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The Honorable Ron DeSantis Governor of Florida Governor's Office 400 S Monroe Street FL 32399 Tallahassee USA Prof. Dr. med. Frederik A. Verburg Zentrum für Tumor- und Immunbiologie (ZTI) Core Facility Molecular Imaging

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Marburg, April 5, 2019

Dear Governor DeSantis,

I wish to congratulate you on your selection of Dr. Scott Rivkees as Surgeon General for your great state.

Dr. Rivkees and I have worked together for the past decade and he has played an important role in mentoring several of my students who have found the experience with him transformative for their careers. The experience of working in Dr. Rivkees' laboratories at either Yale University or subsequently the University of Florida has provided them with invaluable experience on the practice of research and science as well as with an unparalleled experience in personal attention beyond the mere laboratory work where Dr. Rivkees has personally endeavored to make their stay in the USA a memorable one by organizing educational activities well beyond what might be expected regularly. The work done by these students was subsequently presented at high-ranking conferences in the field of pediatrics; one of my students, ms. Strobl, was awarded the Student's Research award of the Society for Pediatric Research at the 2014 annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies. For another one of my students, ms. Weyers, the experience of working in a high-class laboratory has motivated her to pursue an academic career; she is now a resident of radiology at the University of Essen, a highly regarded institution in the German academic community.

Dr. Rivkees is a physician who is held in high esteem in the field of pediatric endocrinology by patients and physicians alike. He has written a number of authoritative papers, some of which I was honoured to work on with him. He is held in high regard both in the USA and internationally and is consulted regularly by colleagues from around the world.

Therefore I can unhesitantly support Dr. Rivkees for this important position and remain at your disposal for further enquiries,

yours sincerely,

Frederik A. Verburg, MD PhD

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