

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

3 WENDY B. DOLIN, Individually  
4 and as Independent Executor  
of the Estate of STEWART  
DOLIN, Deceased,

5  
6 Plaintiff,

7 -vs-

Case No. 12 CV 6403

8 SMITHKLINE BEECHAM  
CORPORATION, d/b/a  
9 GLAXOSMITHKLINE, a  
Pennsylvania corporation,

10 Defendant.

Chicago, Illinois  
March 22, 2017  
1:30 p.m.

11 VOLUME 6-B  
12 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - Trial  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE WILLIAM T. HART, and a Jury

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1 (Proceedings heard in open court, jury not present:)

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8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13 (Jury enters courtroom.)

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much, ladies  
15 and gentlemen. Please be seated, and we will proceed.

16 You may proceed, sir.

17 MR. BAYMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

18 DAVID ROSS, PLAINTIFF'S WITNESS, PREVIOUSLY SWORN.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. BAYMAN:

21 Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Ross.

22 A. Good afternoon.

23 Q. I just want to establish something at the outset. While  
24 you've worked for the FDA in the past, you're not speaking  
25 here today on behalf of the FDA, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And you don't have authority to speak on behalf of the  
3 FDA, correct?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So, that's correct, you do not?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And while you work currently at the U.S. Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs, you're not speaking today on behalf of the  
9 V.A., are you?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Or on behalf of the U.S. government at all, are you?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Now, when you worked at the FDA, you worked in the group  
14 responsible for anti-infective drugs, is that right?

15 A. That was one of the groups that I worked in.

16 Q. And that -- there's a separate group at the FDA, though,  
17 isn't there, called the neuropharmacology division?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you never worked in the neuropharmacology division,  
20 correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And that neuropharmacology division is the group  
23 responsible for the review and analysis of psychiatric  
24 medications like Paxil, correct?

25 A. The review and analysis of clinical trials on drugs such

1 as Paxil.

2 Q. And also for reviewing and approving NDAs, New Drug  
3 Applications, for drugs such as Paxil, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And even though you never worked in that division, you  
6 also never received any assignments from the neuropharmacology  
7 division while you were at FDA, correct?

8 A. Not that I can recall.

9 Q. And while you were at FDA, you never reviewed any safety  
10 data for any SSRI or any psychiatric medication, correct?

11 A. Not that I can recall.

12 Q. You did not work at the FDA, in fact, on any issue  
13 concerning an SSRI or a psychiatric medication and  
14 suicidality, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 THE COURT: Doctor, move that microphone closer to  
17 you.

18 THE WITNESS: Sorry, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: There's another one there on the stand.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

21 BY MR. BAYMAN:

22 Q. For instance, while at the FDA, you never analyzed any  
23 data with respect to any SSRI or psychiatric medication to  
24 assess whether they increased the risk of suicidality,  
25 correct?

1 A. That specific issue, no.

2 Q. And during your time at the FDA, you never worked on the  
3 labeling for any SSRI or antidepressant, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. You were familiar with something that the FDA calls an  
6 advisory committee, correct?

7 A. Yes. If I may, I apologize. I need to clarify my answer  
8 to your previous question. For at least one of the products  
9 that I worked on during the time that I was in  
10 anti-infectives, there may have been work that involved  
11 simultaneous labeling considerations for an antidepressant.

12 Q. But that wasn't an SSRI, correct?

13 A. You know, I'd actually have to look at that label for that  
14 product to be sure, so I don't know.

15 Q. Do you have your deposition with you, Doctor?

16 A. I'm not sure if it's in this binder.

17 Q. What is that binder?

18 A. This is the exhibits for direct examination.

19 Q. Let me hand you your deposition.

20 A. Thank you, sir.

21 MR. BAYMAN: Your Honor, may I approach?

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. BAYMAN: That's his deposition.

24 BY MR. BAYMAN:

25 Q. Dr. Ross, turn, if you would, to your deposition, which

1 was taken April 5 -- April 2nd, 2015, to page 77, lines 1  
2 to 4.

3 MR. WISNER: Objection, your Honor. If I could get a  
4 copy of whatever he's showing the witness.

5 MR. BAYMAN: It's his deposition. I'm happy to give  
6 you one.

7 MR. WISNER: Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Page?

9 MR. BAYMAN: 77, line 1 to 4.

10 BY THE WITNESS:

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 BY MR. BAYMAN:

13 Q. The question was, "While you were at FDA, you never worked  
14 on the labeling for any SSRI or any psychiatric medication, is  
15 that true?"

16 And your answer was, "That is true."

17 Did I read that correctly?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR. WISNER: Objection. Move to strike as improper  
20 impeachment. He testified that he may have worked on labeling  
21 in the anti-infective area that there was overlap. This is  
22 just reading testimony in from the transcript.

23 THE COURT: All right. Let's proceed.

24 BY MR. BAYMAN:

25 Q. You talked on direct a little bit with Mr. Wisner about an

1 FDA advisory committee. Do you recall that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And FDA often consults advisory committees for independent  
4 expert advice on scientific matters, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And advisory committees are composed of, at least in the  
7 FDA's view, authorities in the field?

8 A. Can you clarify -- when you say authorities in the field,  
9 I just want to make sure I understand what field you're  
10 talking about.

11 Q. Well, whatever field the particular advisory committees  
12 impanel. Let's say, for example, psychiatric medications.  
13 The FDA considers those people on the advisory committees to  
14 be experts in that field, correct?

15 A. Well, because there are by -- I don't know if it's  
16 regulation or law on FDA advisory committees, individuals such  
17 as consumer or patient representatives, I want to make sure I  
18 understand what you mean by expert. They may not be clinical  
19 expert, but they bring the different perspective to that.

20 So, I think it would be fair to say that the members  
21 of an advisory committee are consulted by FDA to provide input  
22 based on their perspective and experience.

23 Q. Fair enough. There are -- there may be consumer  
24 representatives, but there also may be medical doctors, too,  
25 correct, on the advisory committee?

1 A. And there's, I think, almost without exception a  
2 statistical consultant on the committee.

3 Q. You anticipated my next question. In any event, FDA  
4 invites experts outside of FDA to participate in advisory  
5 committees, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you've never served on an FDA advisory committee that  
8 assessed whether an SSRI or psychiatric medication was safe  
9 and effective, correct?

10 A. Correct. Excuse me.

11 Q. You have never served on an FDA advisory committee that  
12 assessed whether an SSRI or any psychiatric medication  
13 increased the risk or was associated with suicidality,  
14 correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And while you were at FDA, you certainly had no  
17 responsibility for reviewing any data concerning Paxil,  
18 correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And you never had any responsibility for reviewing Paxil's  
21 labeling, correct -- while you were at FDA, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And you never had responsibility at FDA for reviewing any  
24 post-marketing data on Paxil, correct?

25 A. Let me qualify my answer, because again, I want to try to

1 make sure I'm giving you clear answers. You know, for  
2 example, you had previously said that I -- you know, during  
3 the deposition, I said I did -- I'm going to answer your  
4 question -- that I worked on the labeling. At the time of the  
5 deposition, my interpretation was you meant directly on the  
6 labeling, and that is correct.

