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Food and Drug Administration Public Meeting 1 Food and Drug Administration Fibromyalgia Public Meeting Patient-Focused Drug Development Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:00 p.m. Food and Drug Administration, White Oak Campus 10903 New Hampshire Avenue Building 31, The Great Room, Section B and C Silver Spring, Maryland 20993 1

			2
1	A G E N D A		
2	Welcome	4	
3	Sara Eggers, PhD		
4	Office of Strategic Programs (OSP),		
5	Center for Drug Evaluation and		
6	Research (CDER), FDA		
7	Opening Remarks	8	
8	Bob Rappaport, MD		
9	Director, Division of Anesthesia,		
10	Analgesia, and Addiction Products		
11	(DAAAP), CDER, FDA		
12	Overview of FDA's Patient-Focused Drug		
13	Development Initiative	14	
14	Patrick Frey, MPP		
15	Director, Office of Program and		
16	Strategic Analysis, CDER, FDA		
17	Background on Fibromyalgia and Therapeutic	19	
18	Options		
19	Elizabeth Kilgore, MD		
20	Medical Officer, DAAAP, CDER, FDA		
21			
22			

	<u> </u>		
			3
1	Overview of Discussion Format	36	
2	Sara Eggers, PhD		
3	OSP, CDER, FDA		
4	Panel #1 Comments on Topic 1	37	
5	Topic 1: Disease symptoms and daily		
6	impacts that matter most to patients.		
7	A panel of patients and patient		
8	representatives will provide comments		
9	to start the discussion.		
10	Large-Group Facilitated Discussion on	75	
11	Topic 1		
12	Patients and patient representatives		
13	in the audience are invited to add to		
14	the dialogue.		
15	Break	109	
16	Panel #2 Comments on Topic 2	109	
17	Topic 2: Patients' perspectives on		
18	current approaches to treating		
19	fibromyalgia.		
20	Large-Group Facilitated Discussion on	112	
21	Topic 2		
22			

	Took and Drug Administration I ubite	0	
			4
1	Open Public Comment	176	
2	Closing Remarks	203	
3	Sharon Hertz, MD		
4	Deputy Director, DAAAP, CDER, FDA		
5	Adjournment	209	
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
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PROCEEDINGS	
DR. EGGERS: Let's get started with this	
important meeting. My name is Sara Eggers, and I'm the	
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research here at FDA.	
I'm in our Office of Strategic Programs, and I'll be	
the facilitator for today's meeting. I'm going to have	
my colleagues introduce themselves in a minute, but	
what I want to do is just thank you all for being here,	
and welcome.	
This is the Fibromyalgia Public Meeting. It	
was originally scheduled to be for December 10th. Now,	
you might look outside and say, well gee, it looks like	
it could be December 10th today, but no, this is March	
26th and we are very appreciative that you stuck with	
us through the December snow, and then stuck with us	
again through the March snow to be here today for this	
important meeting.	
This meeting is also being webcast, and we	
have several many, many people signed up to join the	
meeting by webcast. We thank you; your voice is very	
important to this effort, and there will be several	
ways that you can contribute as well.	
	DR. EGGERS: Let's get started with this important meeting. My name is Sara Eggers, and I'm the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research here at FDA. I'm in our Office of Strategic Programs, and I'll be the facilitator for today's meeting. I'm going to have my colleagues introduce themselves in a minute, but what I want to do is just thank you all for being here, and welcome. This is the Fibromyalgia Public Meeting. It was originally scheduled to be for December 10th. Now, you might look outside and say, well gee, it looks like it could be December 10th today, but no, this is March 26th and we are very appreciative that you stuck with us through the December snow, and then stuck with us again through the March snow to be here today for this important meeting. This meeting is also being webcast, and we have several many, many people signed up to join the meeting by webcast. We thank you; your voice is very important to this effort, and there will be several

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1	I just want to let everyone know that this	
2	meeting is being recorded through the webcast, and	
3	there will also be a transcript of the meeting that we	
4	will post on our website some days after the meeting.	
5	There are restrooms located out about as far	
6	away as you can be, out down the end of this hall, and	
7	then to the right. There's a drinking fountain there	
8	as well. There's a kiosk that you might have noticed	
9	near the registration table that sells basic food.	
10	Feel free to get up at any time. If you need to	
11	stretch, if you need to walk around, if you need to use	
12	the restroom, this is a very informal meeting, so	
13	please feel free to do so.	
14	With that I'm going to go through kind of the	
15	next slide and give just a high level overview of what	
16	we're going to be doing today.	
17	My colleagues will be giving a few	
18	presentations just to set the context for what we are	
19	trying to achieve today, and some background on	
20	fibromyalgia. I will then come back and give an	
21	overview of the discussion format. This is a very	
22	different format than typical public meetings conducted	

7 1 by FDA. 2 Then we're going to delve right into the most important part of the day, which are the discussion 3 topics one and two. One is focusing on the disease 4 5 symptoms and daily impacts that matter most to patients, and two is the perspectives, patient's 6 7 perspectives on current approaches to treating 8 fibromyalgia. 9 There will be an open public comment period after that, which we enable anyone from the public, 10 11 including the patients but also others, to give a 12 comment on typically some issue that's not directly 13 related to one of the two topics that we discussed 14 today, and then we'll have some closing remarks. 15 So with that -- there's a break between 16 discussion topic one and two, I forgot to mention, and 17 you'll be able to use the kiosk and walk around. 18 With that I'm going to ask my colleagues to introduce themselves. This is all FDA staff. 19 20 MR. FREY: Good afternoon. I'm Patrick Frey, 21 Director of the Office of Program and Strategic 22 Analysis in CDER.

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              DR. RAPPAPORT: Hi, I'm Bob Rappaport.
2
    the Director of the Division of Anesthesia Analgesia
    and Addiction Products in the Center for Drug
3
    Evaluation and Research, FDA.
4
5
              DR. HERTZ: Hi, I'm Sharon Hertz. I'm a
    Deputy Director in Bob's division.
6
7
              MS. FIELDS: I'm Ellen Fields. I'm a
    Clinical Team Leader in the same division.
8
9
              DR. KILGORE: Yes, hi. I'm Elizabeth
    Kilgore, Medical Officer, Clinical Reviewer, in the
10
    same division.
11
              DR. EGGERS: All right. Thank you. With
12
13
    that I'm going to ask Bob to step up and give some
14
    welcoming opening remarks to kick us off with this
15
    discussion. Thank you, Bob.
16
              DR. RAPPAPORT: Thank you. So welcome
17
    everybody. I too am glad to see the excellent turnout
18
    and the large number of people who've registered to
19
    watch us on the web. That's great, and I'm sorry
20
    Mother Nature didn't see to bringing us our beautiful
21
    Washington spring for you. Unfortunately, she's just
22
    not cooperating lately.
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1	So I'm the Director of the Division that	
2	would be approving, and has approved, drugs for	
3	fibromyalgia.	
4	Over the last eight years we've had the	
5	responsibility for that class of drugs. So we're very,	
6	very interested, and very excited to be part of this,	
7	and to have this opportunity to hear from you what kind	
8	of issues you're concerned about in relation to	
9	pharmaceutical products for the treatment of	
10	fibromyalgia. Obviously, there are fibromyalgia is	
11	a disorder that should be treated with multiple	
12	modalities, and drugs are just one of them. But that's	
13	our area; we're the drug people, so that's the area	
14	that we hope to hear a lot from you about, about how we	
15	can help you by finding better drugs.	
16	It's great that there are a lot of patients	
17	here, that there are patient advocates, that there are	
18	caregivers, families, and I'm also really pleased that	
19	we have people, our colleagues from industry here, who	
20	are interested in developing these products.	
21	As you can see the panel and the fact that I	
22	can assure there are others, my division, the group of	

		10
1	people in my division who deal with drugs for pain and	
2	fibromyalgia, are very interested in hearing from you,	
3	and so we have a large representation here on the panel	
4	and in the room, and watching from their desks for who	
5	just don't have the time to come and sit here today.	
6	So I want to just make sure that you all	
7	understand that we do, as FDA, we play a critical role	
8	in drug development. We work very closely with	
9	investigators and the industry folks, and during	
10	development we can give a lot of input and help, in	
11	terms of how drugs are studied, what the studies should	
12	look like, how we're going to interpret them, what our	
13	concerns would be in terms of the safety and efficacy	
14	of the drugs.	
15	But we don't do the studies. Those are done	
16	by investigators from academia, or private industries,	
17	and by the drug companies themselves. But we do, as I	
18	say, work very close with them and I think they would	
19	acknowledge that we're pretty savvy about how to study	
20	drugs for pain.	
21	We know a lot about this area, we've been	
22	really working hard over the last couple of decades to	

11 1 figure out the right way to study them. But fibromyalgia is a little different, 2 3 It's not just pain, and we we've been working through this, and since the -- before the first drug we approved for fibromyalgia, which was Lyrica in 2007, 5 we've been trying to understand what features and parts 6 7 of fibromyalgia the patients, you folks, really want to have treated and what -- which ones are most important 8 9 to you, which ones -- how they all fit together, whether -- for instance, if we're treating the pain and 10 your sleep gets better, that's great, obviously. 11 12 But if we're treating the pain your sleep is 13 not getting better, of you're still having a lot of 14 headaches, or you're just still fatigued; you don't 15 hurt anymore but you're so fatigued you can't function, 16 that's not good either. 17 So we need to know from you which of those 18 things are being treated with the drugs that we've 19 approved so far, and which are not, and which -- you 20 know, what is the -- your sort of interest in seeing those various features of the disease treated with 21 22 drugs.

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1	Now, some of them may not be amenable to	
2	treatment with drugs, and there are, as I said earlier,	
3	there are other modalities that hopefully you're all	
4	looking into, but where we can be helpful, please let	
5	us know. That's really what we're here to do today, is	
6	to listen to you. We're not here to tell you much	
7	about what we do, or how we work; we're here to listen	
8	to you so that we can bring that back to our desks and	
9	sort through how to better develop drugs for your	
10	disorder.	
11	The current drugs that are available; we've	
12	approved three since 2007 for fibromyalgia, and that's	
13	great, but we recognize that those have limited	
14	utility, don't work for all patients.	
15	So we want to hear about that as well, which	
16	of those drugs are working for you, which are not, and	
17	in what ways are they working or not working. Some	
18	drugs work fairly well generally for people with a	
19	particular disorder, and others only work for small	
20	subpopulations, and so those are the kinds of things we	
21	would also hope to hear from you today.	
22	Then, you know, ultimately the key thing that	
i		

13 we look at in a study of a new drug is whether it is 2 safe, obviously. You know, if it the -- that would be 3 something that we would look at with any drug, but the key thing that we're looking at for a new drug is how effective it is and what that balance of safety and 5 efficacy are. 6 7 So a topical ointment that you put on your skin to treat arthritis, and that it doesn't get into 8 9 your blood system, and really doesn't have side effects 10 except maybe a little rash, is -- if it's not terribly effective, we still probably are going to approve it 11 12 because it's a little bit effective and it's not -- and 13 it's relatively benign. 14 But there are drugs out there that really may 15 do a gangbuster treatment for a disorder like 16 fibromyalgia, but they're really, really toxic. 17 have all kinds of side effects. So the other thing we 18 want to hear from you is what is your thinking about 19 the risk benefit profile? How much risk are you 20 willing to tolerate? No drug is completely safe; you 21 all recognize that, hopefully. But there's a scale

there and we need to hear from you how much risk you're

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14 1 willing to tolerate. So those are some of the things we hope to 2 3 hear from you. I'm sure there will be other things that you bring to the table, and again, thank you so much for coming today and participating, and I'm going 5 to turn this over to Patrick who's going to give you 6 7 some -- an overall picture of our patient focused drug development efforts. Thanks. 8 9 MR. FREY: All right. Thanks, Bob. So Bob touched on a number of topics that are really critical 10 11 for our decision-making in CDER, and this is really why we have patient focused drug development. 12 13 When you talk about the severity of the condition and an analysis of the current treatment 14 15 options, that information is very important in setting 16 the context in which we make our decisions, because our 17 decisions aren't made in vacuums, and this was a topic 18 during our discussions with the regulated industry and public stakeholders during PDUFA V. 19 20 We would often hear about the patient perspective in the context of a specific drug at an 21 22 advisory committee meeting, but we didn't have a

15 1 meeting mechanism that could allow us to systematically 2 get at the patient perspective, which we should get as 3 good of an understanding as we can about the patient's perspective on the disease and current treatment 4 options. 5 6 So that's really where patient focused drug 7 development came from. It was a proposal put on the 8 table and discussed during the PDUFA V discussions, and 9 that wound up in the final package, and that's why we're here today. To develop that systematic way of 10 11 gathering the patient perspective on the condition, it 12 helps us inform that understanding in the context of 13 our decision, and it informs our oversight both during 14 drug development and during the review of marketing 15 applications. So not just one or the other, but the 16 full drug development timeline. 17 All right. In September 2012 we announced a 18 preliminary set of diseases. This is how we began the 19 process. We took public input on these proposed 20 nominations; I think it was 39 in total, to see what 21 the public -- where the importance was from the 22 public's perspective on which diseases to treat.

