ROBERT MARGULIES
MARGULIES MEDICAL ART

July 23, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
Washington, DC 20559-6000

Dear Ms. Pallante:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed copyright legislation currently under consideration. As a professional medical artist, I have been creating scientific artwork for more than 30 years. Copyright ownership has been an essential part of my business since it provides a secondary source of income to support my livelihood. Copyright protects my artwork against any unauthorized use or resale to a third party.

The most significant challenge in the marketplace has been negotiating for copyright ownership and reuse licensing fees. Publishers and large companies have been eager to acquire copyright for my images through contracts or purchase agreements. Contracts might also include "work-for-hire" clauses that are intended to acquire all rights to an image without any credit for the artist. This type of agreement is unacceptable.

In addition to providing an income, copyright ownership protects the accuracy of my scientific images. My professional reputation and competitive edge depends on the content and artistic quality of my work. Unrestricted manipulation of my work could alter the content of an image and diminish its value for instructional purposes.

As a sole proprietor, I am very concerned about the costly and time-consuming burden of registering images for copyright protection. Most of my work was created under existing copyright laws using a signature and copyright notice. Currently, it is impossible to register all of my images through the Copyright Office because of the existing requirements.

In summary, I believe any new copyright law must guarantee secondary rights (royalties) for the artist and protection from unauthorized use. I hope legislators can move beyond the failed Orphan Works Act and draft a new bill that protects the artist's copyright.

Sincerely,

Robert Margulies, M.S.