

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail
Mail Stop 4720

March 15, 2010

J. David Boyle II
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
AVI BioPharma, Inc.
3450 Monte Villa Parkway, Suite 101
Bothel, Washington 98021

**Re: AVI BioPharma, Inc.
Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008
Schedule 14A filed April 14, 2009
File Number: 001-14895**

Dear Mr. Boyle II:

We have reviewed your letter dated March 10, 2010 and have the following comment. We have limited our review of your filings to those issues we have addressed in our comment. In our comment, we ask you to provide us with information to better understand your disclosures. Where a comment requests you to revise disclosure, the information you provide should show us what the revised disclosure will look like and identify the annual or quarterly filing, as applicable, in which you intend to first include it. If you do not believe that revised disclosure is necessary, explain the reason in your response. After reviewing the information provided, we may raise additional comments and/or request that you amend your filings.

Please understand that the purpose of our review process is to assist you in your compliance with the applicable disclosure requirements and to enhance the overall disclosure in your filings. We look forward to working with you in these respects. We welcome any questions you may have about our comment or on any other aspect of our review. Feel free to call us at the telephone numbers listed at the end of this letter.

Schedule 14A filed April 14, 2009

Executive Compensation
Compensation Discussion and Analysis
Performance Factors in 2008, page 12

1. Please revise your proposed disclosure to expand the description of the following goals in order to provide more clarity as to the nature of the goals/ accomplishments:

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- “[c]omplete certain key business development partnerships;”
- “[a]dditional significant value adding accomplishments;”
- “[r]estructure certain elements of the Company’s agreement with a key business partner;” and
- “[a]chieve certain goals with respect to clinical development ... and completing certain drug trials.”

* * * *

Please provide us the information requested within 10 business days or tell us when you will provide us with a response. Please furnish a cover letter with your response that keys your response to our comments. Detailed cover letters greatly facilitate our review. Please furnish your letter on EDGAR under the form type label CORRESP.

Please contact Sebastian Gomez Abero at (202) 551-3578 or me at (202) 551-3715 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Riedler
Assistant Director