DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

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Re: Lexapro
Docket No.: 03E-0253

The Honorable James E. Rogan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Box Pat. Ext.
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director Rogan:

This is in regard to the application for patent term extension for U.S. Patent No. 34,712, filed by H. Lundbeck A/S, under 35 U.S.C. section 156 et seq. We have reviewed the dates contained in the application and have determined the regulatory review period for Lexapro, the human drug product claimed by the patent.

The total length of the regulatory review period for Lexapro is 1,146 days. Of this time, 636 days occurred during the testing phase and 510 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. The date an exemption under subsection 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act involving this drug product became effective: June 27, 1999.

   FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the date the investigational new drug application became effective was on June 27, 1999.

2. The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: March 23, 2001.

   FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the new drug application (NDA) for Lexapro (NDA 21-323) was initially submitted on March 23, 2001.

3. The date the application was approved: August 14, 2002.

   FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 21-323 was approved on August 14, 2002.

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This determination of the regulatory review period by FDA does not take into account the effective date of the patent, nor does it exclude one-half of the testing phase as required by 35 U.S.C. section 156(c)(2).

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad

Jane A. Axelrad
Associate Director for Policy
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: S. Peter Ludwig, Esq.
Darby & Darby, P.C.
805 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022