**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Office of the Secretary

Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology
Washington, D.C. 20201

March 26, 2013

Paula Santrach, M.D.
214 14th St NE
Rochester, MN 55906

Dear Dr. Santrach:

Thank you for the four-part recommendation transmitted on behalf of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC). As the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, the Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter on her behalf. These recommendations identify thoughtful and important next steps as we move toward a more health IT-enabled health care system.

I understand that Jacob Reider MD, Chief Medical Officer from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), reviewed these recommendations and contacted you to discuss them in greater detail. In that conversation you identified a number of areas where coordination and focus is necessary to improve laboratory information system performance and usability, as well as how electronic health records could be used to improve clinical care delivery.

We will continue working closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Division of Laboratory Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Laboratory Health Information Technology team to collaborate on the issues you identified. ONC will also try to make sure CLIAC is more closely informed of progress and activities in areas that are central to your interests.

Again, thank you for your recommendations and attention to these important matters.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Special Assistant, Joshua Brammer at Joshua.Brammer@hhs.gov, if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Farzad Mostashari, MD, ScM