7           It occurred to me, and this is probably because of  
8 the example I used earlier, that there was labeling that I  
9 worked on for anti-infectives that had implications for  
10 antidepressant labeling.

11           But to answer your question, while there may have  
12 been adverse event reports involving patients who were  
13 receiving Paxil along with other drugs, I was not responsible  
14 primarily for assessment of those reports with respect to  
15 Paxil.

16 Q. Thank you. Now, as I understand, you left the FDA in 2006  
17 and began practicing at the Veterans Administration or V.A.,  
18 is that right?

19 A. Well, actually, no. I had already been on staff  
20 practicing at the Washington, D.C., V.A. from 1998 onwards.  
21 In 2006 -- and I continued that activity while I was at the  
22 FDA up through the present day.

23           In 2006, I left the FDA to assume the -- direct the  
24 V.A.'s HIV, hepatitis C, and what's now called related  
25 conditions program.

1 Q. So, the V.A. became your employer in 2006?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And your role at the V.A. is that of a general practice  
4 doctor, is that right?

5 A. I'm sorry. I'm not trying to be difficult, but when you  
6 say general practice, tell me what you mean.

7 Q. You're an internist, correct?

8 A. Among other things, yes.

9 Q. Okay. And you have a specialty in infectious disease,  
10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. But you treat patients at the V.A., correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And adult patients, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you testified yesterday that in your practice, you do  
17 not prescribe SSRIs, including Paxil, correct?

18 A. Let me clarify that in the sense that other providers,  
19 particularly in mental health, may initiate therapy with an  
20 SSRI, and I may order a new prescription or refill for a  
21 patient. And in doing so, even though it's another physician  
22 who initiated it, I take the legal and ethical responsibility  
23 for renewing it.

24 So, maybe that's -- I'm just trying to clarify that  
25 point, that I've not initiated treatment of patients with

1 Paxil.

2 Q. You've not written the first prescription for Paxil for a  
3 patient, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And when you talked about medicines that you prescribed  
6 yesterday, you were talking about antidepressant medications  
7 that are in a different class than Paxil, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Those would be benzodiazepines, is that right?

10 A. Well, benzodiazepines are generally not antidepressants.

11 Q. Okay. But you prescribe benzodiazepines, correct?

12 A. If they are clinically indicated, yes.

13 Q. Okay. Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think you  
14 testified yesterday that you don't prescribe Paxil or other  
15 SSRIs because you believe they cause people who take the  
16 medication to commit suicide in some cases, correct?

17 A. No, that is not what I said.

18 Q. Okay. I believe you said based on the information you  
19 learned in this case, you don't prescribe Paxil to patients,  
20 didn't you?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Okay. But when you see a patient who's taking Paxil  
23 prescribed by another doctor, you have a conversation with  
24 that patient about your opinion regarding the relationship  
25 between Paxil and suicide, correct?

1 A. To be honest with you, I cannot recall the last time I saw  
2 a patient of mine who was on Paxil.

3 Q. What about other SSRIs?

4 A. If there are other SSRIs that they're on, as a matter of  
5 course, I do what's called a medication reconciliation, which  
6 means that I go through their medications, and I say, "Are you  
7 taking this? Are you taking this?"

8 One of the challenges in my patient population is I  
9 frequently will have patients who are on literally 25  
10 different medications. And one thing I'm always looking to do  
11 is say, "Is this medication really needed, or is it the right  
12 medication?"

13 So, I do go through them, and that's part of -- as  
14 part of that, I'm also assessing what is going on with the  
15 patient, including things such as depressive symptoms and the  
16 like.

17 Q. I think you said this morning that your healthcare  
18 organization manages patients and informs them about the risk  
19 of suicide, correct?

20 MR. WISNER: Objection. Vague.

21 THE COURT: Overruled. You can answer it if you can.

22 BY THE WITNESS:

23 A. When you say the risk of suicide, in what context?

24 BY MR. BAYMAN:

25 Q. Well, I think -- again, correct me if I'm wrong, but my

1 notes show you testified that suicide is an enormous problem  
2 with veterans, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And that you work with a high-risk population, I think was  
5 the word you used this morning?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You know, though, don't you, that other doctors at the  
8 V.A. prescribe Paxil and other SSRIs to veterans, correct?

9 MR. WISNER: Objection, your Honor. You stopped me  
10 from going down this inquiry about his work with V.A. and  
11 SSRIs, and now he's doing it. So, he objected. I think it  
12 should cut both ways.

13 MR. BAYMAN: He talked this morning about how he  
14 counsels veterans who he sees about the risk of --

15 THE COURT: Well, very limited, and I'll allow very  
16 limited cross. It was very limited.

17 BY MR. BAYMAN:

18 Q. Okay. You know that other doctors at the V.A. prescribe  
19 Paxil and other SSRIs to veterans, correct?

20 A. I believe it's available to them. I actually would have  
21 no idea of how often it's used compared -- or how infrequently  
22 it's used compared to other drugs.

23 Q. You know that the V.A.'s formulary permits physicians to  
24 prescribe generic paroxetine, correct?

25 MR. WISNER: Your Honor, we're going into formularies

1 now? Objection. This is irrelevant.

2 THE COURT: Sustained. I think we ought to stay on  
3 track, sir.

4 BY MR. BAYMAN:

5 Q. You're familiar with the -- well, you were with the  
6 Veterans Administration in 2010, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Excuse me. If I could, I apologize, your Honor.  
9 It's actually Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans  
10 Administration was the name about probably 20, 30 years ago.  
11 So, just in the interest of clarity.

12 Q. Okay. Why don't we just say V.A. Would that --

13 A. That would be even better.

14 Q. And then given your expertise in treating patients and in  
15 counseling them on the risk of suicide, you know that the  
16 deputy chief officer at the V.A. has testified that  
17 antidepressants lower the risk --

18 MR. WISNER: Objection. Move to strike. This is  
19 hearsay and irrelevant.

20 THE COURT: Well --

21 MR. WISNER: He's about to quote someone who's not  
22 even a witness in the case, and I had to interrupt him before  
23 he got the hearsay out, your Honor.

24 MR. BAYMAN: I'm just asking if he knows that the  
25 deputy chief officer at the V.A. testified that

1 antidepressants lower the risk of suicide among veterans when  
2 he testified in front of Congress.

3 BY MR. BAYMAN:

4 Q. Do you know that?

5 THE COURT: Objection?

6 MR. WISNER: Objection, your Honor. Hearsay. Move  
7 to strike.

8 THE COURT: It's sustained. The testimony is  
9 stricken -- question is stricken.

10 BY MR. BAYMAN:

11 Q. You're not a psychiatrist, correct?

12 A. No.

13 Q. You're not a member of any professional organization that  
14 focuses on psychiatry, such as the American Psychiatric  
15 Association, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. The focus of your career has not been on suicide or  
18 suicidality, correct?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. You don't consider yourself an expert in suicidality,  
21 correct?

22 A. I haven't claimed to be.

23 Q. I want to make sure that the record's clear. You've never  
24 had any conversations with any of your patients about the risk  
25 of suicidality and the use of SSRIs, correct?