16 1 We held a public meeting in October 2012 to 2 also hear face to face from patients. We filled up one 3 of these rooms in the great room. It was quite a busy meeting. We took over 4,500 comments that were 4 5 submitted in the public docket and analyzed them. sum total they addressed over 90 different disease 6 7 areas. From this we had to, ultimately throughout 8 9 PDUFA V, choose 20. So we carefully considered these public comments and the perspective of the review 10 11 divisions in the Office of New Drugs in CDER, as well 12 as the corresponding offices in the Center for 13 Biologics, to develop that list of 16 disease areas 14 that we were going to address in fiscal years 2013 15 through 2015. 16 We published this list in April 2013, the 17 same month that we had our very first patient focused 18 drug development meeting, and next fiscal year we'll 19 establish and start off another public process to 20 nominate the disease areas for the remaining two years 21 of PDUFA V. 22 So here you see the four meetings that we had

17 1 in fiscal '13. Chronic fatigue was our first, followed 2 by HIV, lung cancer, and narcolepsy. We had sickle cell disease, was our first meeting in fiscal '14 last 3 month, and we have the pulmonary arterial hypertension 5 meeting for May, I believe. 6 We'll be following up with additional 7 meetings towards the end of 2014 and into 2015 with 8 some of the disease areas that you see on the right 9 hand side. So how do we run these meetings? We really 10 begin with a set of questions that are targeted to 11 12 eliciting the patient perspectives on the disease and 13 the treatment options. The set of questions that we 14 begin with can apply to any disease area, and they're 15 taken from FDA's benefit risk framework, which is where 16 patient focused drug development came from. 17 represent important consideration in our decision-18 making. 19 Then we meet with the review division to 20 understand and tailor those questions to be targeted 21 towards the particular disease area that's being 22 addressed in each meeting.

18 1 So our general questions, we published them 2 when we started that initial process back in the fall 3 of 2012, but then which each patient focus meeting devoted to a disease area, you'll see a variation of 4 5 those questions published, as you did for fibromyalgia. 6 We focus on relevant current topics, and the 7 drug development for the disease, for the particular disease of that meeting. For example, for the HIV 8 9 meeting last June we had some questions that focused on cure research. 10 11 We've learned that active patient involvement 12 and participation is what makes these meetings a 13 success for us and for you. 14 So what we do with this information then? 15 Well, so far we've published, I believe, two of our 16 Voice of the Patient reports, which represents a lot of 17 work in summarizing both what we heard at the meeting, 18 unique perspectives that we heard from people on the webcast, as well as additional comments that are 19 20 submitted to the public docket after the meeting. 21 The reports serve an important function in 22 communicating both to our review staff, as well as the

19 1 regulated industry, what is important from the patient perspective, as far as improvements that they'd like to 2 3 see in their daily life. We believe that in the long run the impact of 4 5 this program will be a better more informed understanding of how we might find ways to develop new 6 7 treatments for these diseases, both for the FDA review staff, and for the regulated industry in that effort. 8 9 And I think that's all I have. All right. Who do we go to next? Okay. We have Liz Kilgore from 10 11 the division. DR. KILGORE: Good afternoon. I'm Elizabeth 12 13 Kilgore, a Clinical Reviewer in the Division of 14 Anesthesia, Analgesia, and Addition Products. I will 15 be presenting this afternoon's slides on the background 16 of fibromyalgia and therapeutic options. 17 Fibromyalgia, also known as fibromyalgia 18 syndrome, is a chronic disorder that affects the body's 19 muscles and soft tissue. Although chronic widespread pain is the defining feature, other symptoms include 20 21 sleeping difficulties, fatigue, irritable bowel 22 syndrome, headaches, mood disorders, and cognitive

20 1 issues. 2 Fibromyalgia affects approximately five million adults in the United States, and women are 3 disproportionality affected, making up about 80 to 90 4 percent of those diagnosed. 5 6 The precise cause of fibromyalgia is unknown, 7 and a variety of etiologies have been theorized, such as possible factors that include viruses that affect 8 9 the central nervous system's ability to perceive pain, injuries, and physical stress, or emotional distress. 10 11 Other postulated theories include sleep disorder and 12 immunological disorders. 13 Fibromyalgia may be more common in those with 14 spinal arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and Lupus. 15 According to the America College of Rheumatology, 1990, 16 the two major diagnostic criteria are pain in at least 17 11 of 18 different specific points of the body, 18 referred to as trigger points, and pain that has lasted for three or more months, referred to as chronic pain. 19 20 There are multiple systems involved in 21 fibromyalgia. As previously noted the primary symptom 22 of fibromyalqia is pain. Painful areas known as tender

21 1 points develop in various parts of the body and may 2 spread. The pain characteristics may differ among 3 patients. For example, the pain may be described as 4 5 feeling hot and sharp, or it may be described as feeling like a deep ache. The intensity of the pain 6 7 can vary with the time of day, cold weather, activity 8 level, and stress. 9 Some patients may have abnormal pain perception processing, which leads to strong reactions 10 11 to the things that others would not find painful. 12 In addition, pain may contribute to sleep 13 problems for many with fibromyalgia. This is 14 characterized by difficulty both falling and staying 15 asleep. Poor sleep may lead to stiffness and aches, 16 especially in the morning, as well as a general sense 17 of fatique. 18 In addition to pain, sleep problems, and fatigue, patients with fibromyalgia may also experience 19 20 the following symptom complex; problems with memory, 21 concentration, and other cognitive functions, sometimes referred to as 'fibro-fog', depression or mood 22

22 problems, irritable bowel syndrome, migraines, and 1 2 other headaches, and muscle issues including weakness, tingling, and spasms. 3 Symptoms may vary over the course of time. 4 Occasionally symptoms will improve; however, in some 5 cases symptoms, especially pain, may worsen over time. 6 7 Just as there are multiple symptoms in fibromyalgia, there are also multiple treatment 8 9 options. The goal of treatments for fibromyalgia is typically focused on symptom management and pain 10 reduction. 11 Treatment may require visits to multiple 12 13 healthcare professionals with different areas of 14 expertise. It often begins with non-drug therapies, 15 such as physical therapy, exercise regimens, and 16 fitness programs, massage and relaxation techniques. 17 If initial treatment does not help, various medications 18 and additional non-drug therapies may be prescribed. 19 Three drugs are currently approved by the FDA 20 for managing pain and other fibromyalgia symptoms; 21 Lyrica, approved June 2007; Cymbalta, approved June 22 2008, and Savella, approved January 2009. Lyrica and

23 1 Cymbalta were approved for other indications before 2 being approved for the management of fibromyalgia. 3 Savella is the first drug approved only for the management of fibromyalgia, based on response to 4 5 three different measures: 30 percent or greater decrease in pain severity, a patient rating indicating 6 7 significant symptom improvement, and significant progress in at least one of two different measures of 8 9 physical function. Of course, all medications pose potential 10 risk. Possible side effects from one or more of the 11 12 three approved medications include, but are not limited 13 to, increased risk of suicidal thinking, peripheral 14 edema or swelling in the arms or legs, serotonin 15 syndrome, or neuroleptic malignant syndrome, which are 16 potentially life threatening conditions, sudden in 17 onset, seizures, liver damage, elevated blood pressure 18 and heart rate, and abnormal bleeding. 19 Clinical response to medication varies. Not 20 all patients who take approved therapies for 21 fibromyalgia will see an improvement. Other drugs that 22 patients and health care providers use to treat

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1	fibromyalgia include sleeping aides, pain relievers,	
2	anti-seizure drugs, anti-depressants, and muscle	
3	relaxants.	
4	There is a need for additional treatments to	
5	both better manage symptoms and treat the underlying	
6	condition.	
7	In addition to medications, non-drug	
8	therapies used to help manage pain and other symptoms	
9	of fibromyalgia include behavioral therapies, such as	
10	setting activity limits, light exercise, massage, yoga,	
11	acupuncture, dietary changes, practices methods of	
12	improving sleep, and psychological therapy or other	
13	emotional support.	
14	Combinations of drugs and non-drug therapies	
15	can be effective for some patients. Many patients	
16	develop a custom treatment regimen aimed at treating	
17	the symptoms that impact them most.	
18	In diseases like fibromyalgia, which is not	
19	fully understood, input from patients is especially	
20	important. Patient related outcomes, or PRO's, can	
21	represent direct measures of treatment benefit in	
22	clinical trials. However, all measurements need to be	

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1	evaluated in well-conducted placebo controlled, or	
2	double blinded randomized clinical trials.	
3	Patient reported outcomes highlight the	
4	patient's unique ability to contribute to the field of	
5	drug development.	
6	The FDA encourages the development of well-	
7	defined and reliable PRO instruments that capture	
8	clinical benefit concepts that are important to	
9	patients and the reason for today's meeting. Thank	
10	you.	
11	DR. EGGERS: Thank you to my FDA colleagues	
12	for setting the stage for this meeting. I'm going to	
13	now provide a little bit of information on what the day	
14	discussion will look like, and give you an overview of	
15	the discussion format.	
16	As we said we have the two topics that we're	
17	going to be discussing. The first one is the symptoms	
18	that matter most to you, and in that one what we're	
19	really looking for is which symptoms have the most	
20	significant impact on your life, and what are the	
21	specific health effects and how they affect you.	
22	How do these symptoms affect your ability to	

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1	do specific activities, and the more concrete you can	
2	be about this, the better that we understand in the	
3	types of terms and the ways that we have to think about	
4	symptoms, and how they relate to treatments.	
5	We'd also like to know a little bit about the	
6	specific impacts that you have from a flare, when you	
7	have an exacerbation, or a worsening of all of your	
8	symptoms, how does that compare to a more average day,	
9	if you have an average day?	
10	Then after we finish that discussion we'll	
11	move into the topic two, which is the current approach	
12	to treating fibromyalgia. So what are you doing to	
13	treat your fibromyalgia?	
14	We'll be focusing on the pharmaceutical	
15	treatments, but we also do want to hear about the full	
16	range of treatments that you do to address your	
17	condition, how well these treatments work for you, and	
18	what specific ways. What specific symptoms do they	
19	address? What are their biggest downsides? And what	
20	would you look for in an ideal treatment, if we assumed	
21	that there's no yet a cure for fibromyalgia, what	
22	could treatments do to help improve your life right	

27 1 now? 2 As our format we're going to first hear from a panel of patients, and I'm going to ask the patients 3 from topic one to make their way up to the front, and you've got some nametags. We've been working with 5 these panels since December. They've been with us 7 along the way. 8 They are -- I'm proud to say that all the 9 panelists identified for the first meeting are all able to be and participate here today. That is how 10 11 committed you all are this, that you're willing to go 12 for round two of this meeting. 13 The panels have prepared comments, about 14 three minutes, to describe their story, their responses 15 to the first set of questions, and give us a good 16 foundation that we can build on, on a facilitated 17 discussion to build on what we hear from them. 18 The panelists reflect a range of experiences 19 with fibromyalgia, and some also represent fibromyalgia 20 or pain organizations. 21 Once we hear from these panel -- all the 22 patients up front, we will then move the conversation

28 out into the audience and we'll all be able to 2 participate, again, building on the experiences shared by the panel. 3 So we'll ask questions. My FDA colleagues up 4 here are the real experts on this condition, so they'll 5 help me by asking detailed follow-ups as they see fit. 6 7 And just please raise your hand to respond, and we have some mic runners coming out who will be working the 8 9 microphones for you. This is very talk show style, if you haven't seen one of our meetings run already. 10 11 Please state your name before answering. 12 you're comfortable, state your full name, but if you --13 at a minimum, please just state your first name. 14 So we also have a chance for poling 15 questions, and this has worked well in the past, and 16 I'm going to ask for the clickers to be handed out. 17 We've got these, you know, great technology 18 in these little clickers that will enable the patients, 19 primarily the patients and maybe the patient 20 representatives for a few questions, to directly 21 participate in the discussion by responding to a few 22 polling questions. This gives us an idea of what

29 1 experiences are in the room, who's here today, and some thoughts on a few of the discussion topics that we have 2 3 so we can get a sense of the range of experiences in the room. 5 It's not at all a survey, and if you don't feel comfortable answering any questions, it's 6 7 completely voluntary. We're not using this for any kind of scientific purposes. We do ask that it's 8 9 patients and patient representatives only, and we also ask please return the clickers. They do absolutely no 10 11 good outside of FDA's campus. I don't even that 12 they're that pretty to put on the coffee table; just 13 give them back to us. 14 Web participants, you can participate too 15 through the poling, through the webcast, and we 16 encourage you to do so. It really give sustained a good snapshot of who's online. 17 18 Web participants, you can also add comments through the webcast, and although they might not be all 19 20 read or summarized today, especially if we have 21 hundreds of people on the webcast, we will try to 22 summarize what we can and they are all being recorded,

30 1 and they will be included -- incorporated into our 2 report. We'll also occasionally go to the phone lines 3 to give you another opportunity to contribute, and that 4 information will be provided through the webcast at the 5 appropriate time. 6 7 You have other chances, patients and patient representatives have other chances to participate, even 8 9 if you know people who aren't able to participate in the meeting today, encourage them to participate by 10 11 sending us a comment, and we would like your comments as well, after the meeting. 12 13 We have comments through what we call the 14 public docket, and this is a website that's run by the 15 Federal Government that allows us to receive 16 information from the public. 17 So you'll go to the website, the slides will 18 be posted after this meeting so you can go to this slide for this information, or we have this information 19 20 on our website. You go to the link, you click on 21 comment now, and you can submit a comment in a comment 22 box, or you can upload a document that's on your

31 1 computer to submit a comment. Anyone is welcome to 2 comment; it doesn't have to just be a patient or 3 patient representative. So there's a few ground rules that I like to 4 be really clear about because they help ensure that we 5 have the most productive and respectful conversation 6 7 for FDA's sake, and for your sake as well. We do encourage patients to contribute to the 8 9 dialogue. We really want to hear from all of you, and if you're a patient and you're in the back please come 10 to the front, as close as you can be to the front, is 11 12 very helpful. Caregivers and advocates, you are 13 welcome to contribute as well. 14 The FDA, and industry, and other government 15 in the audience, we are so glad to see you; we just ask 16 for you to be in listening mode today. 17 FDA is here to listen. As I said, they have 18 an important role, the FDA panelist, to help me ask follow up questions. We can't provide -- we might not 19 20 be able to provide information if you have questions 21 today. So we're, again, here in listening mode. 22 Our discussion today is going to focus on

