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Eli Lilly and Company
Lilly Corporate Center
Indianapolis, Indiana 46285
U.S.A.

Phone 317 276 2000

April 14, 2011

VIA EDGAR

Ms. Staci Shannon
Staff Accountant
Division of Corporation Finance
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: Eli Lilly and Company
File Number 001-06351

Dear Ms. Shannon:

Confirming our conversation on April 13, 2011, we are in receipt of your letter of the same date. We will provide you with our response by May 11, 2011 due to competing priorities.

If that is not acceptable timing, please let me know as soon as possible so I can adjust the timing.

I can be reached at 317-276-2024.

Sincerely,

ELI LILLY AND COMPANY

/s/Arnold C. Hanish
Arnold C. Hanish
Vice President, Finance and
Chief Accounting Officer