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Re: Zelnorm  
Docket No. 03E-0416

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

NOV 18 2003

Dear Director Rogan:

This is in regard to the application for patent term extension for U.S. Patent No. 5,510,353 filed by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The human drug product claimed by the patent is Zelnorm (tegaserod maleate), which was assigned NDA No. 21-200.

A review of the Food and Drug Administration's official records indicates that this product was subject to a regulatory review period before its commercial marketing or use, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(a)(4). Our records also indicate that it represents the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product, as defined under 35 U.S.C. § 156(f)(1), and interpreted by the courts in *Glaxo Operations UK Ltd. v. Quigg*, 706 F. Supp. 1224 (E.D. Va. 1989), *aff'd*, 894 F. 2d 392 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

The NDA was approved on July 24, 2002, which makes the submission of the patent term extension application on September 17, 2002, timely within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(1).

Should you conclude that the subject patent is eligible for patent term extension, please advise us accordingly. As required by 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A) we will then determine the applicable regulatory review period, publish the determination in the *Federal Register*, and notify you of our determination.

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

Sincerely yours,

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

cc: Thomas Hoxie  
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