1 A. You know, I'm -- and again, I'm not trying to be  
2 difficult. It doesn't stand out in my mind. Let me put it  
3 like that.

4 Q. You -- and you testified a minute ago that you treat  
5 patients at the V.A. who may be taking SSRIs prescribed by  
6 other doctors, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But you don't stop their prescriptions of SSRIs based on  
9 what you know from this case, correct?

10 A. That's -- I'm sorry. I've got to again give some context  
11 to this. You -- that's not the way things work in an  
12 organization where you've got teams of physicians. We're not  
13 in these little silos.

14 We have a record where I can see what's going on with  
15 the patients, what other prescribers are saying. I don't just  
16 say, "Well, I'm going to stop this," unless it's a clinical  
17 emergency.

18 So, before doing anything, where I said, "Boy, I  
19 really don't think this patient should be on this drug" -- and  
20 that has happened with psychiatric drugs, where they can  
21 interact with some of the HIV drugs -- I'm going to have a  
22 conversation with their prescriber.

23 Q. So, I guess the answer to my question is if a patient  
24 presents and they're taking an SSRI, you don't automatically  
25 stop that SSRI because of what you've learned in your work as

1 an expert in this case, correct?

2 A. I don't think there's any -- as a physician, there's no  
3 one-size-fits-all rule. If somebody came in and they were  
4 taking cyanide, yes, that, I would stop. But for a drug that  
5 they're on, you know, you assess the situation.

6 Q. You don't -- you don't address any issues concerning the  
7 safety or efficacy of SSRIs, antidepressants, or any  
8 psychiatric medications as part of your work at the V.A.,  
9 correct?

10 A. I apologize. Can you -- I just want to make sure I'm  
11 answering this.

12 THE COURT: Read it back.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 (Record read.)

15 BY THE WITNESS:

16 A. I, as part of my work, address approaches and treatments  
17 for depression, but I do not work on SSRIs directly.

18 BY MR. BAYMAN:

19 Q. You don't have a degree in epidemiology, correct?

20 A. I have training through the FDA in epidemiology, but not a  
21 Ph.D. in epidemiology.

22 Q. You don't have a degree in statistics, correct?

23 A. Again, training, not only through the FDA but also as part  
24 of my biomedical informatics training, but not a Ph.D. in  
25 statistics.

1 Q. You're not an expert in psychopharmacology, correct?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You're not an expert in neurology, correct?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You've never done any clinical research regarding Paxil or  
6 any other SSRI or any psychiatric medication, correct?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. And you've never done any clinical research on whether any  
9 medication increases the risk of suicidality, correct?

10 A. There are hepatitis C drugs that are known to induce  
11 suicide or suicidal behavior, and I believe I've looked at  
12 that issue.

13 Q. Do you have your deposition there in front of you?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Could you look at page 62, line 22?

16 A. Um-hum.

17 Q. Have you got that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. The question was, "Have you ever done any clinical  
20 research on suicidality for any medication?"

21 And your answer was, "No."

22 Did I read that correctly?

23 A. Yes. At that time, that was a correct answer. That was  
24 two years ago.

25 Q. You've never designed any clinical trial intended to

1 determine whether a medication increases the risk of  
2 suicidality, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And you've never been involved in any clinical trials  
5 where the trials were designed to determine whether any  
6 medication causes or increases the risk of suicidality?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. You've never conducted any research on the subject of the  
9 effects of psychiatric medications, correct?

10 A. Not that I can recall.

11 Q. You've never lectured on the subject of the effects of  
12 antidepressants, anti-anxiety medications, or psychiatric  
13 medications, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And you've never conducted any scientific research of any  
16 kind involving an SSRI, correct?

17 A. Not to the best of my recollection.

18 Q. You've never lectured on the subject of the effects of  
19 psychiatric medications, correct?

20 A. Not that I can recall.

21 Q. You've never published any articles in the professional  
22 literature about Paxil, correct?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Or any other SSRI or psychiatric medication for that  
25 matter, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. You've never published anything in the scientific  
3 literature about suicidality and Paxil or other SSRIs,  
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. You've not authored any publications concerning when or  
7 how to change a prescription drug labeling, correct?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You've not authored any publications concerning industry  
10 standards for prescription drug labeling, correct?

11 A. I'm sorry. Could you read the question back.

12 (Record read.)

13 BY THE WITNESS:

14 A. I believe that guidance documents that I've worked on --  
15 worked on when I was at FDA may have addressed some aspects of  
16 drug labeling.

17 BY MR. BAYMAN:

18 Q. You've never published any article that specifically  
19 discusses the regulatory standards for when an adverse event  
20 should be included in labeling or how it should be included in  
21 labeling, correct?

22 A. Not that I can recall.

23 Q. And you've never published any articles that specifically  
24 discuss -- strike that.

25 You've never published any article in which you form

1 an opinion about the adequacy of a medication's labeling,  
2 correct?

3 A. I'm not sure I would agree with that statement.

4 Q. Which article do you have in mind?

5 A. So, I published an article in *New England Journal of*  
6 *Medicine* in -- boy, it's been a long time, I believe it was  
7 either 2007 or 2008, that at least indirectly addressed that  
8 by discussing the integrity of data in the trials and the  
9 safety and efficacy of a drug.

10 Q. It indirectly addressed it?

11 A. Well, that's the basis for labeling, so yes.

12 Q. You've never worked at a pharmaceutical company, correct?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You've never been retained as a consultant of any kind by  
15 either a generic or a brand name pharmaceutical manufacturer  
16 of any psychiatric medicine, correct?

17 A. I'm not sure.

18 Q. You don't recall?

19 A. I've been retained once by a pharmaceutical company, but I  
20 don't know if they're a manufacturer of pharmaceutical  
21 medications.

22 Q. Of psychiatric medications?

23 A. I'm sorry, I apologize, of psychiatric medications. They  
24 both begin with a P.

25 Q. Well, let's narrow it down. You've never been retained as

1 a consultant by any generic or brand name SSRI manufacturer,  
2 correct?

3 A. Again, I -- in the one instance, I don't know if that  
4 entity manufactures SSRIs, either as a generic or as a brand  
5 name.

6 Q. Can you turn in your deposition to page 62.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Starting at line 1.

9 A. 62, line 1. Yes.

10 Q. The question was, "Have you ever been retained as a  
11 consultant of any kind by a generic or brand name manufacturer  
12 of any psychiatric medication?"

13 Your answer was, "No."

14 Did I read that correctly?

15 A. The -- my retention occurred after this deposition.

16 Q. Okay. Now, you're here testifying as an FDA regulatory  
17 expert, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And so you claim to understand the laws and regulations  
20 that control between the FDA and pharmaceutical manufacturers,  
21 correct?

22 A. I'm not sure I completely -- when you say control between  
23 the FDA and manufacturers, can you be a little more specific?

24 Q. The laws that impact the relationship between the FDA and  
25 pharmaceutical manufacturers.

1 A. With respect to the focus of my testimony, the laws and  
2 regulations concerning labeling of drugs and the standard for  
3 including information in the label.

4 Q. You testified about it a little more broadly yesterday.  
5 In fact, you testified that the FDA was privately funded by  
6 drug companies under what's called user fees, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The user fees that you're talking about are derived from  
9 the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, correct?