32 those two topics that I outlined, the symptoms and the 2 treatments. This does not mean there's not a range of 3 other important topics around fibromyalgia and helping to ensure that patients get all the care and support that they need in their lives. 5 6 Our conversation today is intended to focus 7 on the things that FDA can most concretely hold on to and address. So if there are other topics that you 8 9 want to discuss, you can feel free to discuss those in the open public session of today's meeting, and the end 10 of our discussion topics. 11 There's a sign up sheet out at the 12 13 registration table; you can sign up. It's first come, 14 first served, and it will determine how much time you have by the number of people that sign up, typically 15 16 about three minutes. I want to say another thing about the flow of 17 18 the discussion today. The discussion topic is going to 19 focus on symptoms, and I think the best way to have 20 that conversation is we will address symptom by symptom, and expand upon each. So I ask today is when 21 you want to raise your hand to comment on something, 22

33 please stay as close as you can to the question that's 2 being asked. You will have your chance to address 3 another symptom that you face later, or if you haven't yet talked about it, and we get to the end, then I'll 5 ask if there were other topics that you wanted to raise that are relevant to this. 6 7 This will make sure that the conversation goes as smoothly as possible, and that we let everyone 8 9 who gets a chance to -- wants to have a chance to speak can do so. 10 The views expressed today are personal 11 12 opinions, and so we just respect everyone's personal 13 opinions as their own expressions. Of course, respect for one another is paramount, and in our other meetings 14 15 that has always been the case. So -- these meetings 16 have been so respectful. It's really a community, and 17 for those on the webcast, I know you can't see the 18 folks in the room, but there's really a connection here 19 and it's -- there's a lot of energy that's in the room 20 as we're having these conversations. 21 So let us, the FDA, know how we're doing. 22 have evaluations at the registration desk. These are

34 very important to us and we really do take them to 2 heart on how we can continue to improve upon our 3 process as we go through other meetings. With that we're going to test out the 4 5 clickers, I think. Can we have the next slide? Okay. So this is our chance to test out the clickers. Does 6 7 everyone -- up here, do you have clickers? Can we have a few clickers for the up front? 8 9 We ask the hardest questions first. Again, this gives us a chance to see who's in the room. So if 10 11 you've got the clicker you're going to do the corresponding letter, and if you're on the web, you're 12 13 going to do the Adobe. 14 The first question is where do you live? 15 Within the Washington, D.C., metro area including the 16 Virginia and Maryland suburbs, or outside of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area? So if you can 17 18 click your little clicker? Okay. 19 If we can have the results? Okay. 20 thirds of you came from outside of the Washington, 21 D.C., metropolitan area. That is fantastic. We are so 22 appreciative. We're appreciative of anyone who

35 traverses the beltway to get here, but a special shout 2 out to those of you who have travelled a long distance, 3 especially if you were also planning to do the December, that unfortunate December meeting. So thank 4 5 you. 6 On the web? MR. THOMPSON: On the web we have about 90 percent from outside of D.C. 8 9 DR. EGGERS: Okay. So we have a very nice representation hopefully from all over. Okay. The 10 next question, please. Do you have fibromyalqia? Yes-11 12 A or B-no. Okay. The responses? 13 So it looks like there's a lot of -- there's quite a few patient representatives, and caretakers, 14 15 and loved ones here, and we also very much appreciate 16 your support and your contribution as well to this. So it looks like we have about 30 people living with 17 18 fibromyalgia in the room, if I did the math correctly 19 in real time, and we -- again, we're so appreciative. 20 Let's have the next question. What is your 21 age? Oh, and from now on let's stay only if you have -- if you answered yes to having fibromyalgia answer the 22

36 rest of the questions. 2 So is your age younger than 30, 31 to 40, 41 to 50, 51 to 60, 61 to 70, or 71 and greater? 3 Okay. We have a very nice spread. 4 representing as much people younger than 30, but that's 5 to be expected knowing the condition. But we have 6 7 quite a few people here who are in their 60's, and again, a range from the 30's to the 60's. So great to 8 9 see that diversity. On the web? 10 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, on the web we have a 11 12 little bit different spread. For the younger than 30 13 we have about ten percent, 31 to 40 about 20 percent, 14 as well as for 41 to 50. Then we see a jump for 51 to 15 60 up to about 30 percent. Then we have a little lower 16 from the 61 to 70; we have about 18 percent. 17 DR. EGGERS: So we have a wide range across 18 in both web and in person. Okay. Are you male or 19 female? Okay. Can we have the results? Okay. 20 Okay. So 90 percent are female, and we have some male representation here. Again, it matches our 21 22 expectations, but we thank everyone who's here,

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1	especially the men in the group.	
2	On the web is it about the same?	
3	MR. THOMPSON: It's about 20 percent male, 80	
4	percent female.	
5	DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you.	
6	How long have you had the symptoms of	
7	fibromyalgia? Less than five years, five to ten years,	
8	10 to 20 years, more than 20 years, or you're not sure?	
9	Okay. All right. So we have many, many people who	
10	have lived with this condition for a long time	
11	represented here today, with the more than 20 years	
12	being the largest group.	
13	On the web?	
14	MR. THOMPSON: It's similar. A little bit	
15	more skewed towards the shorter duration of having	
16	symptoms.	
17	DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much. I think	
18	there's on last polling question here. Do you have a	
19	physician confirmed diagnosis of fibromyalgia? Yes,	
20	no, or I'm not sure? Okay.	
21	Yes, over 90 percent of you do have one, have	
22	a diagnosis of fibromyalgia, and we understand that	

38 that might have been a long road to get there. We do have a few folks in here who do not have one, who are 2 3 not sure. So on the web is it similar? Okay. MR. THOMPSON: Yes. 4 5 DR. EGGERS: I think that's it for the polling questions. Is that correct? Okay. Good. 7 Now I can stop talking and let the panelists I'm going to let them introduce themselves, and 8 9 we have one panelist, one person who was supposed to be here today. She's been working with us since December, 10 as I said, but she informed us after the weekend that 11 12 she is experiencing a very severe flare, so we are 13 going to accommodate her and let her share her story 14 over the web. And if she is available, I'm -- is she 15 ready? Is it ready? Just give us a few minutes; we've 16 never done this before. 17 MR. THOMPSON: Operator, is Lori ready to go 18 to the phone? 19 DR. EGGERS: Okay. You know what we'll do, 20 we will wait on Lori, and we will have her come on when 21 we get all the pieces together. So what we'll do is we 22 have the four up here and we'll let you go through --

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1
              MR. THOMPSON: Hold on -- do you want to go
2
    to her now?
3
              DR. EGGERS: Is she -- is Lori ready?
              MR. THOMPSON: I think so. Operator, you can
4
    put her line on.
5
6
              MS. GALPEER: Hello?
              DR. EGGERS: Lori, hi, this is Sara.
              MS. GALPEER: Hi.
8
9
              DR. EGGERS: Hi, Lori. Oh, we can see you
10
    great.
11
              MS. GALPEER: (Inaudible 42:18) say I've had
12
    the opportunity to meet a lot of people, and possibly
13
    make some new friends.
14
              DR. EGGERS: So we -- give us one second, one
15
    second, Lori. We're going to make sure there's volume
16
    so that everyone can hear you. Can you test? Can you
17
    say something?
18
              MS. GALPEER: One, two, three.
              DR. EGGERS: Is that okay? Can everyone hear
19
20
    good enough?
                 We've got thumbs up in the back, and the
21
    transcriptionist? Give me one second. All right.
22
    Lori, go ahead.
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		40
1	MS. GALPEER: Can you hear me now?	
2	DR. EGGERS: Yes, we can hear you.	
3	MS. GALPEER: Okay. I just wanted to say	
4	that I hoped to be there in person to meet a lot of	
5	different people, make new friends, because all go	
6	through this, and thank you so much for accommodating	
7	me, because like everyone else, it means so much to be	
8	able to share my story. Okay. I don't want to take up	
9	all of your time.	
10	Going right to the questions that were asked	
11	by the panel. Of all the symptoms, like everyone else,	
12	pain, fatigue, and memory difficulties are the most	
13	debilitating for me. Having had this insidious illness	
14	for 18 years now, I've experienced more types of pain	
15	that I've ever known the body could create. I have	
16	pain 24/7.	
17	Normally I live with a deep mild throbbing	
18	that feels centralized in my body. During flares it	
19	becomes a deep grinding pain that feels as if someone	
20	is kneading my muscles. Other times I can experience	
21	spasming, burning, or a type of vascular sensation that	
22	makes a motion like riding in a car difficult to	

41 1 tolerate. 2 On a regular basis I have a mild to moderate At it's mild state I feel like someone who's 3 been on the go for over 24 hours, dragging but able to 5 pull through. The standard for me is like someone with a bad cold where I'm forced to rest every so often 6 7 after any form of activity. In a worse state I'm sleeping the majority of the day, awakening and still 8 9 feeling lousy. In terms of memory, I live with Post It 10 notes, even having to record important information that 11 12 may have been told to me just moments ago. In addition to the memory difficulties, we're finding another even 13 14 more embarrassing symptom for me; I don't like having 15 to speak to people during those times. 16 You have no idea how frustrating and 17 humiliating, for example, being in a deli and trying to 18 recall the name for tuna fish and ending up having to point to it (inaudible 44:59). The more I struggle to 19 20 recall words, the more distressed I become, only 21 worsening the ability to think. There are many times I 22 can no longer (inaudible 45:08) and can no longer do

		42
1	and what I can do is very limited.	
2	Anything that requires me sitting, standing,	
3	and leaning for long periods of time is challenged.	
4	Using my hands, arms, shoulders, without taking breaks,	
5	this can lead to locked muscles in my neck that can	
6	cause a headache that lasts up to three days.	
7	On my good days I'm able to do a couple of	
8	things like walk my dog, or a portion of the housework,	
9	like a load of laundry or to load the dishwasher. On	
10	my bad days it's basically the world could fall apart	
11	and I wouldn't care.	
12	I remain in hibernation mode, being in bed	
13	the rest of the day. Climbing a couple of stairs is	
14	agonizing. My leg muscles feel leaded, stuff, and	
15	weak, and almost as if they were going to rip if I	
16	continue to walk.	
17	Sometimes I'm too tired to even take a	
18	nighttime shower. I have heightened sensory modality	
19	during these times. Sounds are amplified, smell is	
20	intensified, and (inaudible 46:07). Touch, breathing,	
21	and irritating against my skin.	
22	I feel like a car being revved up while in	

43 park. My mind is racing with thoughts making sleep 2 difficult; everything seems annoying to me. The pain gets intense to the point that I want to rip my skin 3 off. 5 Over the years my condition has gradually worsened. I was once in a beloved career in clinical 6 7 research, and now I'm forced to go on disability for 8 the past three years. 9 I have bad days and good days that are mixed, never knowing when they will occur and to what extend. 10 Weather, stress, and over exertion of my muscles create 11 12 my flares. Of all my worries the loss what (inaudible 13 46:48) I do have to the point of becoming wheelchair 14 bound or bed ridden is most predominant. My worst fear 15 is having to live the rest of my life this way. 16 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Lori. We 17 very much appreciate it. I'm going to ask my FDA 18 colleagues if they have any follow up questions, if we 19 still have Lori on the line. Any specific follow up 20 questions for Lori? 21 DR. HERTZ: Lori, can you tell us a little bit about what you're doing for your symptoms? 22

		44
1	MS. GALPEER: I'm sorry; could you repeat	
2	that?	
3	DR. HERTZ: What types of things are you	
4	doing for your symptoms?	
5	MS. GALPEER: Mainly I take medication;	
6	Cymbalta and Ultram, and then Neurontin for when I have	
7	flares and it helps me to get about three and a half of	
8	sleep at night, on a good night. I do a little bit of	
9	meditation.	
10	I've gone to the chiropractor where they've	
11	manipulated and taught me exercises so that I can try	
12	to catch the intensity of my shoulders and arms so that	
13	I don't get the headaches, and it has helped a bit. I	
14	don't get as many headaches as I used to.	
15	A lot of support. I have a big fan base, a	
16	lot of friends that I went to school with on Facebook,	
17	and a lot of friends that I've established over	
18	Facebook (inaudible 48:17) fibromyalgia, we support	
19	each other and validate each other. I have a very	
20	supportive husband who's helped me through a lot of	
21	this. So emotional support has been the biggest	
22	factor, or I would profoundly (inaudible 48:32).	

45 1 I do try to go out and walk as much as I can. 2 On a good day I walk up to a mile at a certain pace. 3 Stretching sometimes seems to get this (inaudible 48:49), sometimes it locks that up. 5 Hot showers help a lot too. It seems to release something at times with the muscles. I really 7 can't think of anything else, but those are the main things that I rely on to try to help decrease the pain 8 9 and some of the other symptoms, as much as possible. DR. EGGERS: Thank you so much, Lori. We 10 have one other follow up question. 11 12 DR. KILGORE: Have you identified what causes 13 the flare? What causes your flares? Do you know? 14 DR. EGGERS: What causes a flare for you, 15 Lori? MS. GALPEER: The worst is weather. 16 17 change at all, an increase or decrease in the 18 temperature. Cold days like this, humidity -- when it's humid and hot I get the nausea and the burning 19 20 pain, and the exhaustion. The cold temperatures bring 21 on the stiffness, the tightness, the burning pain more so, (inaudible 50:02) types of flares. That seems to 22

46 1 be the worst. 2 Over the three years that I've been on 3 disability I've had to really learn to handle stress, and learn to go through it -- we all go through sort of 5 a believing process to learn to accept what we can't change, and the new lifestyle. The new life, whatever 6 7 you want to call life, that we have. So trying to handle life, but trying to not get overwhelmed by the 8 9 (inaudible 50:38) has reduced some of the stress. mainly the weather is my biggest flare of all things. 10 11 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Lori. 12 Lori's going to be having to jump off now, so 13 I would like to give Lori a round of applause, 14 especially if you hear your own experience shared in 15 her story. Thank you very much, Lori. 16 MS. GALPEER: Thank you. 17 DR. EGGERS: Now we will start with Jacob. 18 You'll have to just turn on your microphones with the little button. 19 MR. SMITH: Hello everyone. My name is Jacob 20 21 Smith. I'm originally from Brooklyn, New York, but now 22 I reside in the Bronx, New York. I'm a father of two

47 1 beautiful girls, and one beautiful wife. In travelling from New York my purpose for addressing you today was 2 really to assist you in gaining a deep understanding 3 about my journey with fibromyalgia. 4 5 So let me begin by saying that in 2009, for no unexplained reason, I began experiencing swollen 6 7 feet and hands, in which I was rushed to the emergency room. After no determined diagnosis I returned home 8 9 only to experience an increase in body pain over the 10 next year. Unfortunately in February of 2010 when we got 11 12 -- that my youngest daughter was born, I attempted to 13 stand up, which led to me loosing my balance and 14 falling on the floor. At that moment my wife assisted 15 me in regaining my balance resulting in me resting in 16 the bed for the next two days. Post those two days I 17 scheduled my first doctor appointment to Columbia 18 Presbyterian Hospital in Upper Manhattan. 19 Finally after numerous emergency room visits, 20 and several x-rays and tests, it was diagnosed in May 21 of 2013 that I has this central nervous system disease 22 entitled fibromyalgia.

