

PsychRights®

Law Project for
Psychiatric Rights, Inc.

December 27, 2006

Robert A. Armitage
General Counsel
Eli Lilly and Company
Lilly Corporate Center
Indianapolis, IN 46285
FAX: 317 433-3000

Re: Zyprexa

Dear Mr. Armitage:

Even though I did not have a chance to review the documents in any detail before I had to return them, according to Alex Berenson of the New York Times, they reveal that:

Lilly's own marketing research found that psychiatrists were consistently saying that many more of their patients developed high blood sugar or diabetes while taking Zyprexa than other antipsychotic drugs.

In 2003, Grace E. Jackson, MD, reviewed *Freedom of Information Act* documents pertaining to FDA's approval of Zyprexa, and provided written and oral testimony in the *Myers* case¹ about statistical manipulation used by Eli Lilly in obtaining approval.² As a result of her testimony and that of former National Institute of Mental Health Chief of Schizophrenia Research, the late Loren Mosher, MD, and after consideration of the testimony of the hospital's experts, the trial court found that there is viable debate as to whether or not the administration of these drugs should be the standard of care for schizophrenia.³ On appeal,⁴ the Alaska Supreme Court adopted this language in finding Alaska's statutory forced drugging scheme unconstitutional for failing to require, firstly, that a court find forced drugging in the patient's best interests, and secondly, that there are no less restrictive alternatives available: "[A] valid debate exists in the medical/psychiatric community as to the safety and effectiveness of the proposed treatment plan."

It is now clear that Zyprexa has no benefits over other neuroleptics, while causing far more cases of diabetes than do other drugs in its class. This represents a massive health disaster,

¹ *In the Matter of the Hospitalization of Faith J. Myers*, 3AN-03-277 PR (Alaska 2003)

² Dr. Jackson's written testimony is available on the Internet at <http://psychrights.org/States/Alaska/CaseOne/30-Day/ExhibitD-Olanzapine.htm>, her oral testimony at <http://psychrights.org/States/Alaska/CaseOne/30-Day/3-5and10-03transcript.txt> and the FOIA documents at <http://psychrights.org/States/Alaska/CaseOne/30-Day/ExhC-FDAonOlanzapineSave.pdf>.

³ This decision is available on the Internet at <http://psychrights.org/States/Alaska/CaseOne/30-Day/Order.pdf>

⁴ *Myers v. Alaska Psychiatric Institute*, 138 P.3d 238, 240 (Alaska 2006)

including at least thousands of past and inevitable future deaths.⁵ Therefore, by this letter, it is formally requested that your client, Eli Lilly, issue what is sometimes referred to as a "Dear doctor" letter to all health care providers in the United States advising them Zyprexa should not be prescribed to anyone who is not already taking it.

The reason why prescriptions should not be withheld from current users of Zyprexa is that Zyprexa, like all neuroleptics,⁶ cause changes in the brain such that abrupt withdrawal often causes Neuroleptic Induced Discontinuation Syndrome (NIDS).⁷ This is well established, but rarely told to patients, family members, or, of most relevance to PsychRights' strategic litigation campaign against forced psychiatric drugging, the courts, when considering whether to authorize the forcible administration of these drugs to people who do not want to take them.

Your prompt attention to this matter is essential.

Sincerely,

James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.

cc: Andrew C. von Eschenbach, MD, Acting Commissioner
Senator Charles E. Grassley
Representative Henry A. Waxman

⁵ Zyprexa causes immediate or early death in more ways than just diabetes. *See*, the peer reviewed, published studies assembled at <http://psychrights.org/Research/Digest/NLPs/neuroleptics.htm> and <http://psychrights.org/Research/Digest/Chronicity/NeurolepticResearch.htm>

⁶ Such as Thorazine, Haldol, Mellaril, Stelazine, Clozapine, Seroquel, Risperdal and, of course, Zyprexa.

⁷ *See*, the peer reviewed, published studies assembled at <http://psychrights.org/Research/Digest/NLPs/neuroleptics.htm> and <http://psychrights.org/Research/Digest/Chronicity/NeurolepticResearch.htm>