10 A. Well, there's other user fee acts besides that, the  
11 Generic Drug User Fee Act, for example.

12 Q. Well, the one you were referring to yesterday was what we  
13 call PDUFA, P-D-U-F-A, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And that's an act of Congress, right? It's passed by  
16 Congress?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. The user fees are not optional payments by the drug  
19 companies, are they, Doctor?

20 A. They can be waived by the FDA under certain circumstances.

21 Q. The user fees, Doctor, that the FDA collects from the drug  
22 manufacturers are mandated by law in that statute, correct?

23 A. Actually, no. They are -- part of what are called PDUFA  
24 agreements, there's what are called side letters. The actual  
25 legislation is fairly broad. So, on the one hand, the agency

1 sets the fees; and on the other hand, there's an agreement  
2 about how fast the FDA will review the drugs -- or the  
3 applications, I should say.

4 Q. Okay. But when a company wants to get a new drug  
5 approved, they have to file an application fee, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And that application is -- application fee can be as high  
8 as \$2 million, correct?

9 A. Actually, I think for FY '16, it may be more like  
10 2.3 million.

11 Q. Okay.

12 MR. WISNER: Your Honor, they objected when I asked  
13 questions about this. You sustained the objection. I feel  
14 we're again in a goose-gander situation. I'd move to stop  
15 this line of inquiry because it's not fair.

16 MR. BAYMAN: He was asked a number of questions  
17 before my objection was sustained.

18 THE COURT: I do recall testimony about user fees, so  
19 I'll allow some liberality.

20 BY MR. BAYMAN:

21 Q. Okay. A user fee is just -- for example, it's like  
22 getting your driver's license; you pay an application fee,  
23 correct?

24 A. No, it is not just like a driver's license. There is a  
25 guaranteed standard of service that FDA agrees to provide in

1 exchange for that fee.

2 Q. But the people who pay the fees are the people who are  
3 getting the service; that's why it's called a user fee,  
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Have you ever informed the FDA about the opinions that  
7 you're offering in this case?

8 A. I don't believe so.

9 Q. You've never informed the FDA that you believe there's an  
10 association between the use of paroxetine or Paxil by adults  
11 older than 24 and a risk of suicidality, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. You've never told the FDA that you think the FDA-approved  
14 labeling for Paxil is inadequate or false or misleading,  
15 correct?

16 A. Well, with the qualification that it's actually GSK's  
17 responsibility to do that, no.

18 Q. We'll get into that later. You've never submitted the  
19 opinions that you offered yesterday and today in response to  
20 Mr. Wisner's questions for review by your peers in the medical  
21 community, have you?

22 A. I'm not actually sure, given the fact that some documents  
23 are, I believe, under seal, that I would be able to do that.

24 Q. You've never published your opinions in any peer -- about  
25 Paxil and suicidality in any peer-reviewed publication,

1 correct?

2 A. I would give you the same caveat that I would have to back  
3 those up, and I'm not sure if I would be able to do that given  
4 the sealing of documents.

5 Q. No professional or scientific medical organization has  
6 ever sought out your opinion about Paxil's labeling, correct?

7 A. Not that I'm aware of.

8 Q. You generated your opinions about the adequacy of Paxil's  
9 labeling regarding suicidality solely for the purposes of this  
10 litigation, correct?

11 A. Hum. With the caveat that the principles that I based it  
12 on are in data analysis, which is the same science that was  
13 used at the FDA, is something that I did not discover for  
14 purposes of this litigation, I would say that I provided the  
15 opinions on the basis of the data that I was provided as well  
16 as data that I requested.

17 Q. Well, you provided them in the context of this litigation,  
18 this case, rather than in some other scientific context,  
19 correct?

20 A. If you mean that I didn't go looking for this, you're  
21 correct.

22 Q. Well, maybe I can make this easier.

23 Other than this lawsuit, has there been any time  
24 anyone else other than the plaintiff's lawyers have asked you  
25 to determine if there's reasonable evidence of association for

1 suicidality for any SSRI, antidepressant medication, or  
2 psychiatric medication?

3 A. I've not been in a position before where someone would ask  
4 me to do that.

5 Q. So, the answer is no?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And you're paid for your testimony in this case, correct,  
8 an hourly rate?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And how much do you charge?

11 A. I am being compensated -- I currently charge \$550 an hour,  
12 but for this litigation, I'm charging \$480 an hour.

13 Q. I want to turn now to the FDA approval process.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. You know that when it -- or you agree that when it comes  
16 to prescription medications such as an SSRI, that the FDA has  
17 the sole and exclusive authority to approve that medication  
18 for use in the United States?

19 A. Could you reread back the last line.

20 THE COURT: Read it back.

21 (Record read.)

22 BY THE WITNESS:

23 A. With the caveat that other government entities, excuse me,  
24 and I think the example I mentioned in my deposition was the  
25 Drug Enforcement Administration, may have authority over some

1 aspects of that, I would say -- I would say the FDA has  
2 authority over that.

3 BY MR. BAYMAN:

4 Q. Could you look in your deposition at page 79, line 24.  
5 And it carries over to page 80, line 4.

6 Are you there?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are you there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. The question was, "But you agree that when it comes  
11 to prescription medications such as an SSRI, that the FDA has  
12 the sole and exclusive authority to approve that medication  
13 for use in the United States?"

14 And your answer was, "Yes," correct?

15 A. Well, the qualification that I gave immediately before  
16 that was that this has gotten a little confused because of  
17 the advent of medical marijuana. So, that's where I indicated  
18 that that statement may not be completely accurate.

19 Q. And that would be the DEA with respect to medical  
20 marijuana would be the other organization; is that what you're  
21 saying?

22 A. Well, I'm saying it would be both.

23 Q. Both.

24 A. And also -- I mean, the issue here, as I understand it,  
25 is: Is it going across a state line? So, when you say the

1 United States, I think -- what you're saying, I guess, is  
2 interstate commerce I guess is the legal phrase. Is that  
3 fair?

4 Q. But you agree when it comes to an SSRI --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- that the FDA has the sole and exclusive authority to  
7 approve an SSRI for use in the United States?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And to obtain FDA approval, manufacturers are required to  
10 prove that the drug is both safe and effective for its  
11 proposed indication, correct?

12 A. That's, in basis -- there's more qualifications to that,  
13 but yes.

14 Q. And it's the FDA that makes that determination whether a  
15 drug is safe and effective, correct?

16 A. Based on the information provided by the manufacturer,  
17 yes.

18 Q. And the FDA has to approve all prescription drug labeling,  
19 correct?

20 A. Eventually, yes.

21 Q. Do you agree that the Federal Regulations provide that  
22 the FDA has the final say on what should be included in  
23 prescription drug labeling?

24 A. So, I would say that leaving aside issues about the  
25 jurisdiction of the courts in this, I would say the sponsor

1 has the ultimate responsibility. The FDA is the ultimate  
2 authority in that context.

3 Q. You agree that the FDA makes the determination that the  
4 labeling and information evaluated with respect to a drug is  
5 sufficient so that in the FDA's judgment, it provides adequate  
6 directions for safe use to the prescriber, correct?

