June 18, 2009

Ms. Mary K. Engle Associate Director Advertising Practices Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580

Dear Ms. Engle,

We are writing to express our support for the Center for Science in the Public Interest's complaint that Bayer Healthcare is making misleading claims in its ads and on its Web site about the role of selenium in preventing prostate cancer.

The seven-year Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial (SELECT) produced strong evidence last October that selenium <u>does not</u> prevent prostate cancer in a generally healthy, heterogeneous population of men in the United States and Canada. This Federally-financed study was the largest individually randomized cancer prevention trial ever conducted, and, given its high rates of adherence and its statistical power, it is unlikely to have missed detecting a benefit of even a very modest size.

Bayer Healthcare is doing a disservice to men by misleading them about a protective role for selenium in prostate cancer. We ask that you take whatever steps are necessary to halt these ads as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Gann, MD, ScD Director of the Division of Pathology Research University of Illinois at Chicago

Michael J. Thun, MD, MS Vice President Emeritus Epidemiology and Surveillance Research American Cancer Society

Edward Giovannucci, MD, ScD Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology Harvard School of Public Health

Tim Byers, MD, MPH Program Leader for Clinical Cancer Prevention and Control University of Colorado Cancer Center.

Lawrence H. Kushi, Sc.D. Associate Director for Etiology & Prevention Research Kaiser Permanente Oakland, CA

Laurence N. Kolonel, M.D., Ph.D. Deputy Director Cancer Research Center of Hawaii University of Hawaii

Maarten C. Bosland, DVSc, PhD Professor of Pathology University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine

Alan R. Kristal, Dr. PH Public Health Sciences Division Cancer Prevention Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

William G. Nelson, M.D., Ph.D. Professor of Oncology, Medicine, Pathology, Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences, Urology Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

Note: Those signing the letter are doing so personally and not as representatives of their institutions. The signers' affiliations are provided for information purposes only.