48 1 Over time I would regularly notice the daily 2 impact the disease had on my life, relative to the symptoms involved. Of all of the symptoms that I have 3 experienced due to the disease, the three most 4 5 significant ones currently impacting my life today is the chronic body pain, which can range from a deep 6 7 muscle pain, chronic headaches, feet pain, leg pain, 8 chest pain, hand pain, and an unending back pain. 9 The second is the chronic fatigue, which can pretty much be described as like an overwhelming 10 11 feeling of tiredness that is not relieved by sleep or 12 any rest, and for which I'm experiencing right now. 13 The third is the, I would say, cognitive 14 function aspect of it. I'm beginning to forget a lot 15 and having to write a lot of things down, and my wife 16 has begun a daily regimen of pretty much reminding me 17 of what I have to do both for my company and my staff, 18 and myself, and also our daughters. 19 So frankly put, the fatigue is not your 20 normal tiredness. Again, it's an overwhelming feeling of tiredness. 21 22 The fourth, I would say, just to add in, is a

49 restless leg syndrome, which my legs tend to hurt all 2 of the time, and my feet tends to stay swollen at time. Or remain swollen. 3 Initially I was able to walk for a few days 4 5 without any major swelling, but as the time progressed the immobility of my feet became evident. Now I'm at 6 7 the point where able to only walk half a block before I 8 experience that pain. 9 Once I return home, so I'm trying to rest, so I have to deal with the results, so you know, the feet 10 swelling and throbbing, in which my wife has begun a 11 12 daily regimen also of soaking them in alcohol and hot 13 water. 14 To further elaborate on the point, the pain 15 resulting from these short walks has also disallowed me 16 to be able to give my seat on the New York City subway, 17 in which that bothers me because sometime I will see an 18 elderly person, or a mother with a child, and I'll be thinking that I really can't give up my seat, in which 19 20 I really want to. 21 Unfortunately it's been recommended that --22 by my physician that I may possibly have to look at the

50 use of a power chair for mobility on the days that I 2 cannot walk. With that recommendation reality is not only -- not totally set in regarding the use of a power 3 chair as part of my daily life. 4 5 So I'm trying to incorporate a few daily and long distant travel methods to help decrease the pain. 7 But let me put it like this; it has yet to work. After reoccurring problems with my vision --8 9 another reoccurring problem is with my vision. Where major flare-ups occur, I partially lose the use of my 10 11 near sightedness, leaving me unable to read anything 12 for hours at a time. I remedy these episodes by just 13 relaxing my eyelids with a warm rag over them. 14 But the key aspects of the disease is with my 15 living in isolation. In living with this I've 16 experienced social isolation simply because I am in too 17 much pain to keep with any social engagements. 18 Unexpected flare-ups of pain and discomfort may surprise me, and I have gradually changed or limited my 19 social activities. 20 21 Another sign of my social isolation resulted 22 in my withdrawing from social activities, or feeling a

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1
    loss of interest or pleasure in my usual activities.
2
    But I'm working to avoid social isolation by making an
    extra effort to stay engaged with my family and
3
    friends.
5
              DR. EGGERS: Any final thoughts, Jacob? Any
    parting --
6
7
              MR. SMITH: Yeah, I mean -- the parting
    thoughts is just -- what I'm trying to do now is now
8
9
    put together some form of comprehensive lifestyle plan
    that's really going to help me shape my mind, body, and
10
11
    spirit, so that I can remain holistically healthy to
12
    the disease.
13
              DR. EGGERS: Thank you so much, Jacob. Thank
14
    vou. And Michelle?
15
              MS. DONCKEL: Hi. I want to say (inaudible
16
    57:19).
17
              DR. EGGERS: Oh, I'm sorry.
18
              MS. DONCKEL: Well, I want to thank the FDA
    for listening to us because people don't listen, even
19
20
    people that aren't involved in medicine. They don't
21
    know what to make of it, and so they just don't want to
22
    listen.
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1	Fibromyalgia has been my constant companion	
2	for 26 years. I am so sorry	
3	DR. EGGERS: It's okay.	
4	MS. DONCKEL: I have all of the symptoms; the	
5	pain, the exhaustion, the fog, IBS, insomnia,	
6	sensitivity to hot and cold, to name the major ones.	
7	There's a lot of little ones that I deal with, and I	
8	believe that right now I'm on a good regimen of	
9	medication. I'm able to hold down a job. I'm able to	
10	work from home when I need to.	
11	The group that I support are very supportive	
12	of me, and I feel really lucky that I have that in my	
13	life.	
14	I don't really believe my condition has	
15	changed that much over the years. The only thing that	
16	really has changed is my ability to know what I can do	
17	and what I can't do, and thereby being able to do a few	
18	more things because okay, I can't go shopping	
19	tonight; if I do go shopping tonight, then I probably	
20	won't do anything tomorrow or the next day, and just	
21	working that into my daily life.	
22	Getting sleep, making sure to go to bed at	

53 the same time every night, the same routine, and with 2 the help of medication I have the best track record for sleep that I've ever had in my life, from the time I 3 was a baby. Just ask my mother. 5 So I hope that I can be hopeful to the rest of you that it doesn't need to get worse than what you 7 have it right now, and maybe you can continue to do what you do right now with modifications in your 8 9 lifestyle. The biggest challenge I have though, and it 10 sounds the same as what Lori and Jacob have talked 11 12 about, is those attacks. Mine type start in the 13 morning, I will wake up like I have been hit by a bus, 14 I am too exhausted -- like I lay there, I have to go to 15 the bathroom, I have to go to the bathroom, and it will 16 take me a half an hour just to be able to get out of 17 bed to move to go to the bathroom. 18 The pain is so bad, like if somebody walks across the floor, I can feel that. It feels like there 19 20 are knives sticking into my body. 21 Then the next thing that comes with that is I 22 can't even tell you what's going on because I can't get

54 the word out of the mouth. I can't get the word into 1 2 my brain. They may come out in a different order. 3 My family is really good at understanding and helping me through that. But what it does to diminish 4 5 is my ability to go to work, because I certainly cannot go in and be effective if I don't know what's being 6 7 said to me, if I can't respond, which sometimes I just 8 can't respond. 9 So those are the days I have to stay home, and just wait for it to pass. Because usually at that 10 11 point, if it's that bad, any of the medication I 12 normally take doesn't work, and I'll loose two weeks. 13 That is so depressing. On top of everything else, I've 14 just lost two weeks I will never get back. 15 Things that I would have liked to do, I can't 16 do, and my friends understand it, but extended circles, they just don't get it. So it's just a really hard 17 18 thing to deal with. 19 The thing that made a huge impression on me 20 was Jack Kevorkian. Dr. Death. One of his patients 21 was a fibromyalgia patient, and I readily admit if I 22 thought my life was going to be one long attack, fibro

55 attack, and I would never have a day where I could get 2 up and go to work, I would call him, because it's not 3 living. It's just not living. DR. EGGERS: Thank you so much, Michelle. 4 5 Now we'll have Laura. 6 MR. THOMPSON: Just a quick reminder to speak 7 pretty close to the microphone so people on the web can 8 hear you. Thank you. 9 MS. DUGAN: Hi, my name is Laura Dugan. 10 32 years old, and I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia when I was about 16, which is a little younger than is 11 12 traditionally diagnosed. 13 I had presented with chronic pain, chronic fatigue, and saw my primary care doctor, and I remember 14 15 her coming out with this green book and opening it and 16 there was a chart and she looked at the chart, and then 17 you know, testing all the tender points on me, and I 18 had pain in all of the tender points. That coupled with the fatigue and blood work to rule out things like 19 20 Lupus and M.S., and other possible diagnoses, is how I 21 ended up with fibromyalgia diagnosis. 22 So at this point I've had it for about half

56 my life, which is sort of an unusual thing. 2 The level of fatigue is definitely the 3 biggest impact on my life. As I've gotten a little bit older mine has gotten a little bit better. I generally 5 don't have huge pain flare-ups, but the chronic fatigue is a huge part of my life and it affects just about 6 every decision that I make. 7 8 It's impacted relationships that I've had 9 with significant others. My family, I think because they grew up -- we all sort of grew up together with me 10 11 having it, it was a little bit different, so they're 12 just sort of used to it, as I've gotten used to it. 13 It is just a part of my daily life, but I do find that when I'm thinking of doing something, or 14 15 making decisions, I'm thinking, well, what time am I 16 going to get home, so what time can I get in bed, to 17 make sure that I can get enough sleep. 18 Insomnia has been a big problem, and it 19 wasn't until about two years ago that a doctor through 20 to test me for a melatonin deficiency, and I was found 21 at that time to be very deficient in melatonin. 22 taking that now has pretty much, so far, cured my

57 1 insomnia, which is wonderful because I've tried just 2 about every sleep aid on the market with more misses than hits. 3 At one point I was on -- my one doctor joked 4 5 that I was on as much trazodon as they give prisoners to tranquilize them. So it's nice to be able to take 6 7 something natural to help you to go to bed, and I'm a big proponent of that as well. 8 9 Most of the over-counter -- not over counter -- all of the prescription medications for fibromyalgia 10 have not helped me in any way, in fact, coming off of 11 Cymbalta, even though I tittered off of it, threw me 12 13 into one of the worst flare-ups that I've ever had. 14 So it's sort of a catch-22 with trying to 15 find something that works to alleviate the symptoms, 16 particularly of fatigue, but the whole risk/benefit 17 scenario that was mentioned earlier -- it's hard for me 18 to tell overall if things have gotten better or worse. 19 I do feel like my pain is a little bit 20 better, like I said, but the fatigue -- as you 21 mentioned -- it was interesting too, my mother had said 22 too, that I have never slept well from the time I was

58 an infant. So it's interesting to see that there's 2 some parallels there as far as that goes. I have yet to find anything that really helps 3 alleviate the fatigue. I have had, I think at this 4 5 point, even ten sleep studies. I've had things like periodic limb movement syndrome, I think is what it is, 7 and delayed sleep phase syndrome, and all these things 8 thrown at me, but no real solutions to fix it. 9 More than anything I would like to be able to wake up in the morning and not be tired, not have my 10 11 first thought be, I want to go back to sleep. 12 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Laura. 13 finally we have Sabrina. 14 MS. DUDLEY-JOHNSON: Thanks, Sara. 15 Sabrina Dudley-Johnson. I am a Chicago Police Officer 16 disabled by injury-induced fibromyalgia. 17 I had a series of injuries on the job, the 18 first one was because I was arresting a person who 19 thought I was Dionne Warwick, and got upset when she 20 found out I wasn't, and she Judo flipped me I sprained 21 my left arm. Then I had a fight with Stephen King --22 not the writer -- in an enclosed small room with the

		59
1	lights off, and he was throwing me around the room like	
2	a rag doll.	
3	Then finally I was in a squad car that was	
4	hit by a squad car that was driving by a drunk	
5	policeman. This all happened over a period of about	
6	nine to twelve months, so I know to the point when my	
7	fibromyalgia started.	
8	As a result of fibromyalgia I am now	
9	divorced.	
10	I'm going to go through I answered the	
11	questions, so I'll just go through and answer of all	
12	the symptoms that you experience because of your	
13	condition, which ones are the most significant? For me	
14	the top three are the unrelenting widespread chronic	
15	pain that won't stay in one spot. You know, it starts	
16	out in the morning in the neck, and then by the	
17	afternoon it's in my lower back, and by the evening	
18	it's in my legs and feet.	
19	The next one is the ongoing fatigue. I start	
20	in the morning really well and about 3:00 p.m. I	
21	literally hit a brick wall. I'm like a cartoon	
22	character moving at 100 miles an hour and then all of a	

60 1 sudden come to a complete and total stop because of the 2 fatique. 3 Then for me is the constant sensory overload. I have a problem with lights, and noise, and smells, 4 5 and touching, and you name it, and it affects me. Most significant is my problems with smells. 6 7 I live in a multi-cultural condominium complex so there's at least one family member from 8 9 every culture, and when people cook the smells seep into the common hallway and then it seeps into my condo 10 11 unit. So I can't even step out of my bedroom. 12 literally stuff towels underneath the doors at the meal 13 times so that I'm not attacked by smells. 14 If I do have to step outside when people are 15 cooking, I either faint, or I throw up. So I'm 16 becoming a prisoner in my own home. That's why I'm in 17 Milwaukee right now, instead of Chicago, because now I'm in a townhouse with my daughter and I don't have to 18 19 deal with that. Specific activities that I cannot do fully, 20 21 or that I can't do at all? I do not sleep through the 22 night. I can hear everything going on around me. You