7 THE WITNESS: Your Honor, could I ask that the last  
8 question be read?

9 THE COURT: Yes, read it back.

10 (Record read.)

11 BY THE WITNESS:

12 A. Again, based on the information available to the FDA from  
13 the manufacturer at that point in time, yes.

14 BY MR. BAYMAN:

15 Q. And would you agree that the FDA's mandate is to ensure  
16 that the manufacturer's label contains relevant information  
17 regarding effectiveness -- accurate and relevant information  
18 regarding effectiveness and safety, correct?

19 A. Among many other things, yes.

20 Q. But it's the FDA that makes that determination, correct?

21 A. Again, based on the information provided to it, yes.

22 Q. You agree with me that the FDA has been charged by  
23 Congress with ensuring that drugs are safe and effective and  
24 that their labeling adequately informs users of the risks and  
25 benefits of the product and that it is truthful and not

1 misleading?

2 A. One non-trivial correction. The Congress, the last time I  
3 looked at the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, said that it  
4 wants the FDA to get safe and effective drugs to the market.  
5 And that was a revision back in, I think, the FDA  
6 Modernization Act.

7 But substantially, yes.

8 Q. And you would agree with me that Paxil could not remain on  
9 the market if the FDA was of the view that it was not safe and  
10 effective for use in accordance with the approved labeling,  
11 correct?

12 A. When you say, "could not remain on the market," could you  
13 clarify?

14 Q. That the manufacturer of either Paxil or generic  
15 paroxetine could not sell it in this country if the FDA were  
16 not of the continuing view that it was safe and effective for  
17 use in accordance with the approved label, correct?

18 A. That's one possible outcome.

19 Q. Now, we talked about GSK's New Drug Application. You  
20 talked about that with Mr. Wisner on direct, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And that was submitted to the FDA in November of 1989,  
23 correct?

24 A. I believe so.

25 Q. And the applicant for an NDA -- I'm sorry, the company who

1 files an NDA is legally obligated to provide full reports of  
2 investigations which have been made to show whether the  
3 medication is safe and effective, correct?

4 A. It is -- I would say it is required to do so, yes.

5 Q. And those reports include safety data and other  
6 information about the medication from the clinical trials,  
7 correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the Paxil NDA included data from the clinical trials  
10 conducted to that point, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You talked yesterday about how much data is included in an  
13 NDA submission. You're not suggesting that a manufacturer  
14 should not provide all the data that the FDA requires or  
15 requests, are you?

16 A. I don't believe I was saying that.

17 Q. And along with the data, the New Drug Application, the  
18 NDA, must include proposed labeling for the medication,  
19 correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. In addition, the manufacturer must furnish substantial  
22 evidence of adequate and well-controlled studies, correct?

23 A. I apologize. I would say it's substantial evidence from  
24 adequate and well-controlled studies.

25 Q. Thank you. And once the FDA -- or the NDA is filed, the

1 FDA's doctors and scientists review that submission to  
2 determine whether the drug is safe and effective for its  
3 intended uses, correct?

4 A. Based on the information provided by the company, yes.

5 Q. And you'd agree with me that the FDA's process for a  
6 New Drug Application is rigorous, correct?

7 A. When you say rigorous, I just want to make sure we're  
8 using -- on the same page. Please tell me what you mean.

9 Q. Rigorous. Thorough.

10 A. Well, okay. So, I think that with the understanding that  
11 there's different levels of rigor. There's rigor looking at  
12 the summary tables. There's rigor looking at -- going further  
13 and looking at individual what we call case report listings,  
14 looking at case report forms, and then finally, going back to  
15 the raw data.

16 The FDA's process is rigorous with the data it  
17 receives, but it does not get the raw data.

18 Q. But it can request that if it wants it, correct?

19 A. If it knows to request it, yes.

20 Q. You mean to tell the jury that the FDA doesn't know  
21 there's raw data behind the summary reports that are done?

22 A. Well, there's too much for the FDA to get all of it. You  
23 have to focus. And so if, for example, to take a hypothetical  
24 example, you don't know that emotional lability really means  
25 attempted suicide, then you won't know --

1 MR. BAYMAN: Your Honor, this is beyond the scope of  
2 my question. I move to strike it.

3 MR. WISNER: Your Honor, he was asking his question.  
4 He asked an open-ended, vague question. He can answer it.

5 THE COURT: You may finish your answer.

6 BY MR. BAYMAN:

7 Q. You would agree with me that the FDA is comprised of  
8 hundreds of scientific experts, correct?

9 A. I would actually go further and say it's composed of  
10 hundreds of scientific experts who have to review thousands of  
11 submissions a year.

12 Q. And that includes medical doctors, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. It includes chemists, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It includes biostatisticians, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Toxicologists, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Pharmacologists, correct?

21 A. Clinical pharmacologists.

22 Q. Epidemiologists, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And many of those people have advanced degrees, do they  
25 not?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you agree with me that the reviewers at FDA, based on  
3 your experience at FDA, bring scientific and technical  
4 expertise and a strong commitment to public health to the  
5 issues which they address, correct?

6 A. The ones who I've worked with, yes.

7 Q. Are you aware of anybody who worked in the  
8 neuropharmacology division at FDA during the time that Paxil  
9 and the other SSRI's were approved as safe and effective who  
10 did not have the necessary expertise to evaluate the safety  
11 and efficacy or effectiveness of those medications?

12 A. Well, I guess the way I would answer that is looking at  
13 the reviews and other documents that I've seen, it's not only  
14 a question of expertise. It's a question of execution.

15 So, I would say do they have -- you know, expertise  
16 is one thing, but being able to actually put it into practice  
17 and use it effectively is another.

18 Q. Well, let's get back to my question. Do you know anybody  
19 during the time period that Paxil and SSRI's were approved as  
20 safe and effective that did not have the expertise to evaluate  
21 the safety and effectiveness of those medications?

22 A. Not directly.

23 Q. You would agree with me that the FDA reviews the safety  
24 data of a medication that is part of an NDA in order to  
25 satisfy itself that the drug is safe and effective, correct?

1 A. I don't think it's a matter of the FDA satisfying itself.  
2 I think it's a matter of complying with its responsibilities  
3 under the law.

4 Q. And you would agree with me that the experts at the FDA  
5 will do their own analysis on the information and data that is  
6 supplied by the drug manufacturer in an NDA, correct?

7 A. Well, it varies. I mean, there's some things where they  
8 do their own analyses, and there's some where they simply  
9 accept what the sponsor said.

10 Q. Well, let's talk about safety and adverse events. You  
11 would agree with me that's one of the areas that the FDA will  
12 specifically look at and review on its own, correct?

13 A. Well, when you say review on its own, I mean, to the  
14 extent that they are doing things beyond what the sponsor  
15 gives them, I would say yes.

16 If they are simply taking tables and graphs that a  
17 sponsor -- text that the sponsor's provided and cutting and  
18 pasting it into a document without adding substantive  
19 additional commentary, it's hard to say if that's independent  
20 or not.

21 Q. You know from your own experience that FDA does  
22 independent reviews of the data provided by a sponsor,  
23 correct?

