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August 1, 2004

Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
Room 1-23  
12420 Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, MD 20857

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, STD Prevention and Control Division's petition, "Petition to the Food and Drug Administration to change labeling and take further action to address the association of Sildenafil (Viagra®) use with increased STD transmission, including HIV infection." The petition makes clear the current body of evidence surrounding Viagra® use and STD transmission, as well as the prevalent recreational use of the drug. As a clinician and researcher in this area, the potential benefits of implementation of these recommendations to both patients and prescribers are clearly evident. This topic will become increasingly important as recreational drug use of Viagra® along with "club drugs" becomes more prevalent. Many clinicians are unaware of the abuse potential of Viagra® or the potentially life-threatening interactions which may occur if the drug is used concurrently with certain club and recreation drugs. Additionally, the introduction of a number of newer erectile dysfunction drugs makes this a very timely issue. I urge the FDA to review these recommendations and enact the enclosed the recommendations, which will both increase awareness of this ongoing public health problem and aid in stemming the current levels of off-label use.

Again, I would like to voice support for the current petition from the San Francisco Department of Public Health regarding Viagra® use and STD transmission. All steps should be taken to target this important public health issue. I look forward to hearing the FDA's necessary response to this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FRANK ROMANELLI'.

Frank Romanelli, Pharm.D., BCPS  
Associate Professor of Pharmacy  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in HIV

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