questions below. Thank you.

Irvin Muchnick

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From: Irvin Muchnick

Subject: Fw: Media inquiry

To: Madelyn A. Ross

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 12:07 PM

Ms. Ross:

I've received no response to the message below. Please let me know if you can help.

Pertinent posts on my blog include:

Umaga Autopsy Turns Focus to Linda McMahon's WWE Cardio Program and Docs

WWE's Docs Governed by 'Private' Pitt Med Center Ethics Policy

Thanks for your attention to this.

Irvin Muchnick

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From: Irvin Muchnick

Subject: Media inquiry

To: Ed Patru, Robert Zimmerman, Joseph C. Maroon, Bryan C. Donohue, Barbara E. Barnes

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 8:28 AM

TO:

Ed Patru / Linda McMahon for Senate campaign, media relations

Robert Zimmerman / World Wrestling Entertainment, media relations

Bryan C. Donohue, M.D.

Joseph C. Maroon, M.D.

Barbara E. Barnes, M.D. / University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Vice President of Continuing Medical Education, Contracts and Grants and Intellectual Property

Frank Raczkiewicz / University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center, media relations (sent via website contact  
form)

I am about to post to my blog a report headlined, "Umaga Autopsy Turns Focus to Linda McMahon's WWE Cardio Program and Docs." The post -- to which I invite all of your comments (see my contact information below) -- includes the following points:

\* The autopsy report on wrestler Eddie "Umaga" Fatu -- a WWE performer until six months before his December 2009 death from a heart attack caused by prescription drug toxicity -- showed that he had an enlarged heart. This raises questions about the cardiovascular screening under the WWE Wellness Policy. Dr. Maroon is WWE's medical director. Dr. Donohue is the consulting cardiologist.

\* Dr. Maroon, Dr. Donohue, and a third member of the WWE medical team, Dr. Vijay Bahl, have UPMC practices. This raises questions about the UPMC ethics policy that took effect in February 2008.

\* The UPMC ethics policy seems primarily aimed at the issue of pharmaceutical companies' inducements to doctors, which can compromise patient care. However, there are also general conflict-of-interest issues, as well as specific ones involving physicians' relationships with the non-regulated supplement industry. Dr. Donohue is a co-founder of a supplement company, which he aggressively promotes in media appearances. Dr. Maroon has written a book touting the same supplement and is cited prominently on its website.

\* Dr. Maroon's professional associations in pro football -- as a doctor for the Pittsburgh Steelers and as a member of the National Football League's concussion policy committee -- are also noted. I point out the case of

Richard Rydze, yet another UPMC physician who was dropped by the Steelers after he was found to have purchased huge quantities of growth hormone from the Internet gray-market dealer Signature Pharmacy. I also review my previously published reports that Dr. Maroon's NFL concussion work has been criticized as too passive, and that he and WWE last year gave ESPN misleading information about his access to the postmortem brain studies of WWE performer Chris Benoit, who committed double murder/suicide in 2007.

Irvin Muchnick

CHRIS & NANCY: The True Story  
of the Benoit Murder-Suicide  
and Pro Wrestling's Cocktail of Death  
<http://muchnick.net>

BLOG: <http://muchnick.net/babylon>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/irvmuch>

YOUTUBE: <http://youtube.com/WrestlingBabylon>

[freelancerights.blogspot.com](http://freelancerights.blogspot.com)