24 A. In some instances, there -- and again, we're talking --  
25 you're saying FDA. FDA is a huge organization. I know what

1 people in my office and my division do, and certainly, there's  
2 some things where you go -- divisions, because there were  
3 multiple offices that you worked in.

4 But, you know, if somebody's got an adverse event --  
5 table of adverse events, there are some instances in which the  
6 FDA reviewer will seek to independently verify that; and  
7 there's others in which they'll say, "Well, I don't see any  
8 reason to do that. I'm just going to accept what the sponsor  
9 has said."

10 Q. And you don't know what the FDA did when they reviewed the  
11 NDA for Paxil in this case, do you?

12 A. Actually, I can make a pretty good guess.

13 Q. I don't want you to guess.

14 A. Okay. So, the --

15 Q. There's no question. I just said, "I don't want you to  
16 guess."

17 A. No, I understand.

18 MR. BAYMAN: Your Honor, I don't have a question.

19 THE COURT: Wait for a question.

20 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, your Honor.

21 BY MR. BAYMAN:

22 Q. You would agree with me that the FDA is not limited solely  
23 to information submitted by the manufacturer, but can rely on  
24 other information that exists in the world of science when  
25 deciding whether to approve an NDA or drug labeling, correct?

1 A. It can.

2 Q. One of those things might be scientific literature,  
3 correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And, in fact, when you were at the FDA, you considered it  
6 part of your responsibility to keep up with the medical  
7 literature and scientific advancements in your field of  
8 infectious diseases, correct?

9 A. Well, I think this actually is a good illustration that  
10 answers a question you asked previously about independent  
11 review. So, in one of the Paxil applications, I believe --

12 Q. Can I get an answer to my question first?

13 A. Yes, I'm going to answer it, but I want to qualify it  
14 because you've been talking about the FDA and you've been  
15 talking about me. I want to clarify the distinction.

16 In that application, the sponsor told the FDA review  
17 division that there was no relevant literature. The reviewer  
18 simply said, "Okay. We're going to accept that." They did  
19 not -- even though they could have, they did not make an  
20 independent effort to verify that.

21 Now, I would not have done that. If I had verified  
22 it, I would have said, "The sponsor said this. I did a  
23 literature search on Pub Med," and that would be independent.  
24 But that did not happen in this instance.

25 Q. Doctor, you weren't at the division of neuropharmacology

1 when this NDA for Paxil was submitted, correct?

2 A. I'm actually talking about a supplemental NDA, and the  
3 sponsor did not -- just said, "The sponsor said there wasn't  
4 any new information in the literature," without any -- didn't  
5 say, "I reverified it." They said, "Therefore, there will be  
6 no review of the literature."

7 Q. You don't know what the reviewer did, do you?

8 A. No, I do actually. The reviewer wrote it down. It's  
9 available on the Internet for anyone to look at.

10 Q. You haven't talked to that reviewer, have you?

11 A. I don't have to. It's on the Web. There's one thing that  
12 FDA is very focused on through what are called good review  
13 practices is documenting what you do and providing -- we're  
14 scientists. You want to be able to tell another scientist  
15 what you did in such a way that they can replicate and verify  
16 or find issues with what you did. So, if it's not there, it  
17 wasn't done.

18 Q. We're going to get to what was done with respect to the  
19 NDA in a minute, but I want to make sure that I understand  
20 that -- I didn't really get an answer to my question, which  
21 is --

22 A. Yes, I would do my own independent analysis, correct.

23 Q. And when the FDA reviews a proposed label as part of a  
24 New Drug Application, it can edit and propose revisions to  
25 that labeling, correct?

1 A. The FDA review division can do that based on the  
2 information that it has available to it.

3 Q. And that happens frequently, doesn't it? A manufacturer  
4 submits labeling, and the FDA makes comments and revisions and  
5 sends it back, correct?

6 A. Based on the information provided by the manufacturer,  
7 yes.

8 Q. But the FDA makes its own comments; it doesn't just accept  
9 what the manufacturer submits, correct?

10 A. It may accept some things and not others.

11 Q. And sometimes the FDA, as we learned earlier, will call  
12 for an advisory committee to discuss the medication at issue,  
13 correct?

14 A. Sometimes.

15 Q. And you know there was an advisory committee impaneled in  
16 conjunction with the Paxil New Drug Application submission,  
17 correct?

18 A. For the original one. Is that what you're -- okay.  
19 Because they did not call one for other indications in  
20 supplemental NDAs.

21 Q. But the original one for major depressive disorder, right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you agree with me that the FDA will not approve an  
24 NDA that fails to satisfy the standard of demonstrating the  
25 medication at issue is safe and effective when used in

1 accordance with the label, correct?

2 A. What I would say is the FDA, based on the information  
3 that's submitted to it by the manufacturer, can approve it,  
4 will approve it if the information that it sees from the  
5 manufacturer demonstrates safety and efficacy.

6 Q. But it's the FDA who makes that decision, correct?

7 A. Based on the information that it's provided, yes.

8 Q. And the FDA doesn't approve all NDAs that are submitted,  
9 does it?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And, in fact, if the FDA doesn't think it has enough  
12 information to make a decision on the drug's safety or  
13 effectiveness, it must reject the application, correct?

14 A. No, not necessarily. It really is: What does the  
15 labeling -- what does the labeling say, and what is the data?

16 So, for example, if an NDA, and this has happened,  
17 requests two indications, and the FDA says, "Well, we're going  
18 to grant this one, or we think there's enough information for  
19 this indication but not for another," it will approve the NDA  
20 but only for that indication.

21 Or to take it more broadly, if it has information  
22 saying that the use of a product is associated with an  
23 increased risk in a particular population, it will say, "We'll  
24 approve this if you change the label," if it knows about it.

25 Q. I think I understand. But you would agree with me that

1 approval of an NDA indicates that the FDA has concluded that  
2 the medication is safe and effective when used in accordance  
3 with the approved labeling, correct?

4 A. Based on the data it has at that time, yes.

5 Q. And for Paxil, the first approval for major depressive  
6 disorder was in December of 1992, correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And at the time it approved that NDA, it -- the FDA also  
9 had to approve the Paxil prescription drug labeling that goes  
10 to the doctor, correct?

11 A. Well, yes. I'm sorry. I'm just trying to parse out the  
12 distinction between the drug and the label, but I agree.

13 Q. And the labeling approved by the FDA is an assessment by  
14 the FDA that it has determined that the label contains  
15 adequate information for the drug's use, including any  
16 relevant hazards?

17 A. Based on information given to it by the manufacturer, yes.

18 Q. And you talked some in your direct about misbranding. You  
19 would agree with me that a drug is misbranded when, among  
20 other things, its labeling is false or misleading in any  
21 particular way?

22 A. That's the verbatim language.

23 Q. And that the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act prohibits the  
24 misbranding of drugs, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And if the labeling for a drug fails to include all  
2 necessary warnings, contraindications, adverse reactions, side  
3 effects, the drug is misbranded and in violation of the FDA  
4 statute, correct?