61 1 can come into the room and have a conversation and I 2 will respond to you, and my ex-husband a bought a 3 building because we had a conversation while I was sleeping. I can't move though, I'm paralyzed. 5 So as much I want to jump and say, no, don't buy that building, I couldn't react; all I could was 7 talk to him and I couldn't get the words out no. I 8 actually said yes. 9 I have not been able to perform in my chosen career of law enforcement since 1994. There were two 10 11 incidents. Number one, I was acting court sergeant, and so I'm talking to an officer and my head bounced 12 13 off the desk. I just fainted. 14 Then the second incident, I went to re-15 qualify with my service revolver and because of the 16 pain in my hand, as soon as the recoil hit I dropped 17 the gun, and then the gun discharged a second time, and 18 they told me, we don't need you anymore. 19 Finally, I'm no longer married because of 20 fibromyalqia. Back when I was diagnosed it wasn't 21 something that was -- you know, you didn't see the 22 commercials for it. You didn't hear about it, and a

62 1 doctor told my ex-husband that it was a psychological 2 disorder, and he went and asked his mother for advice 3 and she told him to go beat me back to health. tried; it didn't work. I still have fibromyalgia. 5 Next question. How do your symptoms and their negative affects impact daily life? On my best 6 7 days I can go to physical therapy if they send the van to come pick me up. Or I can go visit a friend or 8 9 relative, if they come pick me up. Or I can go to the movies, or I can go shopping, but I can't do all those 10 11 of those things at once, and that was something I used 12 to love to do, was multi-task and do everything all at 13 once. 14 Just to come to this public meeting I had to 15 go see my doctor, get a release saying, yes, you're 16 fine enough to travel and sit on an airplane for an 17 hour and a half, and make sure that I had all my 18 medication, and I had massage, and then when I get back 19 home I'll have massage. 20 Normally, I would not be leaving until the day after a meeting, but I'm babysitting my wonderful 21 two year old granddaughter, so I have to go back 22

63 1 tonight. So I know that tomorrow is going to be 2 difficult for me. On my worst days, I can't get out of bed. 3 That's -- end of story. I pull the cover up over my 4 5 head, and I answer people through the blankets, and 6 that's it. 7 DR. EGGERS: Any final thoughts? MS. DUDLEY-JOHNSON: Yes, the thing that 8 9 really bothers me about fibromyalgia is the problems that I have with touch. 10 Having my two-year-old granddaughter hug me 11 12 hurts so much, I would like to push her away, but I 13 don't want to. You know, it's the most innocent thing 14 that you can receive is a hug from a baby. And my 15 worst fear is that one day I will become a prisoner in 16 my own home because of fibromyalgia, because I can't 17 get around. 18 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Sabrina. 19 Thank you to all the panelists again. I am going to 20 suggest that we move right into the facilitated 21 discussion, and there may be some follow up questions 22 for you as we address the different symptoms that will

64 1 go along. 2 Somewhere there is a microphone for me. is the part that we call talk show style, so I'm going 3 to be coming out into the front. Can you hear me? 5 Okay. There's a lot of machines up here, so I'm not sure exactly where I'll stand for this. But the first 6 7 thing I want to do is to give the panelists a round of 8 applause. We thank you. 9 It takes a lot of courage, and a lot of preparation to come up here, and we are so thankful for 10 11 you courageously sharing your stories, and as I said, 12 they set a good foundation for the rest of the 13 conversation that we'll have. 14 So I want to ask a question first about how 15 many of you, how many patients, or loved ones if you're 16 -- if the patient is not here, how many of you heard 17 your own situations in at least one of the panel 18 members who spoke today? Okay. So just about everyone 19 did. 20 Did anyone -- I'm not going to ask you to 21 explain now, but does anyone have a completely 22 different experience than what as at all shared. Okay.

65 1 We'll come to you in a little bit then. 2 So we heard about the chronic pain, of 3 course, and we are going to talk a little bit about that, but as my colleague said, that is more understood 4 5 maybe than other aspects of fibromyalgia. 6 So then we're going to delve into fatigue, 7 the cognitive problems as we -- I think we heard one call it the fibro-fog, and other things. So let's 8 9 first talk a little bit about chronic pain. We heard several ways that the chronic pain 10 manifested -- oh, actually -- wait, I'm getting ahead 11 12 of myself. We want to have a polling question first. 13 I'm sorry. I've only done six of these; you think I 14 would remember the order by now. 15 The important thing we want to do is to get a 16 sense from you in the audience, and from the panel 17 members, and on the web, of which of these symptoms are 18 most significant to your daily life. This just helps 19 give us a sense of what's in there. 20 This is a long list, and you can use your 21 clickers to choose up to three symptoms that you would say would be your top three. Chronic pain, fatigue or 22

66 1 lack of energy, difficulty concentrating or memory 2 problems, and here I would say if you would put 3 anything in the category of that fibro-fog. Sleep problems, sensitivity to light, sound, or other 5 stimuli, gastrointestinal issues, depression or anxiety, headaches, or some other symptom that doesn't 6 7 fit in any of the other categories. This is a hard 8 question, I know. 9 Okay. I think we can go onto the results. Okay. So I don't think this is -- I think we might 10 11 have a technical malfunction here. So let's just do a quick raise of hands, shall we? Then we'll come and 12 13 see what the web is. 14 So how many would chronic pain as one of 15 their top three? Okay. So just about everyone. 16 Fatigue or lack of energy? A significant portion. 17 Difficulty concentrating, memory problems, or fibro-18 fog? Okay. Sleep problems? 19 What's interesting to me as I'm looking out 20 is that different people are raising your hands. 21 There's -- you're not all experiencing the same -- we 22 wouldn't put all the same in your top three.

67 1 Sensitivity to light, sound, or other 2 stimuli? Okay. Not very many. I think we have a few. Gastrointestinal issues? Okay. A few. Depression or 3 anxiety? Okay. A few more. Headaches? And something 4 5 else that doesn't fit into any of these categories? Okay. 6 7 So it looked like the chronic pain, fatigue, and the difficulty concentrating, the sleep problems, 8 9 were the top ones chosen. And on the web? 10 MR. THOMPSON: On the web 98 percent of the 11 people said chronic pain, 75 said fatigue, and then it 12 13 was difficulty concentrating and sleep problems both 14 around 40 percent, and then about 20 percent said 15 depression or anxiety. 16 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you. So now we can 17 talk about chronic pain a little bit. We heard various 18 ways that it manifested, including the tender spots, the muscle aches and joint pains, and the moving -- the 19 20 pain moving in your body. 21 Just a quick show of hands; how many of you 22 have the tender spots? And when I -- let's do the

68 1 quick show of hand, let's say would you put that in your one or two top aspects of pain that are the most 2 3 bothersome to you? Okay. What about the stiffness pain, or the all 4 5 over body pain? Okay. A throbbing pain all over? Okay. What about that pain to be touched that Sabrina 6 7 talked about? All right. Were there any other types of pain that you didn't hear described that you want to 8 9 talk about? Okay. Right here. There's a microphone 10 runner, if you could just state your name, please? 11 12 MS. WILSON: My name is Valerie. I get like 13 a burning pain. The way I describe it to my doctor is 14 if you were running or working out, and that like 15 burning that you get exercising, I get that from just 16 standing up and walking in the kitchen, or just 17 standing there, you know, trying to cook a meal, or 18 just standing there. 19 I just get this horrible burning coming over 20 me, and it's excruciating pain, and it's miserable to 21 live with. I get it mostly in my upper legs, my arms, sometimes my back and my neck, and it's just miserable 22

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69
    to live with.
2
              DR. EGGERS: Thank you. Valerie -- is it
    Valerie?
3
              MS. WILSON: Yes.
4
5
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. Valerie. How many of you
    experience what Valerie experiences? Okay. Are there
6
7
    other types of pain?
              Yes. Right here, and then we'll go into the
8
9
    back over there, to the gentleman.
10
              MS. WARD: Hot stabbing pain.
11
              DR. EGGERS: Deborah?
12
              MS. WARD: Hot stabbing pain.
13
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. Stabbing? Like --
14
             MS. WARD: Poker. Hot poker just going right
15
    in.
16
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. Does that resonate with
17
    people? Okay.
18
              And then the gentleman back there? You don't
19
    have to stand. You can stay sitting.
20
              MR. OGDEN: My name is Louis, and I'd like to
    say that of all those things you had listed there's
21
22
    only one that I don't have, so it was very difficult to
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70 pick the top three. Headaches have always been my major problem, along with the real tight shoulders, and 2 this kind of thing. 3 I would liken it to, if you can imagine 4 5 making a mold of your head that's a quarter inch too small all the way around, and put it on. It's crushing 6 7 from every direction. Just absolutely crushing type headache, and this goes on 24/7. 8 9 I'd also like to mention quickly that I feel a little odd in here because I've had it for so long. 10 Virtually all of my adult life and part of my 11 childhood, and I'm 63, will be 64 in a couple of days. 12 13 So I was diagnosed with fibrocytis, back in those days. 14 DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Louis, for sharing 15 your wisdom, then. 16 So the headaches, what Louis described, I saw some head nodding's. We are interested in hearing a 17 18 little bit more about headaches, so can you raise your hand if you had headaches, and you'd put them kind of 19 20 in the top? 21 Were there any follow up questions about 22 headaches, how they manifest themselves, that the panel

		71
1	would like to know about? Okay.	
2	Does anyone want to describe a situation, an	
3	experience, that's different than what Louis described	
4	regarding their headaches?	
5	We have one in the back there. Let's go	
6	right here first, Jenny, let's go right here close	
7	to you. Right there, and then we'll go in the back. I	
8	think can you turn the mic on?	
9	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 1992, after eight	
10	years struggling. It came as a result of physical	
11	injury, followed by emotional trauma. I ended up with	
12	post distress traumatic syndrome. Any medication I did	
13	not stay long term because it just gave me side effect.	
14	But I have been able to manage it with three main	
15	things, that is watching about the diet, nutrition,	
16	exercise to my limitation and what my body can	
17	tolerate, and stress management.	
18	Something that, as I aged, is coming now is	
19	movement. I think it is as a part of psychological,	
20	because movement gave me relief, and jumping from one	
21	movement to the other all the time. At the end of the	
22	day, exhaustion. I can't go to sleep.	

72 1 Now I am at the point that I am very active. 2 Sometimes I feel like I am hyperactive to do something; go around, pick up something light, move, walk and this 3 is the way that my life is, and as a result of that a lot of exhaustion. 5 6 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much. We'll be 7 getting into the treatments and the management after the break in our second topic, so we'll be delving into 8 9 that a little bit deeper. I think we had one more comment on headaches 10 in the back, the black shirt, that black sweater? Oh, 11 12 okay, a different type of pain. So -- okay, we'll take 13 one more headache comment from, I believe, Elizabeth? 14 DR. JONIAK-GRANT: Yes. 15 DR. EGGERS: Yes, from Elizabeth. 16 DR. JONIAK-GRANT: Hi, thanks. I have a huge 17 issue with getting the headaches where they turn into 18 severe migraines. For me it's if I try and carry any 19 items that are more than like a half a pound. 20 work, and actually vibrations -- if I'm in a car, road 21 vibrations, bumpy roads, that's a big thing that sets 22 it off.

		73
1	So I work with a neurologist. But with	
2	taking the Cymbalta you have to watch how much of	
3	Imitrex you take.	
4	So it's always a balance, but for me actually	
5	what helps the most for the headaches is ice. Not	
6	heat, but ice.	
7	Then the one other symptom that I just wanted	
8	to mention for me that is slightly different is hot	
9	feels like it's scalding. I have to have my husband,	
10	or use a thermometer, to check the temperature of	
11	bathes and showers before I get in because for about 20	
12	seconds I feel like it's scalding me, and then my body	
13	adjusts.	
14	So you know, I don't trust myself enough. I	
15	kind of know where the dial can be now, and that's	
16	okay, but that's something that I definitely have and	
17	has gotten worse over time.	
18	DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Elizabeth. I saw	
19	some head nods as you were describing that, so I think	
20	others share that.	
21	I want to move into fatigue because I think	
22	that all five of the panelists mentioned it, and at	

74 least two of you really focused on it in-depth. 2 believe that -- let's have another show of hands to see 3 -- did you hear your experience with fatigue reflected in their comments on fatigue? Okay. Did anyone experience something 5 completely different about their fatigue? A different 7 time of day when it hits, or under different 8 circumstances? Okay. We have one in the back there. 9 And if you could state your name, please? MS. SHOEMAKER: Oh, Nancy Shoemaker. I'm 10 exhausted in the morning. I mean, for me -- well, and 11 12 the aches and pains are in the morning, and then once I 13 get warmed -- or I think of it as warmed up, I don't 14 really mean warmed up, but I mean once my body gets 15 moving then I'm doing fine. Then I do have the crash 16 in the middle of the afternoon. 17 So I've got like, you know, so many hours in 18 the middle of the day there, it's like I'm a person, go 19 for it, do it. Then it's gone. Then equally, you 20 know, dumb as a day old woodpecker. 21 DR. EGGERS: So we've heard about that very 22 slow start in the morning. Not to try to minimize

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75
    that, but what I'll describe as a very slow start, and
    then the crash that happens sometime in the afternoon
2
3
    or later in the day.
              Anyone else have a different way that fatigue
4
5
    hits you? Okay. Right here in the middle.
6
              MS. FAUNTLEROY-COCKRELL: Early in the
7
    evening, I just have to go to bed. I can't sit up.
    mean, I can watch TV, but I've just got to lie down. I
8
9
    have to lie down. My body feels like I've been -- like
    something road or flattened me with a big Mac truck, or
10
    something.
11
12
              DR. EGGERS: Is this fatigue that you're
13
    talking about, when this crash happens, is it the type
14
    of fatigue where you have to stop what you're doing and
15
    you want to go to bed? Or is it the kind of fatigue
16
    where you don't feel like going to sleep, you just need
17
    to sit and veg?
18
              So I'm hearing one or the other, or both. So
19
    we have -- you're nodding, so -- we'll take the
20
    microphone.
                 Is it Helen?
21
              MS. WALKER: Mine is the not the kind -- I'm
22
    sorry; my name is Sue Walker. Mine is not the kind
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76 1 where I have to go to sleep, it's the sit and veg. It's just -- and my pattern, as long as I've got the 2 3 mic, is a little bit different as well. My crash is not so much dependent on time of day as on activity, and it's completely unpredictable. So it's very 5 difficult for me go out and do things because I never 6 7 know when that crash is going to strike. DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you. More here --8 9 there's one right behind. Kathy? 10 MS. KING: Yes. My name is Kathy King. For my fatique, what I -- what generally happens to me is 11 12 I'll have done something the day before, and I wake up 13 the next day and it's just -- there's just total 14 exhaustion. 15 There have been times when I've been sitting 16 in a chair and thought about raising my hand, and 17 literally couldn't do it. It wouldn't go. It's --18 those are my days that I have to call in sick. 19 Thankfully I'm still able to work full time, but it's -20 - the --21 DR. EGGERS: A delayed response in the 22 fatigue, I think is what I'm hearing.

