DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 11, 2006

TO: Randall Lutter, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner for
Policy and Planning
Food and Drug Administration

THROUGH: Jenny Slaughter
Director, Ethics and Integrity Staff
Office of Management Programs
Office of Management

FROM: Igor Cerny, Pharm.D. /s/
Director, Advisors and Consultants Staff
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

SUBJECT: Conflict of Interest Waiver for Jurgen Venitz, M.D.

I am writing to request a waiver for Jurgen Venitz, M.D., a member of the Pharmaceutical Science Advisory Committee, from the conflict of interest prohibitions of 18 U.S.C. §208(a). The appointing official may grant waivers under section 208(b) (3) where "the need for the individual's services outweighs the potential for a conflict of interest created by the financial interest involved" and where the individual has made a disclosure of the financial interests at issue. We have determined that you are the appointing official for purposes of section 208. Therefore, you have the authority to grant Dr. Venitz, a waiver under 18 U.S.C. §208(b) (3).

Section 208(a) prohibits Federal executive branch employees, including special Government employees, from participating personally and substantially in matters in which the employee, or any other person whose interests are imputed to the employee under 18 U.S.C. §208, has a financial interest. Since Dr. Venitz is a special Government employee, he is under a statutory obligation to refrain from participating in an official capacity in any particular matter having a direct

and predictable effect on a financial interest attributable to him, his spouse, minor child, or general partner; an organization or entity for which he serves as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and, a person with whom he is negotiating for, or has an arrangement concerning, prospective employment.

Dr. Venitz has been asked to participate in the Clinical Pharmacology Subcommittee, of the Advisory Committee for Pharmaceutical Science, meeting where the subcommittee will: (1) hear an update on previous CPSC meeting recommendations and receive an introduction to the three new topics of this meeting; (2) discuss and provide comments on the evaluation of transporter-based drug interactions; and, (3) consider the impact of using prior knowledge on drug development and regulatory decisions. Prior knowledge of disease change over time and covariates, placebo variation and drug effects can be used to make better decisions and design more informative clinical trials. Examples will be used to demonstrate these principles. The above issues to be discussed are particular matters of general applicability. Particular matters of general applicability focus on a discrete and identifiable class of persons, but do not involve specific parties.

The function of the Advisory Committee for Pharmaceutical Science, as stated in its charter, is to provide advice on scientific and technical issues concerning the safety, and effectiveness of human generic drug products for use in the treatment of a broad spectrum of human diseases, and as required, any other product for which the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory responsibility, and make appropriate recommendations to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs. The Committee may also review Agency sponsored intramural and extramural biomedical research programs in support of FDA's generic drug regulatory responsibilities.

Dr. Venitz has advised the Food and Drug Administration that he has financial interests that could potentially be affected by his participation in the matters to under discussion by the Clinical Pharmacology Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Pharmaceutical Science. Dr. Venitz is a consultant for the following companies:

- ——————— concerning clinical pharmacology of a novel synthetic ———————;
- ——————— concerning clinical pharmacology of opioid drugs;
- ——————— concerning clinical pharmacology of a ——————— Inhibitor, ———;
- ——— concerning clinical pharmacology of novel ——————— receptor antagonists, ——————— and ———;
- ——————————— concerning early clinical pharmacology of ——— receptor antagonists;
- ——————————— concerning clinical pharmacology of ———————————;
- ——————————— concerning clinical pharmacology of ———;
- ———————————, concerning a bridging program to assess equivalence of a multi-dose ——————— with a novel ———————;
- ——————————— concerning pharmacokinetics of Phase IB study of novel ———————receptor agonist; and,
- ——————— concerning (1) general clinical pharmacology of a ——————— Inhibitor, ——————— and ——————— antagonist, ———; (2) early clinical pharmacology of a ——————— Antagonist, ———; (3) clinical pharmacology of a fixed combination of ———————————.

