Exhibit A

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HOFFMANN

November 4, 2002

Mr. Ronald J. Baron
Hoffmann & Baron, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791

Via Facsimile (516-822-3582)
Confirmation Via First Class Mail

Re: U.S. Patent Nos. 4,666,897 and RE 34,656

Dear Mr. Baron:

We have completed our preliminary review of U.S. Pat. No. 4,666,897 and Reissue Pat. No. 34,656 on behalf of our client West-ward Pharmaceuticals Corporation. We have concluded that these patents either do not cover West-ward's generic Periostat product, or if these patents are construed to cover West-ward's generic Periostat product, then the patents are necessarily invalid in view of prior art. Accordingly, West-ward intends to commercialize its generic Periostat as quickly as the Food and Drug Administration will allow. As you know, West-ward filed its application for marketing approval of generic Periostat earlier this year and expects to receive approval from FDA in the very near future.

Please let me know if you have further requests or questions of us.

Very truly yours,

Clark G. Sullivan

CGS:nlh

cc: West-ward Pharmaceutical Corporation
Holmes J. Hawkins III
Sherry M. Knowles

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