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1
              MS. KING: It's amazing how tired you can
2
    get.
3
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. So I have a question in
    follow up. I'll ask my question first and then we'll -
4
5
    - what we'd like to tease out is how much your fatigue
    is related to your pain.
6
7
              So a question is, if you are getting a good
    night's sleep, or if you feel -- if you don't feel
8
9
    fatigued, does that have an effect on the other
    symptoms that you feel?
10
11
              I'm seeing some head nods. Maybe we can have
12
    someone over here describe?
13
              MS. LYALL: My symptoms are directly related
    to how much rest I've had, and that's one of the ways
14
15
    that I manage my symptoms, is by making sure I get
16
    enough rest. If I get over tired, which like most
17
    everybody else I have the insomnia symptom as well, I'm
18
    quaranteed to have a flare up. So it's directly
19
    connect, the fatigue and the pain.
20
              DR. EGGERS: Thanks, Sarah. Does that
21
    resonate with folks? I see a lot of heads nodding.
22
    Okay.
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1
              Go ahead, Sabrina.
2
              MS. DUDLEY-JOHNSON: Yeah, I think that my
3
    pain is related to my sleep. I got a CPAP machine last
    year, and when I use the CPAP machine religiously my
    pain level is pretty low, and if I go a day or two and
5
    -- oh, I don't need it now -- then my pain level goes
7
    back up.
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. Any other follow up
8
9
    questions -- oh, so Bob?
              DR. RAPPAPORT: There's a theory, hypothesis,
10
    that we've heard a lot that it's the underlying sleep
11
12
    disorder that is really at the center of fibromyalgia,
13
    and that it is nexus for all the other symptoms, the
14
    pain and everything else.
15
              I'd just -- I'd like to hear a little bit
16
    more from people by -- two people have said that that
17
    sort of fits the theory, but I'd like to hear more from
18
    other people. Because if we can find a drug that
    treats the sleep disorder, is that going to solve all
19
20
    the problems? Or not?
21
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. So we'll go with someone
22
    who hasn't spoken. So how about --
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		79
1	MS. LONG: Shay.	
2	DR. EGGERS: Shay? How about Shay, and then	
3	maybe next Nancy?	
4	MS. LONG: Hi, I'm Shay. My disorder kind of	
5	started off with about a year of not sleeping at all,	
6	after I came back from a deployment, and definitely it	
7	was the worst then. But since then I've gotten all	
8	kinds of behavioral therapy to try to adjust my sleep,	
9	and I'm definitely sleeping way better now, and even	
10	sometimes without the help of medications.	
11	I still am like fatigued to the point that	
12	sometimes I have I mean, I have left places, and	
13	gone like, I have to go sleep in my car right now,	
14	right now this minute. You know, even times when I'm	
15	not particular fatigued, my pain is level is still just	
16	as bad. I think the fatigue actually is sometimes	
17	almost kind of helps because I can focus on that, and	
18	go to bed.	
19	DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Shay.	
20	Nancy, would you like to follow up on that?	
21	MS. JENIAK: Yeah, I just wanted to add that	
22	mine started with a six month period of not sleeping,	

80 1 literally for six months, and that's when I got the 2 diagnosis. So I think sleep does definitely have some 3 sort of connection. And then now, 18 years later, I found something for sleep and my symptoms are much 5 better. 6 So finding something that helps with your 7 sleep, I think, is something that people should look 8 for. 9 DR. EGGERS: We have one more -- we'll go to one more in the back, but as we're going back there, 10 how many of you agree with an answer of Bob's question, 11 12 with that Shay and Nancy have said? Can you raise your 13 hands? Okay. Then one more? 14 MS. ALEKEL: My name is Lee Alekel, and I 15 work for the NIH but I have been diagnosed with 16 fibromyalgia a number of years ago. I don't have true 17 confessions, the kind of severe symptoms that many of 18 you have in this room, but I do have a myriad of 19 symptoms. 20 I also work for an institute that is vitally interested in the sleep/pain connection, and we're 21 22 holding a workshop -- it's not open to the public

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1	because we're just beginning to really try to grapple	
2	with this intersection between sleep and pain, and in	
3	particular how do sleep disturbances impact chronic	
4	pain, and actually lead to chronic pain.	
5	So we are vitally, vitally interested in	
6	this, and I think it's really good that you're having	
7	this today, and I think it's so important for	
8	researchers to be aware of this, and to really listen	
9	to the patients in the community. So thank you very	
10	much.	
11	DR. RAPPAPORT: In follow up, could you	
12	please let us know when that conference is going to be?	
13	MS. ALEKEL: We'll talk about it.	
14	DR. RAPPAPORT: Thank you.	
15	MS. ALEKEL: Thank you.	
16	DR. EGGERS: So I think we're going to move	
17	on from the fatigue, and move on to other things, but I	
18	think what we've identified is a place that if you're	
19	on the web, if you can submit you know, write in a	
20	web comment in this; it's going to be captured.	
21	You, in the room, didn't all get a chance to	
22	speak about your fatigue issues, so please take a	

82 1 moment and write a follow up on your fatigue, and if you submit comments to us through a website we'd really 2 3 be interested in hearing more, exactly that relationship. 4 5 We have Sharon? DR. HERTZ: Yes. Thank you. When you do --6 7 if you are planning to provide us additional feedback, and we would love to see it, one of the questions that 8 9 we struggle with sometimes is trying to differentiate 10 the type of tiredness that comes from simply not sleeping, and is that the same or different from when a 11 12 patient with fibromyalgia reports fatigue. 13 Is it qualitatively different, or is it 14 simply just fatigue in the setting of apparent adequate 15 sleep. So if you have some thoughts on that, we'd love 16 to hear that as well. 17 DR. EGGERS: Thank you. All right. 18 going to take a moment and see if there have been any 19 comments on pain or fatigue that have come in from the 20 web. 21 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, there's been a lot of 22 comments. Many have been echoing what's been said in

83 1 the room, so I won't go through and talk about all the 2 different pain and fatigue related symptoms. Just some of the highlights of what had been 3 said that may have, you know, built upon, or a view 4 5 slightly different from what was said in the room, there was a lot of talk about agreeing that either --6 7 some people were saying that the fatigue and pain are very interrelated, and they're not sure which 8 9 necessarily, you know, will cause the other. 10 Some people said that for them they've not seen any relation between the two, so there was a 11 12 little bit of differentiation there. 13 There was a lot of talk about vision issues 14 and eye movement pain, as well as vertigo and other 15 balance issues that were related, or at least 16 potentially related to when there was pain. Then there were a lot of things related to 17 18 these symptoms that kind of were secondary effects. An inability to work, social isolation, and there was a 19 20 couple comments about how this is much more of a 21 concern, especially for children. How that might 22 affect them in the long term.

84 1 Then also, you know, inability to travel 2 because of inability to sleep flat, and inability even to do things like clean your own house and stay up to 3 date on normal daily activities. 4 5 Then there are also a couple points about stigma related to the pain, and needing to seek 6 7 multiple doctors. You loose credibility, potentially, 8 within the medical community. It looks like you're 9 doctor shopping. Also, in terms of just needed special 10 accommodations for pain or fatigue. You know, one 11 12 person described it as older people look at him like 13 he's a liar or a fake when he requests accommodations 14 in public. 15 Then others have mentioned that, you know, 16 obviously need to rely on their spouse to help care for 17 -- with pain and fatigue, and in many cases people said that this had led to divorce. 18 19 DR. EGGERS: So it's echoing what we hear, 20 and if you're on the web you can't see it but you're 21 getting a lot of head nods in the room with people agreeing with you on those. 22

		85
1	Vision problems one more thing Jan?	
2	MS. CHAMBERS: Hi, I'm Jan Chambers, the	
3	President of the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain	
4	Association, and I appreciate this Sara. I have in my	
5	hand the survey that we completed 2,157 patients, and I	
6	want to just comment about this fatigue, Sara.	
7	The kind of questions that we asked indicated	
8	that the fatigue was so exhausting that people could	
9	not pick up a pencil, could not trust themselves to	
10	hold a cup, and when we talk about sitting down, as Sue	
11	mentioned, just that overall, sometimes it's that	
12	complete exhaustion like there's no energy coming out	
13	of the cells.	
14	DR. EGGERS: Thank you. Okay. I want to get	
15	into a few more of the other symptoms, because we want	
16	to make sure we address those and acknowledge those.	
17	Just because it was on the web, before I	
18	forget, we had vision eye pain and vision problems	
19	were mentioned. I don't believe that was one of the	
20	symptoms that was up on the web, so I'm going to ask,	
21	can you raise your hand if eye pain, or vision	
22	problems, is significant for you?	

86 1 Okay. We heard one or two examples on the panel; does anyone have a very different experience of 2 3 how their eye pain -- handles -- we'll go with Andrea first over there, and then here. Go ahead. 5 MS. ATTERBURY: Hi, my name is Sharon. I've noticed when my vision changes is I have days 7 where I have to constantly blink because I just can't Everything is fuzzy looking, and so that mean 8 9 those are the days I hope I don't have to do computer work, or I hope I don't have to do a lot of tiny 10 reading or proofing. 11 12 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much. And up 13 here to Heather? 14 MS. GROSSIN: Hi, my name is Heather. 15 have a really bad pain flare, my vision will change. 16 go to the eye doctor, I have to go get new contacts 17 because my old ones no longer fit properly because my 18 eyes will swell up, and I -- the strength of the 19 prescription also changes. 20 So it makes -- I mean, I can't buy new 21 glasses every time they change. At least with contacts they're disposable, they're only for two weeks, so it's 22

87 a little bit more cost effective. But it is a big 2 strain, because I'm like, well, should I be driving now 3 because I don't have the new contacts, and my old glasses don't exactly help me see. So it is a 5 limitation. 6 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Heather. 7 Yes, so we'll go with Jacob first. 8 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I pretty much echo what 9 this young lady over here said about the constant batting of the eyes. 10 I'm in the process of doing that right now 11 12 here I have to bat my eyes because my vision is 13 somewhat off, and I have to make myself deliberately 14 cry in order to restore that vision to some degree. So 15 I can totally relate to what you're saying. 16 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Great. Then Sabrina? 17 MS. DUDLEY-JOHNSON: My doctor just diagnosed 18 me with dry eye syndrome, and I think that's what everybody's talking about with the batting of the eyes, 19 20 so I'm constantly putting drops in my eyes. 21 I also have a problem when I wake up in the 22 morning for about an hour, I can't see. It's like

88 looking through a veil, and I just have to sit there 1 2 and bat my eyes, and wait until my vision clears and comes back. 3 DR. EGGERS: Okay. I would like to -- if we 4 5 could, I'm going to move on to the fibro-fog, because I think that was number two, if I recall, from the raise 6 7 of hands, in terms of what you're experiencing. I'd 8 like to delve into that a little bit. 9 We heard some very vivid descriptions of how that manifests itself, how you experience this fibro-10 fog, the lack of concentration and the forgetfulness. 11 12 I'd like to see if there's anyone who wants 13 to describe a different experience with the fog. We'll 14 go here first, back in the back. 15 MS. HERMAN: Hello, my name is Gwen Herman, 16 and when I have fibro-fog it's usually -- I've been 17 trying to ignore my pain, and I'm trying to work 18 through something, so what will happen is that I don't 19 realize barriers around me so I'll walk into walls, or 20 I'll hit something, or I drop things. I drop glasses. 21 DR. EGGERS: So can I follow up on that? With a show of hands how many of you find that you're -22

