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Sent by email

Dear Sirs

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SUBJECT: Safeguards for Health Domains

On behalf of the Swedish Federation of Medical Informatics I am writing to call your attention to the critical need to ensure appropriate safeguards for the health-related Internet domain names.

The Swedish Federation of Medical Informatics is a part of the Swedish Society of Medical Sciences that is devoted to multiprofessional development of IT in Health Sciences and its applications.

Health information, data, products and services have an important and unique status on the Internet. It is imperative that operators of health domains manage them for and in the public interest. In the context of allocation of the new Internet domain names, the governmental advisory group to the ICANN has proposed a set of generic safeguards for health-related names and stressed that they "may require further targeted safeguards". The safeguards are inadequate for health and do need significant revision. Strengthening them will not only address the concerns of the community, but will also enable providers and businesses to flourish in a safe and assured environment.

You have seen the many concerns expressed by the health community on .health alone, one of the most contested names, in the form of GAC advice, public comments, community objections, and objections submitted by ICANN's independent objector. The concerns raised so far have not been sufficiently addressed, yet the applications are proceeding.

We therefore call on the ICANN Board to delay the allocation of .health and other health-related names until adequate safeguards, and baseline conditions for their implementation, are in place. Towards that end, it is essential that ICANN relies on the health community to lead the process to produce a new set of safeguards for health, to be discussed with the ICANN Board at the London ICANN meeting in June, 2014.

Sincerely yours

Urban Forsum MD, PhD

Chairman the Swedish Federation of Medical Informatics

Professor emeritus