



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary  
Office of Public Health and Science

Office of Minority Health  
Washington, D.C. 20201

NOV 25 2009

Ms. Iszbel Arocha  
International Medical Interpreters Association  
800 Washington St.  
Box 271  
Boston, MA 02111-1845

Dear Ms. Arocha:

Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health, asked me to thank you for your kind words regarding his recent appointment and to acknowledge your work in the launching of the first National Certification for Medical Interpreters program.

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) also congratulates you and the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) in achieving this milestone. At OMH, we recognize the importance in promoting the delivery of competent interpretation services to language minority populations. Additionally, OMH's experience in promoting the delivery of cultural competent healthcare reveals the need for a national interpreter's certification program. The National Certification for Medical Interpreters that IMIA is promoting would certainly be the first step in filling a service gap not only for the healthcare industry but for language minority patients as well.

OMH wishes you much success as you pursue next phases of the certification process for your program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Garth N. Graham".

Garth N. Graham, M.D., M.P.H.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Minority Health