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89
    - that if you aren't in pain, that you are not
2
    experiencing the fog? You're not in pain, and you
3
    don't -- so you can have the fog even if you're in the
    pain; let me put it that way. Okay. I'm sorry -- yes,
5
    I -- that was a -- I stand corrected. Thank you very
    much, Deborah.
6
              If you are not in your more extreme levels of
    pain, is that -- is your fogginess clearer in some
8
    sense? Is it related?
9
                   They're not related? Okay. In the
10
              No?
    vellow shirt?
11
12
              MR. THOMPSON: Real quick, for those in the
13
    web, we're going to go to the phone in about five
14
    minutes or so, so if you'd like to call in there's some
15
    instructions on the web for you.
16
              DR. EGGERS: And when you go on the phone
17
    what we would like to really focus on, because we only
18
    get a few phone calls, is if you have symptom that just
19
    has not been talked about by the panelists, or in the
20
    audience discussion, that's what we'd really like hear.
21
              Okay. So go ahead.
22
              MS. WILSON: I have the typical fibro-fog
```

90 1 where people are saying, you know, you forget your 2 words, things like that, but I also have had times where it's been very scary for me; I've forgotten where 3 I was going, I've forgotten where I am. 5 It's to the point where I try to always go out with someone because I will lose my way, I'll 7 forget my surroundings. It's just kind of like my mind 8 gives out on me, and it's scary. 9 I'm young, I'm 33 years old, and it's just like -- I don't know where I am, I don't know where I'm 10 going, I've been in the car with my husband taking our 11 12 dogs out on a walk, and we haven't gone far, we've gone 13 maybe 20 minutes, and we're on the way back home and 14 I've forgotten what we were just doing, and it's scary 15 to me. 16 On the times when I've been out by myself and 17 this has happened to me where I forget, you know, where 18 I am or where my car is, or you know, what I'm doing, and I'm alone, then I start to have a panic attack 19 20 because I'm alone and my mind has just given out on me, 21 and it's extremely scary to think that your mind has 22 just left you.

		91
1	To be a young person and feel like it's	
2	almost to feel like you have Alzheimer's and your mind	
3	is just leaving you. It's a very scary feeling.	
4	DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Valerie. I see a lot	
5	of head nods. Valerie, when you are experiencing that	
6	are you do you have more often are you tired?	
7	Are you fatigued? Are you in more pain when that	
8	happens than typical?	
9	MS. WILSON: Not always. The one time I was	
10	saying when I was alone I had just come from a	
11	volunteer activity, so I was definitely tired.	
12	The other time where I was saying I had	
13	forgetting where I was, or where we had just come from,	
14	I was in a great mood that day. I just my mind just	
15	gives out on me sometimes, and it doesn't always	
16	correlate with pain. Sometimes I just it's like I	
17	just forget. You know, it's almost like I forget who I	
18	am, where I am, it's just my brain just leaves me.	
19	DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you. We only have	
20	a few minutes left and I want to hear if there any	
21	symptoms that in the room, that you experience that	
22	you would put in your top three that you haven't yet	

92 1 heard discussed today. 2 Okay. We have one -- we have a couple back 3 there, so how about in the black sweater first? And then here. 5 MS. GIANNOLA: Hi, my name is Laurie. One of the symptoms that I experience constantly is feeling 7 cold. I'm cold, I'm freezing, it feels like I've been packed in ice. Last year I turned my air conditioner 8 9 on twice in the summer. I had people coming over thinking I was nuts. So that's my top three, is that 10 freezing. 11 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Any other symptoms? 12 13 Okay. Right here. 14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Paresthesia, mostly in front of the leg, upper leg, and twitching of the 15 16 muscle, which is really annoying. Mostly the eyelid. 17 DR. EGGERS: One more and then I'm going to 18 see if my colleagues want to ask -- okay. Two more. 19 MS. CHAMBERS: Jan Chambers speaking from our 20 survey again; 39 percent of the people who responded 21 have suicidal ideation because they can't find relief 22 from their symptoms. That's a huge picture, 39

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93
1
    percent. Thank you.
2
              DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Jan. We'll go to
3
    Laura.
              MS. DUGAN: Just through some discussion with
4
5
    other people here a vitamin D deficiency is something
    that seems -- people seem to have in common, and I've
6
7
    also run into other people as well who have underactive
8
    thyroid.
9
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. So can I ask -- I know we
    move quickly and not everyone gets a chance to say all
10
11
    they want. But can I ask if my FDA colleagues have any
12
    symptoms that they want to follow up on briefly? We
13
    covered a lot of material in a short amount of time.
14
              Okay. If not, we'll have one more comment --
15
    two more comments because you also haven't had a chance
16
    to speak. Then -- three more comments.
17
              MS. GLEASON: Hi, Rae Gleason, and I'm the
18
    Medical Education and Research Director for the
19
    National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association. I
20
    just wanted to bring up, because it hasn't been
21
    mentioned here, and I know through the surveys that
22
    we've done here, and through the years that I've done
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		94
1	at other fibromyalgia organizations, that stiffness is	
2	like the number one. It has come in ever number one	
3	above pain on some of those surveys, and these surveys	
4	are 5,000 people that responding, so it's not a small	
5	group of people.	
6	I just want that I think is really	
7	important in what you're thinking about, and how you're	
8	planning, you know, what you're going to be doing here	
9	in the future. But spasticity is a definite problem.	
10	DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much. We'll go	
11	back there and then we'll go to Louis.	
12	MS. TORRES: Hi, I am Araceli Torres and I	
13	come from Mexico, and I have all those same things but	
14	I have another one, it's my movement. I start walking	
15	and then I start walking less, and less, and less, and	
16	I stop, and I can't continue.	
17	It happens also to me when I am driving, I	
18	can't move my hands on my (inaudible 1:49:24) and then	
19	I have to stop, and somebody have to come and pick me.	
20	And so I cannot open sometimes one eye. I open one,	
21	another one is closed.	
22	DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much. So we'll	

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95
    go to Louis, and then I'm going to go to the web and
2
    the phone.
3
              Yes, Louis, I -- your experience is different
    than others.
4
5
              MR. OGDEN: What I'd like to say that's
    different that hasn't been mentioned yet is I, in
6
7
    fibro-fog, have what I call a brain -- excuse me -- I
8
    have brain disconnect where I can be looking right at
9
    something and don't see it. I can't find it, and it's
    so obvious, it's three feet in front of my face, and I
10
11
    can't find it. She finds it for me. She's a very good
12
    helper.
13
              DR. EGGERS: Our support networks are so
14
    important, aren't they? Is this -- very quickly,
15
    Jacob?
16
              MR. SMITH: Yeah, one thing I wanted to talk
17
    about that hasn't been really spoke about or was
18
    listed, was the irregular bowl movement. That seems to
    be a symptom that a lot of people, I've found, have
19
    dealt with and I deal with that constantly. So that's
20
    mine.
21
22
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. I see a lot of head nods,
```

96 and I won't ask for a show of hands but I'm seeing a 2 lot of head nods in the room from that. 3 On the web do we have any more new symptoms that have been discussed? We just need the -- anything 4 5 new? 6 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, there just are a couple 7 There seems to be a lot more of a focus on thoughts of suicide and actual knowing other patients 8 9 that have committed suicide. There's a very, very -conversation about motor control, both with the -- you 10 know, either feeling numbness or the fluttering. 11 12 a wide range of different GI related issues from 13 nausea, IBS, constipation, etcetera. 14 DR. EGGERS: Okay. The mobility -- the 15 erratic movements, or the things that were described 16 over here, or are described on the web, is that -- can 17 you -- with a show of hands if you feel comfortable, do 18 you experience that as a type of symptom? Okay. 19 Great. All right. 20 I know want to go on the phone. couple minutes from our break, and we want to -- the 21 phone allows us to give an opportunity for those of you 22

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97
    on the webcast, a few of you, to contribute to the
2
    dialogue.
3
              So I'm going to ask the operator for a
    caller.
4
5
              OPERATOR: Yes, our first question is from
    Sharon Waldrop. Your line is open.
6
7
              DR. EGGERS: Hi, Sharon.
              MS. WALDROP: Hello. Thank you for this
8
9
    opportunity. I just wanted to mention that I have
    severe pain and fatigue in my legs to the point that
10
    when I married my husband at the age of 27 we put a
11
    chair lift in his home that was two stories.
12
13
              After giving birth to my son those problems
    went away, and nobody's been able to figure that out.
14
15
    So while that hasn't been mentioned by other people; I
16
    wanted to bring up the affects that pregnancy had on
17
    that. So thanks for your time.
18
              DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Sharon.
19
              We will get into the discussion, but how many
20
    of you -- mainly ladies in the audience today, found
21
    that if you went through a pregnancy that that changed
    your symptoms in a significant way? Okay. We won't
22
```

		98
1	get into discussing that, but perhaps if you could	
2	elaborate on that in the docket comments?	
3	Do we have another caller, operator?	
4	OPERATOR: Yes, our next question is from	
5	Larry Knight. Your line is open.	
6	MR. KNIGHT: Hello, I have a pain issue that	
7	wasn't really mentioned on here. I went to the	
8	University of Washington to get this diagnosis and he	
9	told me I had small fibro fibromyalgia (inaudible	
10	1:53:39) affects my lower body.	
11	Specifically the pain is intense in my legs.	
12	It feels like a combination of bee stings and the kind	
13	of pins and needles you get when part of your body	
14	falls asleep. I'm curious if anybody else has heard of	
15	that, or had any of the same issues.	
16	DR. EGGERS: You want to repeat that you -	
17	- Sharon?	
18	DR. HERTZ: I wasn't quite sure I heard, but	
19	did he say small fiber?	
20	DR. EGGERS: Can you repeat what you had?	
21	MR. KNIGHT: He told me I had small fiber	
22	fibromyalgia, and it affects only my lower body. It	

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99
    feels like a combination of bee stings and pins and
2
    needles in just my legs.
3
              DR. EGGERS: Does anyone -- has anyone
    experienced this?
4
5
              MR. SMITH: Yes
              DR. EGGERS: You have? Jacob has. Okay.
6
              MR. KNIGHT: Okay. I've met a couple of
    people online that have had some of the same issues,
8
9
    but theirs is of their upper body.
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. Yes, Sabrina?
10
11
              MS. DUDLEY-JOHNSON: There was just a study
12
    released a couple months ago talking about small fiber
13
    involvement in fibromyalgia, but they were looking at
14
    small fibers in the hand. I don't know if Jan would
15
    have that citation or not?
16
              DR. EGGERS: Okay.
17
              MR. KNIGHT:
                          When the neurologist gave me the
18
    diagnosis he took skin plugs off my legs to confirm
19
    that. He sent it off to a lab in New York, if I
20
    remember correctly, and there was a difference in the
21
    nerve density in the nerve (inaudible 1:55:13) serving
22
    the legs. But I don't know if the study could
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100
    correlate to the same thing, but only my lower body.
2
              DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you very much for
3
    bringing that up. I think we can take one more caller.
    Operator?
4
5
              OPERATOR: Our next question is from Mike
    Herness. Your line is open.
6
7
              DR. EGGERS: Hi, Mike.
              MR. HERNESS: Hello. I guess the thing I was
8
9
    looking at was it seems over the years -- I've had this
    about nine years, and it seems to have progressed with
10
11
    symptoms similar to autonomic neuropathy or
    dysautonomia; those types of problems with things like
12
13
    postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, drop in
14
    blood pressure, dizziness, weakness, (inaudible
15
    1:56:04) at time. Always weak and unstable; those
16
    types of things.
17
              DR. EGGERS: Mike, let me follow up with a
18
    question to the audience of how many of you here
19
    experience some sort of blood pressure symptoms,
20
    dizziness, or the things that Mike was describing?
21
              Mike, you've got a lot of hands -- several
22
    hands raising in the room. Thank you very much.
```

101 1 DR. EGGERS: We actually have time for one 2 more caller. Operator? OPERATOR: Yes. Our last question is from 3 Clarissa Baron. Your line is open. 4 MS. BARON: Yes, hi, my name is Clarissa 5 I'm 35 years old, and I thought it was 6 7 important to point out; I struggle with low libido, and I was in my late teens, and I was diagnosed with 8 9 fibromyalgia in 2012, but have the symptoms also when I was in my late teens, especially the chronic fatigue, 10 and lower back pain. But I thought that low libido, or 11 12 even a lack of it. I have no interest in any physical 13 contact, and -- sorry -- and I do love my husband, he's great, but you know, I just don't think it's natural. 14 15 I'm 35, I'm not that old, but I've never had 16 a big interest in it at all. My poor husband. Bless 17 him, but you know, I thought it was important to point 18 out, because in order to have a good quality of life, 19 as a female, I just it's not natural that I don't have 20 that. So thank you for your time. 21 DR. EGGERS: There are some heads nodding in 22 the room, so thank you very much for sharing that.

		102
1	With that I think we're going to move into	
2	the break. When we come back we will have the second	
3	discussion on the treatment approaches, and rally delve	
4	into that a little bit more.	
5	Thank you all so much for a very, very	
6	productive topic one discussion.	
7	(Break between sessions.)	
8	DR. EGGERS: We are going to get started	
9	in a few minutes. I see some empty chairs. I just	
10	would like to wait until we have a little bit more	
11	of a full house.	
12	And as we are waiting for others to join,	
13	I will just give a recap of what we are going to be	
14	discussing in the second portion of this meeting.	
15	I think there is a slide for that. Thank you,	
16	Laura.	
17	So in the Discussion Topic 2, we are going	
18	to now shift gears a little bit, even though these	
19	are very interrelated topics, but we are going to	
20	now switch gears into the treatments, the treatment	
21	approaches.	
22	And as we understand it, it is a multi-	

103 modal treatment approach, many, many different -for some of you, many, many different aspects of 2 your treatment. And we'd like to get a little bit 3 of a sense of that, and then delve a little bit into the specifics, the specific pharmaceutical 5 6 treatments. 7 In the discussion, I am going to ask us to focus -- to make distinct between treatments that 8 9 you take on a day-to-day basis to target your underlying condition, and then also then the 10 11 treatments that you have to add on once in a while 12 to address specific symptoms or maybe address a 13 flare. 14 Can I have the next slide, please? 15 Then, we would also like to focus on what 16 aspects of those treatments -- what symptoms those 17 treatments address, what are the downsides of those 18 treatments, and how do those downsides, especially if they are health downsides -- side effects and 19 other things -- that really affect your daily life? 20 And then, if we have time in our 21 discussion to get at what specific things you look 22

104 1 for in an ideal treatment for your condition. 2 I'm going to put another plug in for the docket, the website that you can submit comments. 3 For those of you on the web, and for those of you 5 sitting in the audience, if you want to submit your own responses to all of these questions, we very 6 7 much encourage it, even if you brought it up today. It really helps add richness to our understanding. 8 9 We have -- can I go back to the previous slide? We have five panel members, just like we 10 11 did for the first topic. I have asked them to prepare a few minutes of remarks, just to give us, 12 13 again, a good foundation for the discussion. I'm 14 going to let them introduce themselves as they 15 come, as they begin. 16 And we will start with Deborah. Can we --17 you know what? We won't start with Deborah. is so unfair. That is so unfair. We will start 18 19 with Jan. 20 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you. 21 DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Jan. remember to speak into the microphone. 22

105 1 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you. I sincerely 2 appreciate the opportunity the FDA has provided the fibromyalgia community to speak today. This is 3 important. 4 5 My name is Jan Chambers. I'm the President of the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic 6 7 Pain Association. I have had fibromyalgia for eight years following a hysterectomy. In seeking a 8 diagnosis to find out what was causing the 9 increasing pains and debilitating symptoms, I spent 10 over \$100,000 of my personal money beyond what my 11 12 medical insurance would pay to seek a diagnosis for 13 what was happening to me. 14 I knew that an early diagnosis of 15 fibromyalgia and treatment could make a positive 16 difference in my quality of life in the long term. 17 Yes, I received a diagnosis of fibromyalgia, after spending a lot of money, but that did not include 18 19 any answers as to what to do next. 20 My illness included a lot of things -metabolic syndrome, migraines, polycystic ovarian 21 22 syndrome, cognitive difficulties, functional loss,

106 1 and unrefreshing sleep. I practically laid on the couch or on my bed for the next 16 months with 2 pillows supporting my arms and legs so they 3 wouldn't touch each other because it caused more pain. And during this time, and out of 5 desperation, I convinced a very sympathetic surgeon 6 7 to remove one-fourth of my breast because I couldn't lower my arm to touch my side. And that 8 9 very sensitive spot, very painful spot, I now believe was a tender point. 10 I was fortunate because my eldest daughter 11 12 was in medical school at the time, and she was able 13 to guide me where to look and what research to It was difficult for me to read that 14 follow.