5 A. It can be found to be misbranded. I mean, it's not like  
6 throwing a switch.

7 Q. Can you turn in your deposition to page 93.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Line 18.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. The question was, "And if the labeling of a drug fails to  
12 include all necessary warnings, contraindications, hazards or  
13 side effects, the drug is misbranded and in violation of the  
14 FDA statute" --

15 A. I see what you're saying. I guess what I would say is  
16 it's a little bit like if I take one step over the Canadian  
17 border, have I -- is there an invasion? Technically, but it  
18 doesn't mean we're necessarily going to war. I guess I should  
19 have clarified that back in 2000- -- whenever this was, two  
20 years ago.

21 I think -- what I'm saying is that the FDA has to  
22 reach the -- it's not like it's some physical law is, I guess,  
23 what I'm saying. The FDA has to go through a process where it  
24 says it's misbranded. It has to make that determination, and  
25 then it usually will offer to work with the company to get it

1 to correct the problem.

2 Q. Back to -- the question was, "If the labeling of a drug  
3 fails to include all necessary warnings, contraindications,  
4 hazards, or side effects, the drug is misbranded and in  
5 violation of the FDA statute," and your response was, "That is  
6 absolutely correct."

7 A. Yeah. I'll stick with that response. I'll just say  
8 there's a few intermediary steps. How's that?

9 Q. And if the labeling is also misbranded -- labeling is also  
10 misbranded if its labeling doesn't provide adequate directions  
11 for use, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And violators can be subject to regulatory and enforcement  
14 actions, including injunction, seizure, and criminal  
15 prosecution, correct?

16 A. That is all possible.

17 Q. And if the FDA determines that the medication's labeling  
18 is false or misleading, the medication is subject to removal  
19 from the marketplace, correct?

20 A. It could be, sure.

21 Q. And you agree with me that the FDA may not knowingly  
22 approve any labeling that it knows to be false or misleading,  
23 correct?

24 A. Technically yes.

25 Q. After a drug is approved in a New Drug Application and

1 comes on the market, if a drug manufacturer wants to change  
2 the content of the labeling for an approved drug, it's  
3 required to work with the FDA regulatory process and file  
4 what's called a supplement to its approved NDA, correct?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. And if the manufacturer decides to change the labeling  
7 that's been previously approved, it has to submit those  
8 proposed changes to the FDA, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you also agree that there are situations where the  
11 FDA, in fact, drafts and proposes language itself and submits  
12 that language to manufacturers and says, "You need to  
13 implement these changes," correct?

14 A. Prior to about 2009, actually, FDA in general did not have  
15 that authority to order manufacturers to do that. It could  
16 request changes. From a practical point of view, if the  
17 manufacturer refused, the only option FDA had was to say,  
18 "Well, then we're going to declare you misbranded," which was  
19 not something that was practical to do on a large scale.

20 So, just to be clear, prior to that point, the FDA  
21 did not have the authority to order manufacturers to do it.  
22 It would have to go to court and attempt to do so. It's  
23 changed since then.

24 Q. All right. I'll come back to that.

25 You would agree with me that after a label has been

1 approved by the FDA, a drug's labeling must be revised when  
2 there's what's called newly acquired information, correct?

3 A. Are you talking about safety-related information?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. And newly required information is defined under the  
7 Federal Regulations, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And it's defined as data, analyses, or other information  
10 not previously submitted to the agency, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And the newly acquired information in the safety context  
13 must reveal a risk of a different type or a greater severity  
14 than previously submitted in submissions to the FDA, correct?

15 A. With the caveat that -- or the qualification, if you will,  
16 that it may be something that's closely related to something  
17 that's already in the label. The new information might be if  
18 the liver -- if the label says, for example, "elevated liver  
19 enzymes," and the new analysis shows liver inflammation, that  
20 would be an example of new information.

21 Q. But that's the language from the regulation, right, that I  
22 just asked you?

23 A. Yes. Yeah, I wanted to put that context in there. It's  
24 not like it has to be from a new organ system or something.

25 But I agree with you.

1 Q. Fair enough. But a manufacturer is supposed to take those  
2 newly identified risks to the FDA and discuss whether and how  
3 the medication's labeling should be changed, correct?

4 A. Well, what the regulations provide for, as I said in the  
5 previous testimony, if a manufacturer wants to add or  
6 strengthen a regulation, it can do so without the FDA  
7 approving it.

8           It doesn't have to come in and discuss it. It can  
9 submit a -- what I mentioned is changes being effected  
10 supplement. But actually, generally, these things sort of  
11 landed on our doorstep. There was not any previous  
12 discussion.

13 Q. But ultimately, the FDA has to approve that change as  
14 being effective, correct, that change, correct?

15 A. It has to review it, and most of the time, those get  
16 approved.

17 Q. Well, turn in your deposition to page 107, line 10.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. The question was, "And a manufacturer is supposed to take  
20 those newly identified risks to FDA and discuss whether and  
21 how the medication's labeling should be changed?"

22           And your answer was, "Yes," correct?

23 A. Yes. I don't think it's a -- what I'm trying to say here  
24 is the word "supposed to" I did not interpret as meaning a  
25 regulatory requirement. So, I'm just clarifying that ideally,

1 they would do that. They don't have to.

2 Q. But it's ultimately the FDA's decision to decide whether  
3 the newly acquired information submitted by the manufacturer  
4 will be included in the medication's labeling, when it will be  
5 included, where it will be included, and what will be said  
6 about the risk at issue, correct?

7 A. So, I think that, you know, basically, it's the  
8 sponsor's -- I'm sorry, manufacturer's responsibility to keep  
9 it updated. It's the FDA's -- has the authority to enforce  
10 that. So, the answer would be essentially yes to what you're  
11 saying.

12 Q. And part of the enforcement of that is, you would agree,  
13 determining where it will be included in the label, correct?

14 A. Yes. I'm sorry.

15 Q. What will be said about the risk, correct?

16 A. Yes, with -- again, with the caveat that it's not a yes-no  
17 thing. It's not like buying a lottery ticket.

18 The FDA may say, "You know, we're not sure why you're  
19 doing this. Can you come back and explain it?"

20 The manufacturer may say, "X, here's what we want to  
21 do."

22 The FDA says, "Oh, we understand now." Or they say,  
23 "Well, how about if we change this?"

24 There's, you know, that sort of discussion. It's not  
25 between two robots, far from it.

1 Q. There's a back-and-forth between the company and the FDA  
2 about what should be included, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And where it should be included, correct?

5 A. If the sponsor proposes something, yes. And they can go  
6 to the FDA, you know, and say, "Well, we're not sure where  
7 it's supposed to go, but we think it needs to be in here. Can  
8 you tell us?"

9 Q. You would agree with me that the structure of the label is  
10 provided for by statute, the very sections in the label?

11 A. No, actually, it's provided by regulation.

12 Q. Excuse me. Regulation. But there is -- there  
13 are regulations that talk about the sections and what is to be  
14 included, correct?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And it is -- I think you'll agree that in terms of the  
17 hierarchy of things, a warning is higher up on the hierarchy  
18 than, say, adverse reactions, correct?

