

RICHARD L. MESNICK  
1051 HILLSBORO MILE  
HILLSBORO BEACH, FL 33062

JUNE 7, 2001

MS. KIMBERLY TOPPER  
CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH (HFD-21)  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
5600 FISHERS LANE  
ROCKVILLE, MD. 20857

DEAR MS. TOPPER,

FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS I HAVE SUFFERED FROM INFLAMATORY ARTHRITIS (SOMETIMES CALLED REACTIVE ARTHRITIS) ALONG WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS. I HAVE BEEN PRESCRIBED ALL THE LATEST MEDICATIONS INCLUDING ANTI-INFLAMATORIES AND PAIN REDUCERS. UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO THE HYPERSENSITIVITY OF MY STOMACH LINING, I WAS UNABLE TO TOLERATE THE NEWEST AND STRONGEST OF THE ANTI INFLAMITORY DRUGS, LEAVING MY RHEUMATOLOGIST TO HAVE TO TREAT MY HANDICAP FROM A PAIN MANAGEMENT STANDPOINT AS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A.M.A. GUIDELINES. OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS I WAS EASED INTO 20MG OF OXYCONTIN TWICE DAILEY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH ARTHRITIS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FUNCTION WITHOUT CONSTANT PAIN. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESUME PART-TIME WORK AND WALK WITH A CANE TO SHOP OR ENJOY A SHORT STROLL. NO OTHER PAIN MEDICATION COULD GUARANTEE ME AN IMPROVED LIFESTYLE, THEY ARE ONLY MEANT AS STOP-GAP MEASURES. I AM AFRAID I WOULD BECOME A COMPLETELY HANDICAPPED PERSON WITHOUT OXYCONTIN.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Mesnick", written in a cursive style.

RICHARD L. MESNICK