



Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

APR - 6 2004

Re: Reyataz
Docket No. 04E-0023

The Honorable Jon Dudas
Acting 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

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Dear Acting Director Dudas:

This is in regard to the application for patent term extension for U.S. Patent No. 5,849,911 filed by Novartis Corporation under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The human drug product claimed by the patent is Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate), which was assigned NDA No. 21-567.

A review of the Food and Drug Administration's official records indicates that this product was 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 it represents the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product, 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).

The NDA was approved on June 20, 2003, which makes the submission of the patent term extension application on August 14, 2003, 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
Associate Director for Policy
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Samuel J. DuBoff
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