19 A. All other things being equal, I would agree.

20 Q. Because the adverse reactions can include things that are  
21 serious and not serious, correct?

22 A. Well, again, I want to be careful because one of the --  
23 and this is true -- much truer with a new format, more  
24 readable format. The Paxil label is in the old format.

25 But anyway, one of the things that people do try and

1 do and that labels are supposed to do in that laundry list  
2 adverse reactions section is capture things that aren't  
3 captured elsewhere.

4 Q. I think you said yesterday that the adverse reactions  
5 contains a listing of some side effects that are not as  
6 serious, as in the warnings, correct?

7 A. If it's not -- if it was serious enough to be in the  
8 warning, it should be in the warning section. And it can be  
9 in both places. I should clarify that.

10 Q. I don't mean to belabor this, but you would agree with me  
11 that the more serious risks, relatively speaking, are in the  
12 warnings section as compared to adverse reactions, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So, in this debate between a manufacturer and the FDA,  
15 there might be some debate about where it should go in the  
16 label; and if the manufacturer says, "We think this should  
17 be in adverse reactions," and the FDA says, "No, this needs to  
18 be in warnings," it's the FDA's view that trumps that,  
19 correct?

20 MR. WISNER: Objection. Speculation.

21 THE COURT: Overruled.

22 BY THE WITNESS:

23 A. I think that really depends on the circumstances about --  
24 I mean, there's no one-size-fits-all rule. But generally,  
25 when you're talking about fatal events, it's -- that are

1 occurring above some threshold -- and it may depend on the  
2 exact circumstances -- I've yet to hear a manufacturer argue,  
3 "Well, let's just bury it in the adverse event reaction and  
4 not mention it anywhere else."

5 BY MR. BAYMAN:

6 Q. Okay. Fair enough. But there -- you've seen in your  
7 experience times when the FDA and the manufacturer may  
8 disagree about where in the label an adverse event should go,  
9 correct?

10 A. Sure.

11 Q. And then if there's that disagreement, at the end of the  
12 day, it is the FDA's view that trumps or prevails, correct?

13 A. About where it should go?

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. But both of them -- I just want to make sure I understand  
16 your question. This is on a circumstance where the  
17 manufacturer says, "Well, we think it should be in the label,"  
18 and there's just a debate over where. Is that --

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. But the manufacturer wants it in the label somewhere?

21 Q. Right. In that hypothetical I gave you, the manufacturer  
22 says, "We think this adverse event should be in adverse  
23 reactions," and the FDA says, "No, this should be in  
24 warnings," it is the FDA's view that prevails, correct?

25 A. In that scenario, yes.

1 Q. And also, if there is a disagreement about what the  
2 language reporting on that adverse event should say, the  
3 manufacturer has one view of describing it, the FDA has  
4 another view of describing it, it's the FDA's view that trumps  
5 or prevails, correct?

6 A. Again, understanding that it is a negotiation and not -- a  
7 lot of times, FDA will take the manufacturer's arguments and  
8 say, "You know what, we agree with you." I agree with you on  
9 that.

10 Q. But it doesn't have to take the manufacturer's view, does  
11 it?

12 A. I think what I would say is it has to consider it.  
13 Perhaps that's the best way to put it.

14 Q. Okay. Consider it. But the FDA can consider it and say,  
15 "We disagree with you. We think it needs to go here,"  
16 correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. "And it needs to go here, and it needs to say this,"  
19 correct?

20 A. Again -- and I'm just -- again, I -- it may be that the  
21 concept -- I mentioned before risk communication, and the  
22 issue may be less one of exact wording, although it can be.  
23 So, I just don't want to say -- when you say, "It has to say  
24 this," that's one event. It could be, "You have to express  
25 this concept, but we're flexible about the wording."

1 I'm just trying to indicate there's not always one  
2 thing. But in terms of the general concept that you're  
3 expressing, I would agree with you on that.

4 Q. And when that event needs to be reported in the label,  
5 again, if there's a disagreement between the manufacturer and  
6 the FDA, it again is the FDA's view that prevails or trumps,  
7 correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. We talked about the standard when the manufacturer may  
10 revise its labeling. You remember that discussion with  
11 Mr. Wisner about when there is reasonable evidence of an  
12 association or of a serious hazard with a prescription  
13 medicine?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You agree with me that there's an important distinction  
16 between an association between a medication and a hazard and a  
17 causal relationship between the two, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Reasonable evidence of an association does not equal  
20 causation, correct?

21 A. And the regulation recognizes that and says a causal  
22 relationship need not have been proven.

23 Q. An association, for you, represents reasonable suspicion  
24 that a drug may be related to a hazard from the drug, correct?

25 A. That's what I -- how I phrase it in my report, yes.

1 Q. You told the jury this morning in no uncertain terms that  
2 your opinion is that Paxil can induce suicide in adults of all  
3 ages, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That opinion is not in your expert report, is it?

6 A. I believe that what I said is that the risk is not  
7 restricted to individuals under the age of 25, and what I said  
8 was there's -- it's not restricted to any one age group. So,  
9 that's in essence saying it can do it in all ages.

10 Q. Your opinion is that Paxil causes suicide in adults of all  
11 ages, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Your opinion in your report says, "Paroxetine" --  
14 which is the chemical name for Paxil, correct, and also the  
15 generic name, correct?

16 A. It's the -- what's called the United States -- well, never  
17 mind. Go ahead.

18 Q. Your report says, "Paroxetine is associated with an  
19 increased risk of suicidal behavior in adults relative to  
20 placebo, with the risk being higher than other  
21 antidepressants."

22 Did I read that correctly?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It doesn't say "cause," does it, Doctor?

25 A. I don't believe I -- I don't have the report right in

1 front of me, but --

2 Q. I'll be happy to get it for you.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. Let me --

5 MR. BAYMAN: I have a notebook for you, your Honor,  
6 and for the doctor. May I approach?

7 THE COURT: Sure.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. WISNER: Your Honor, while Dr. Ross is looking at  
10 that, can we have a short sidebar?

11 THE COURT: Do I need that?

12 MR. BAYMAN: This is going to be the exhibits that I  
13 was going to use with him, your Honor. We could take the  
14 other one away.

15 THE COURT: I've got the exhibit here.

16 MR. BAYMAN: I mean this is for the rest of the  
17 examination. So, I'll be happy to hold on to it until we get  
18 to another.

19 THE COURT: Hold on to it until I need it. I'm  
20 buried here.

21 MR. BAYMAN: Sure.

22 THE COURT: Give it to my law clerk.

23 MR. BAYMAN: Sure.

24 THE COURT: He doesn't have anything in front of him.  
25 All right. You have your report, Doctor?

1 THE WITNESS: I do.

2 THE COURT: Page, please, sir?

3 MR. WISNER: Your Honor --

4 MR. BAYMAN: Page 3.

5 MR. WISNER: I had requested a brief sidebar.

6 THE COURT: Oh, you want a sidebar. Okay. We'll go  
7 to sidebar while you're looking at that, Doctor. Give him the  
8 page number you want him to look at.

9 MR. BAYMAN: Page 3, summary of opinions, section B1,  
10 first one.

11 THE COURT: All right. We'll go to sidebar.

12 (Proceedings heard at sidebar:)

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]





