UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: **PROPULSID** MDL NO. 1355

PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION:

SECTION: L

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES JUDGE FALLON

MAG. WELLS ROBY

JOINT REPORT NO. 52 OF PLAINTIFFS' AND DEFENDANTS' LIAISON COUNSEL

Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel (PLC) and Defendants' Liaison Counsel (DLC) jointly submit this Joint Report No. 52 in preparation of the March 1, 2007 Monthly Status Conference. To participate via telephone, dial-in information may be accessed on the Court's website at http://propulsid.laed.uscourts.gov/.

I. State Liaison Counsel/MDL Resolution Program II

The enrollment requirements have been met for the State Settlement Program (Propulsid II). Defendants have requested that the PSC and SLC sign off on the Escrow Accounts. Defendants advise that at that point they are prepared to fund the various funds. The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the March 1, 2007 Monthly Status Conference.

II. **Trust Account**

There have been no deposits into the Trust Account since the last Status Conference.

III. Trial Schedule

The matter of *Gregory A. Gellner v. Johnson & Johnson, et al.* has been adjourned. No new date has been set.

IV. MDL Mediation and Resolution Program

The deadline for enrollment and the submission of Claim Forms for the First MDL Resolution Program has expired. The Special Master reports that there are over 12,000 claimants who enrolled, but did not submit claim forms. The DLC has advised that it will seek dismissal of claimants (except those granted extensions of time) and is discussing this issue further with the PSC.

The Special Master's office continues to review Claims Forms to determine if the Forms meet the qualifying criteria set forth in the Term Sheet. On February 15, 2007, the Special Master submitted a Status Report to the Court wherein he advised that 4,370 Tier Claims have been filed with the office of the Special Master. Of those claims 3,677 were noted to have deficiencies. Of that number, approximately 2,577 still have deficiencies. The Special Master has notified the attorneys for the claimants of such deficiencies. The Special Master has advised that the final date to correct such deficiencies is March 30, 2007, after which the Special Master will submit a Motion to Dismiss With Prejudice those claims that remain deficient.

Thus far, the Special Master has submitted 188 Tier I, II and III claims to the Medical Panel for review. Of the 188 claims the Defendants have treated 74 on an expedited basis.^a Six of the tiered claims submitted to the Panel have been found eligible by the Panel, and the Special Master has made those awards. Six tiered claims are still in review by the Panel. The Special

Master will report to the Court at the March 1, 2007 Monthly Status Conference regarding the current status of claim administration.

Defendants continue to submit a list of plaintiffs/claimants whose records have already been obtained by defendants in whole or in part, so when necessary, the parties, the Special Master and the attorneys for these plaintiffs/claimants can expedite the submission and review of the Claim Forms for these individuals.

The weekly telephone conference with the Special Master, PLC, DLC and SLC continues to take place to discuss a number of administrative issues germane to the Resolution Program.

The parties will be prepared to discuss these issues further at the March 1, 2007 Monthly Status Conference.

V. <u>Pro se Plaintiffs</u>

On January 3, 2007, this Court held a hearing on Defendants' Motion to Show Cause regarding pro ses who have not enrolled in the Settlement Program, at which time the Court ordered the non-enrolled pro se plaintiffs dismissed. Defendants have submitted a list of pro se plaintiffs to be dismissed to the SLC and PSC for final review, and await their response. The parties will be prepared to report to the Court on this issue at the March 1, 2007 Monthly Status Conference.

VI. Emergency Motion for Distribution of Attorney's Fees

On November 23, 2005, the Court issued an Order and Reasons regarding the Emergency Motion for Distribution of Attorney's Fees with full reservation of rights to all attorneys who may claim any right to common fees and expense reimbursement. On December 5, 2005,

^a On page 1 of his Report, the Special Master notes that there are approximately 400 claims that will be considered on an expedited basis. The Defendants have derived these 74 claims from the 400 number as reported by the Special Master.

Daniel E. Becnel filed a Motion to Reconsider the Motion. The September 27, 2006 hearing on said Motion has been continued.

On March 2, 2006 Dumas & Associates Law Corporation filed a Motion for Common Benefit Fees and Expenses Reimbursements. On April 4, 2006, the PLC filed a response to the motion. The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the March 1, 2007 Monthly Status Conference.

