

**OPENING COMMENTS OF ROBERT L. PARKINSON  
APRIL 29, 2008**

**Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Bob Parkinson, and I am the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Baxter International. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to speak with you on the crucial topic of medical product safety.**

Baxter has built its reputation over 75 years by consistently producing quality products for critically ill patients and patients with life threatening diseases. We're alarmed that one of our products was used, in what appears to have been a deliberate scheme, to adulterate a life-saving medication, and that people have suffered as a result. We deeply regret that this has happened, and I feel a strong sense of personal responsibility for these circumstances.

I feel this responsibility because of who we are and what we do as a company. Each day, over 6 million infusions of Baxter products are administered to patients all around the world with life-threatening diseases and conditions. We are not a traditional pharmaceutical company -- we don't make pills or tablets, we don't do direct-to-consumer advertising, we don't make lifestyle drugs -- we develop and manufacture products that are injected or infused or inhaled by patients who need them to stay alive.

Because our products are used in critical care environments, they have to be safe and effective *every time*, and this time they were not. No matter what the reason, this is *my* responsibility, because Baxter's name was on the product. My heart goes out to every patient and family member who may have been harmed by Baxter heparin.

Members of the Committee, we all share the same objective: to ensure patient safety. This presents an increasing challenge since, as the events of recent weeks demonstrate, we live in a world in which, every day, new risks are emerging. I would refer the Committee to our written submission, which discusses the development of this situation, including what we at Baxter might have done differently, what we are doing going forward, and what we advocate for the industry and the global regulatory community.

What the developments of the last several weeks have taught us is that this is both a global and industry wide crisis, and therefore one that calls for global and industry-wide responses. Baxter played a leading role in finding and understanding this problem, and in developing the test methods to detect it, and I commit to you that we will play a leading role in working with this committee, with regulators

– here and abroad – and with industry organizations to address this and other emerging risks for the long term.

Since coming to Baxter four years ago, I have been moved and inspired by the special sense of purpose with which Baxter employees come to work every day, because of our company's mission to sustain and saves lives. Anything that threatens that purpose cannot be tolerated. We welcome the opportunity to be part of this important discussion. Thank you.