

TESTIMONY OF LAUREN ROBERTS TO THE FDA/AC COMMITTEE
March 7, 2006

Good afternoon, ladies, gentlemen. Thank you for allowing my videotaped testimony today. I had planned on being there in person, however due to a recent exacerbation in my MS symptoms, I am no longer able to travel. And for the same reason, please excuse my slurred speech.

My name is Lauren Roberts. I am 51 and live in California. I have been living with MS for 30 years.

As a long-time MS patient, I can tell you that there is a tremendous unmet medical need when it comes to MS therapies, because what is available to us today is ineffective for a large population of people with MS, like me.

My MS started out 30 years ago, being fairly mild, with only numb hands and a slight drop foot on the right and I was able to remain a productive member of society, working as a Certified Paralegal for 26 years. I enjoyed hiking, camping, dancing, swimming, etc.

However, in 2001, I had to retire due to the worsening of my cognitive problems, and in the past two years, my disability has progressed very rapidly. MS has taken away my ability to work, destroyed my finances, destroyed my health and is rapidly destroying my ability to remain independent.

Since the worsening of my MS, I have been on Avonex, Copaxone, oral and IV steroids. Novantrone was not an option for various reasons. I actually got worse on these therapies. None of them stopped my attacks and now I have an overall decline in strength and coordination. Only Tysabri stopped my attacks and gave me hope with improvement in my symptoms.

The issue here is **HAVING THE OPTION OF A CHOICE**, which we currently do not have, without Tysabri.

The FDA's **over**-caution is **not** warranted here, it is only hindering our hopes of recovery and a future.

Regarding PML, most well-informed patients know that Tysabri is safe as a monoclonal therapy, and we have taken the steps to clear our bodies of other medications in anticipation of Tysabri's return.

As a Tysabri patient, I would be more than willing to undergo regular medical testing, including MRIs, and regular blood tests to minimize any possible risk of PML.

These are **our** bodies and **our** lives and **the unmet medical needs of MS patients are staggering.**

There is a much greater risk presented by **NOT** having Tysabri available to us as a choice.

Give us back the right to make our own fully-informed choice, and give us back the tool to do so: **Put Tysabri back in the arsenal of therapies to choose from.**

I gratefully thank you for this opportunity to address the AC panel...I pray you never have to experience this dreadful, debilitating disease called Multiple

Sclerosis.....do the **right** thing and give us Tysabri drug back **now**, until something better comes along.

Thank you.

Lauren Roberts