DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

Re: Multihance
Docket No. 05E-0236

JUL - 8 2005

The Honorable Jon Dudas
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 Dudas:

This is in regard to the application for patent term extension for U.S. Patent No. 4,916,246 filed by Bracco International B.V. under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The human drug products claimed by the patent are Multihance and Multihance Multipack (gadobenate dimeglumine), which were assigned NDA numbers 21-357 & 21-358.

A review of the Food and Drug Administration's official records indicates that these products were 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 they represent the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the products, 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).

Both NDAs were approved on November 23, 2004, which makes the submission of the patent term extension application on January 21, 2005, 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

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

cc: Gregory J. Glover
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