

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 3, 2009

Reply to AltN of:

OLIA
OLA/2009-00049:TB:eel

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of Mr. David Marcarian, regarding an article published in the NASA 2007 *Spinoff* publication referencing the Chiropractic Leadership Alliance (CLA) and their Insight Subluxation Station.

The NASA *Spinoff* is published annually to highlight the implementation of NASA-developed technologies and “know-how” in commercial products. For more than 40 years, the Agency has nurtured partnerships with the private sector to facilitate the transfer of NASA-developed technology to the private sector. Since 1976, NASA has profiled more than 1,600 of the most compelling of these technologies in its *Spinoff* publication, annually highlighting the best and brightest of partnerships and innovations.

Before *Spinoff* articles are published, NASA conducts a vetting process to validate the partnership between the company and the NASA Center that conducted the core research. The Agency also makes every effort to ensure that our validation process for *Spinoff* is fair and sound, and we rarely encounter an inaccurate claim.

In response to Mr. Marcarian’s inquiry, the NASA Office of General Counsel (OGC) conducted a thorough evaluation of the claims by the CLA of a partnership connection between Agency research and their Insight Subluxation Station. NASA has been unable to adequately corroborate those claims, and, as a result, will no longer recognize the Insight Subluxation Station as a *Spinoff*. In light of this, NASA has taken immediate measures to post an errata on the Spinoff website and strengthen the validation process conducted by the Agency Centers to validate claims of Spinoff technologies. In addition, the NASA Office of Inspector General (OIG) is in the process of reviewing this matter and identifying the actions, if any, the OIG should take.

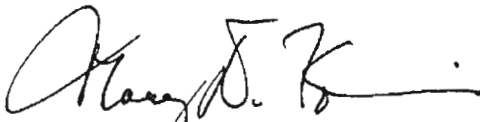
As stated in the Spinoff publication, “Spinoff developments highlighted in this publication are based on information provided by individual and private industry users of NASA-originated aerospace technology who acknowledge that such technology contributed wholly or in part to

development of the product or process described. NASA cannot accept responsibility or liability for the misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the enclosed information provided by these third party users. Publication herein does not constitute NASA endorsement of the product or process, nor confirmation of manufacturers' performance claims related to any particular spinoff development."

To our knowledge, this is the first known instance in the history of the NASA *Spinoff*, with over 1,600 documented spinoffs, in which this unfortunate situation has occurred. The CLA spinoff was vetted before publication of NASA Spinoff, highlighting the need for increased diligence by NASA in the Spinoff vetting and validation process.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust this information will enable you to adequately respond to your constituent's inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary D. Kerwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mary D. Kerwin
Assistant Administrator
for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (Acting)