NEW ITEMS

Liaison's Counsel Motion for Equitable Administration of the Settlement VII. Agreement

On February 7, 2007, the PLC filed a Motion for Equitable Administration of the Settlement Agreement under Seal, which the Defendants have opposed. The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the March 1, 2007 Monthly Status Conference.

VIII. Patricia Barnes v. Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc. (CA No. 06-2001)

On February 23, 2007, the Court issued an Order regarding Plaintiffs' renewal of a Motion for Remand. The Motion for Remand has been set for hearing on March 28, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ RUSS M. HERMAN

RUSS M. HERMAN, T.A. (La. Bar #6819)

LEONARD A. DAVIS, #14190

JAMES C. KLICK, #7451

HERMAN, MATHIS, CASEY, KITCHENS & GEREL, LLP

820 O'Keefe Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Phone: (504) 581-4892; Fax: (504) 561-6024

Temporary address:

Place St. Charles, 201 St. Charles Avenue Suite 4310, New Orleans, Louisiana 70170 LIAISON COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

DANIEL BECNEL, JR. 106 W. Seventh Street Reserve, LA 70084-0508 Phone: (504) 536-1186 Fax: (504) 536-6445

JAMES DUGAN 650 Povdras Street **Suite 2150** New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: (504) 648-0180 Fax: (504) 648-0181

ARNOLD LEVIN 510 Walnut Street, Suite 500 Philadelphia, PA 19106-3875 Phone: (215) 592-1500 Fax: (215) 592-4663

STEPHEN B. MURRAY 909 Poydras Street, Suite 2550 New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: (504) 525-8100 Fax: (504) 584-5249

J. MICHAEL PAPANTONIO 316 S. Baylen Street, Suite 600 P.O. Box 12308 Pensacola, FL 32581 Phone: (850) 435-7000 Fax: (850) 435-7020

CHRISTOPHER A. SEEGER One William Street New York, NY 10004 Phone: (212) 584-0700 Fax: (212) 584-0799

BOB F. WRIGHT 556 Jefferson Street, Suite 500 Lafayette, LA 70502-3668 Phone: (337) 233-3033 Fax: (337) 232-8213

CHARLES S. ZIMMERMAN 651 Nicollet Mall Suite 501 Minneapolis, MN 55402 Phone: (612) 341-0400 Fax: (612) 341-0844

PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE

/s/ MONIQUE M. GARSAUD

JAMES B. IRWIN, T.A. (La. Bar No. 7172)

QUENTIN F. URQUHART, JR. (La. Bar No. 14475)

KIM E. MOORE (La. Bar No. 18653)

MONIQUE M. GARSAUD (La. Bar. No. 25393)

IRWIN FRITCHIE URQUHART & MOORE, LLC

400 Poydras Street, Suite 2700

New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Phone: (504) 310-2100 Fax:(504) 310-2101

LIAISON COUNSEL FOR Defendants,

JANSSEN, L.P. AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP THOMAS F. CAMPION SUSAN M. SHARKO 500 Campus Drive Florham Park, NJ 07932-1047

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH, LLP

Phone: (973) 549-7300 Fax: (973) 360-9831

-and-

CHARLES F. PREUSS DONALD F. ZIMMER, JR. 50 Fremont Street, 20th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105-2235 Phone: (415) 591-7500 Fax: (415) 591-7510 **CO-LEAD COUNSEL FOR Defendants,** JANSSEN, L.P. AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Joint Report No. 52 of Plaintiffs' and Defendants' Liaison Counsel was served on Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel by e-mail and by e-service to all parties by uploading same to LexisNexis, on this 27th day of February 2007.

/s/ MONIQUE M. GARSAUD

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

MDL NO. 1335

IN RE:PROPULSID

PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION **SECTION: L**

JUDGE FALLON

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ALL CASES

Monthly Status Conference March 1, 2007-9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Current Matters:

- 1. State Liaison Counsel
- 2. Trust Account
- 3. Trial Schedule
- MDL Mediation & Resolution Program 4.
- Pro Se Plaintiffs 5.
- 6. Emergency Motion for Distribution of Attorney's Fees

New Items

- Liaison's Counsel Motion for Equitable Administration of the Settlement 7. Agreement
- Patricia Barnes v. Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc. (CA No. 06-2001) 8.