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Dr Louise MC Cloutier  
President of the Management Board  
Canadian Medical Association

Verona, March 22, 2006

Dear Ms Cloutier,

The International Society of Drug Bulletins (ISDB) has been promoting independent and impartial information on medicines since nearly 20 years. The Society has more than 50 full members in 33 countries around the globe. ISDB is deeply concerned about the dispute between the CMA and the CMAJ editorial board. Especially after the attempts to consolidate the Journal's editorial freedom over the years (see editorial of the 3 January 2006 CMAJ issue) we are irritated by the subsequent dismissal of the CMAJ editorial board.

CMA should restore its reputation:

- by reinstating John Hoey and Anne-Marie Todkill,
- by signing the commitment proposed by the CMAJ editorial board: *"The CMA will protect the editorial freedom and independence of the CMAJ and is committed to continually striving to maintain CMAJ's excellence in the science and art of medicine and its mission to uphold the ideals of the medical profession and to promote the health and well-being of the public."*

Thanks to the efforts of the current editorial staff, CMAJ is now an internationally recognized source of scientific information, and is highly respected by ISDB members. The CMAJ will lose this excellent reputation unless the international scientific community is convinced that the editorial policy is entirely free, even from special interests within CMA itself.

We therefore politely but firmly ask you reinstate John Hoey and Anne-Marie Todkill, and that you subsequently guarantee the editorial freedom of CMAJ.

Sincerely yours,

Maria Font

ISDB Chair  
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