In addition, Dr. Venitz is a member of a Data Safety Monitoring Committee for ——————————————— concerning early clinical pharmacology of a ——— inhibitor.

As a member of the Pharmaceutical Science Advisory Committee, Dr. Venitz potentially could become involved in matters that could affect his financial interests. Under 18 U.S.C. §208(a), he is prohibited from participating in such matters. However, as noted above, you have the authority under 18 U.S.C. §208(b)(3) to grant a waiver permitting Dr. Venitz to participate in such matters as you deem appropriate.

For the following reasons, I believe that it would be appropriate for you to grant a waiver to Dr. Venitz, which would permit him to participate in the matters previously described.

First, this waiver is justified, in part, because of the general nature of particular matters of general applicability. It is well recognized that particular matters of general applicability pose far less risk of a conflict of interest. Particular matters of general applicability include regulations, points-to-consider, guidelines, and policies governing classes of individuals, products, and organizations. Particular matters of general applicability do not include particular matters involving specific parties, such as recommendations regarding a specific product, or enforcement matters involving known parties. Particular matters of general applicability will not have a special or distinct impact on any of Dr. Venitz's financial interests, other than as part of a class.

Second, arguably, Dr. Venitz's interests do not constitute financial interests in the particular matter within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. §208(a) since he advises on matters unrelated to the issues at hand. Nevertheless, in the utmost of caution, I recommend that this waiver be granted.

In addition, Dr. Venitz's financial interests are not so substantial as to preclude his participation. He receives nominal compensation for his consulting and advisory board activities.

Further, the Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that committee memberships be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the various advisory committee members and Dr. Venitz's participation will contribute to the balance of views represented and the diversity of opinions and expertise. The Committee's intended purpose would be significantly impaired if the agency could not call upon experts who have become eminent in their fields, notwithstanding the financial interests and affiliations they may have acquired as a result of their demonstrated abilities. Dr. Venitz is an Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, and Director, Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics Laboratory, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a world-renowned expert on clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics with special emphasis on modeling and in developing pharmacokinetic. He is also an expert in pharmacodynamic simulation software. Dr. Venitz is a member of numerous scientific associations including the American College of Clinical Pharmacology, and the German Society of Medical Informatics, Biometrics and Epidemiology. He has written over 40 publications on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of various drug agents. I believe that Dr. Venitz's expertise in clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics will contribute to the diversity of expertise and opinions represented and will help provide a foundation for developing advice and recommendations that are fair and comprehensive.

Accordingly, I recommend that you grant Jurgen Venitz, M.D., a waiver that will permit him to participate in the Clinical Pharmacology Subcommittee, of the Advisory Committee for Pharmaceutical Science, meeting where the committee will: (1) hear an update on previous CPSC meeting recommendations and receive an introduction to the three new topics of this meeting; (2) discuss and provide comments on the evaluation of transporter-based drug interactions; and, (3) consider the impact of using prior knowledge on drug development and regulatory decisions. Prior knowledge of disease change over time and covariates, placebo variation and drug effects can be used to make better decisions and design more informative clinical trials. Examples will be used to demonstrate these principles. The above issues to be discussed are particular matters of general applicability. Particular matters of general applicability focus on a discrete and identifiable class of persons, but do not involve specific parties. I believe that such a waiver is appropriate because in this case, the need for the services of Dr. Venitz outweighs the potential for a conflict of interest created by the financial interests attributable to him.

CONCURRENCE: /s/ 9/22/06

Jenny Slaughter — Date
Director, Ethics and Integrity Staff
Office of Management Programs
Office of Management

DECISION:

_X_ Waiver granted based on my determination, made in accordance with section 18 U.S.C. §208(b)(3), that the need for the individual's services outweighs the potential for a conflict of interest created by the financial interest attributable to the individual.

_____ Waiver denied.

/s/ 9/25/06

Randall Lutter, Ph.D. — Date
Associate Commissioner for
Policy and Planning
Food and Drug Administration