- 15 research because I had such significant brain fog.
- 16 But I knew that education is empowering, because so
- 17 many parts of my body were becoming dysfunctional.
- I paid attention to the broadly accepted 18
- theory of central sensitization in fibromyalgia. 19
- 20 To me, that meant that my central nervous system
- was out of control and affecting all of the systems 21
- 22 in my body. It made sense that calming my central

107 1 nervous system was going to be the answer for me, 2 and to stop the life-altering changes that were occurring with fibromyalgia. 3 Since electrifying pains were coming from 4 my neck, I found a chiropractor who used more 5 physical therapy than chiropractic techniques. 6 7 From several whiplashes throughout my life, I knew from the X-rays that my vertebrae were severely 8 misaligned. I was also diagnosed with forward head 9 syndrome. 10 11 I used the FDA website to locate approved 12 devices for spinal rehabilitation and found one called the Pettibon system. The chiropractor I 13 14 chose knew how to use rehabilitative equipment. 15 For almost two years, I worked three times daily 16 with the physical therapy techniques and these 17 tools. Gradually restoring the natural curve in my neck reduced the horrific pains and returned most 18 19 of my daily functionality. 20 Through the physical rehabilitation, I reduced the cervical stenosis, or the narrowing of 21 22 the spinal canal, and the constant stretch and

108 1 pressure on my spinal cord was stopped. Reducing emotional stress and learning relaxation skills 2 were also very important. 3 I still have some fibromyalgia symptoms, 4 but they are not completely debilitating like they 5 were eight years ago. 6 7 I believe that there is a large subset of people with fibromyalgia who have what is called 8 positional cervical cord compression, or PC3. For 9 several years, the fibromyalgia research has been 10 available about the likely relationship between 11 12 fibromyalgia and spinal cord compression, Chiari-1 13 malformations, and the upper part of the spine. 14 As a patient, I convinced my chiropractor 15 to do a small clinical study on fibromyalgia 16 patients with severe neck pain. The results were 17 similar to mine. Since the initial year of physical therapy, my daily life has continually 18 19 improved. I still have to be mindful of my posture and stress levels. If I overdo my physical 20 activities, like carrying heavy grocery sacks and 21 22 heavy housework, some pain does return. With heat

109 1 and performing the physical therapy work for a 2 couple of days, the pain can stop or reside. The downsides of my treatment are that 3 there are currently not very many chiropractors in 4 the United States who know how to use effective 5 physical rehabilitation and instead use a lot of 6 7 spinal manipulation techniques. I look for holistic approaches to treating the fibromyalgia 8 9 body as well as multidisciplinary approach. may include medication, better nutrition, and 10 11 psychological therapy. 12 Thank you for this opportunity today. 13 DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Jan. 14 And then we'll have Gwen. Can you pull 15 the microphone? Yes. MS. HERMAN: Hello. My name is Gwen 16 17 I'm the Executive Director and founder of 18 Pain Connection. We work with people in chronic My pain started 19 years ago when I was in a 19 20 car accident. I was rear ended, and my pain 21 started in my neck, went up into my head, 22 shoulders, and then throughout my body, so

110 1 fibromyalgia, TMJ, autoimmune system problems, 2 gluten-intolerant, dairy -- you know, dairyintolerant, irritable bowel, a few things. And 3 what I had to learn was just how to -- learn how to 5 live again because of all of the changes in my life. 6 7 So what I use right now is a multi-modal approach in dealing with chronic pain, which 8 9 consists of medications. I am on Cymbalta, and that helps -- that gives me energy. And I know a 10 11 lot of people it makes them tired. And it helps 12 with my overall body pain. I also use Trazodone to 13 help me sleep at night. Sometimes have trigger 14 point injections, I get a Myers cocktail infusion, 15 which it helps with fatigue, so when I get really 16 low on energy I will go in and I will have an 17 infusion. I do a lot of Chinese medications. I have 18 a special formula that is made for me that helps 19 20 with my sleep, because I -- you know, I can't sleep at night because of the pain. And my worst 21 position is lying down in bed. So that's horrible

22

111 when you're feeling tired all the time, because to 2 go to bed to me is the most painful thing, so that's why I need something to knock me out right 3 4 away. I use guided imagery. That helps me all 5 the time. You know, just sitting here, I could 6 7 just use it and it helps lower my pain level. I do a lot of vitamins and supplements. I use different 8 9 gels for my neck. I use patches, you know, for my back, my legs. 10 11 Ice, I use all the time, even though I go to a Chinese doctor and he tells me ice is not good 12 for my neck because it's stopping the blood flow, 13 14 and I try not to do that, but nothing brings down 15 that pain as ice will on my neck. 16 I go to weekly acupuncture now. 17 beginning, I would go three times a week. I went 18 to four acupuncturists before I found the one that 19 I have now, and I have learned that there is all 20 different types of acupuncture. So she does something that is called the balance method, and 21 22 she does Taiwanese acupuncture, and she doesn't go

112 into the source of my pain, so she works on the 2 outer extremities and that helps me a great deal. And then I use like little tacks during the week 3 just to prolong the treatment. 5 I also learned how to pace myself, and I usually do that. But when I don't do it, that's 7 when I have that brain fog, and that's when I fall or bump into things. I do fall a lot if I am in 8 pain and I'm not -- you know, if I don't rest and 9 take care of myself. 10 11 I do a lot of psychosocial techniques with myself by changing the pain messages in my mind of 12 how I respond to pain. And I try to live in the 13 14 present; I don't go back in the past, but I stay 15 right now, what I'm able to do right now. 16 I have a number of different health care 17 providers. Since it's 19 years, it has taken me a 18 long time to get a team that I can work with. have an excellent pain doctor now who is a 19 20 physiatrist. I have a nurse practitioner who is an 21 herbalist and also a nutritionist, so I'm on a lot

of different herbs. And I had to change my whole

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113 1 diet because I'm gluten-intolerant and can't have 2 dairy. I also go to an acupuncturist. My primary 3 care doctor is an osteopath, and she understands 4 about chronic pain. I go to a Chinese doctor, you 5 know, for my formulas, and I take rhubarb to help 6 7 me, you know, stay regular. That's what Jacob was talking about; rhubarb is wonderful. 8 And I knew I was deficient on some 9 vitamins, so I was taking Vitamin D3. My tests 10 11 came back really low, but then I took a test, a 12 spectra cell test, and it came back that I was 13 deficient in five different nutrients. So I'm on 14 all those vitamins now, and one of them I really 15 believe has helped with my focus. 16 And another thing that helps with my focus 17 is doing Sudoku crossword puzzles to keep my mind intact. So that's the main thing, of growing the 18 gray matter back in my brain. 19 Let's see what else. I use all different 20 lotions for my neck. You know, I use Voltaren gel. 21 22 I make my own lotion that I learned from my

114 1 herbalist with lavender, St. Johns Wort oil, aloe 2 vera, and I use that. I grow my own feverfew for migraines. I can just pick it and, you know, eat a 3 few of the leaves. That helps with migraines. Drink four to five glasses of jasmine green tea a day, which is really good. I take oil, fish oil 7 every day. I don't eat fried foods. I try doing gentle stretches, but exercise 8 9 is very hard for me. I have gained a lot of weight. Some of the medicines just put weight on 10 11 me unbelievably. And then I had to decide, you 12 know, what were the pros and cons of it. 13 So exercise is very, very hard for me. I try to do stretches. It seems like every time I 14 15 work myself up I will hurt myself. And it doesn't 16 take much to hurt myself, and then I'm back to zero 17 again, and then I'm afraid to do it again. So even 18 though people say it's really good to do exercise, you really have to be careful. 19 20 And then a lot of times, if I do go 21 traveling, after what happens I may be out for a week, or a month even. It takes me a long time to 22

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115
    get back to where I was beforehand.
2
             DR. EGGERS: Gwenn, if I could ask you a
    question about --
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             MS. HERMAN: Go ahead.
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             DR. EGGERS: -- you've described so many
    of the many, many, many things. Overall, as your
7
    sort of whole approach, would you say that you feel
    that you are well managed a satisfactory amount of
8
9
    the time for you?
10
             MS. HERMAN: Yeah. I mean, I function.
                                                      I
    have a quality of life, you know. I'm happy I can
11
12
    do things, but I have pain 24 hours a day and I'm
13
    still looking for something to help me even have a
14
    better quality of life. So --
15
             DR. EGGERS: So even with all of these
16
    things, you still have --
             MS. HERMAN: Right.
17
18
             DR. EGGERS: -- you are still looking for
    something else?
19
20
             MS. HERMAN: Yes.
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Great. Did you have
21
22
    any other final thoughts that you wanted to share?
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             MS. HERMAN: There was just two other
2
    things.
             DR. EGGERS: Yes.
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             MS. HERMAN: I use a sun box for seasonal,
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    you know, effective disorder, and I use a
5
    mouthquard for grinding, and that has really helped
6
7
    a lot for migraines. So, you know, we just have to
    use different treatments to help ourselves.
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             DR. EGGERS: Thank you so much, Gwenn.
             And now Sarah?
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             MS. LYALL: Okay. I learned earlier today
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    that I'm representing the three percent, as I am
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    not yet 30, so I have actually had fibromyalgia for
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    five years. So I've had it since I was -- I have
15
    actually had fibromyalgia for five years.
                                                I was
16
    diagnosed when I was 22.
17
             So prior to the onset of my symptoms, I
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    was very active. I liked to run, play basketball,
    those kinds of things. And my symptoms came on
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20
            At first I just had a stiff neck, but then
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    the symptoms progressively got worse to the point
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    where I was experiencing excruciating pain on a
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117 1 daily basis. 2 So naturally I went to my primary care physician for help, and they ran every test in the 3 And, as we know, there is no test that is going to show up fibromyalgia. So my PCP looked at 5 me one day and she's like, "I know you're sick, but 6 I don't have a clue." 7 So that's when she referred me to the 8 9 rheumatology clinic at UVA Charlottesville. And it 10 took them about a second to tell me that I had 11 fibromyalgia. They then told me that I was too 12 young to take any of the medications that were 13 currently FDA approved at the time. It was 2009. 14 They said there were chemicals and I shouldn't put 15 them in my body, and the recommendation was to 16 spend just a little bit more time in a rocking 17 chair. So, naturally, I was devastated. I 18 remember feeling alone and like the medical 19 community just didn't understand me. So the 20 turning point for me was when I discovered 21 22 acceptance and commitment therapy. And basically

118 1 the tenets of that is quit fighting it and find a 2 way to live with the cards you've been dealt, basically. 3 So today I manage my symptoms by paying 4 close attention to bodily cues. I know that pain 5 in one of my shoulders means that I need to stop 6 7 what I'm doing and rest immediately. Another cue for me is extreme fatigue. I need to stop and rest 8 9 before I get overtired. Also, I know that I can't sit, stand, or lie down for an extended period of 10 time. 11 12 And in most cases, if I keep moving, I do 13 And I can offset most flareups by laying on okay. 14 a heating pad and just relaxing. And sometimes I 15 will take an OTC pain reliever to help with that. 16 If I have a really bad flareup, I will 17 take 500 milligrams of Hydrocodone and 100 milligrams of Imitrex. That's my combination. 18 But to give a little perspective, I take about one 19 20 bottle of Hydrocodone a year. So I don't take 21 medications. I don't take any like everyday medications or anything like that. So as long as I 22

119 1 constantly monitor my bodily cues, I can engage in 2 more activities. Now, the downside of this is that my 3 current treatment regimen does not make the pain go 4 5 away entirely ever. It doesn't treat the bodily fatigue or the cognitive fatigue. And as a 6 7 graduate student -- I'm actually in the final year of my doctoral training program for psychology --8 9 the cognitive fatigue is very difficult. I know recently I had my oral 10 comprehensive exams, and in preparing for that I 11 12 was so worried that I would get up there and forget 13 like common words that you should know as a 14 psychologist in training that I actually had a 15 panic attack and had to go to the doctor. 16 mean, that's how bad the fibro fog can cause 17 anxiety. 18 But getting back to the treatments, I don't think there is a single pill out there that 19 20 can treat all the symptoms of fibromyalgia, from the pain to -- from the -- well, the all-over pain 21 to the bodily fatigue, the cognitive fatigue. 22

120 1 think there is going to have to be some kind of a 2 treatment regimen. And as a doctoral candidate in psychology, 3 I have to recommend therapy as well, and I know 4 that has been talked about. But I think it is 5 going to take a combination of medications and 6 7 therapy to be the proper treatment. DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Sarah. 8 9 MS. LYALL: Thank you. DR. EGGERS: And now we'll have Nancy. 10 11 MS. RYAN: My name is Nancy Ryan. I am 48 12 years old and live in Arlington, Virginia. 13 full-time as a manager of a public library. 14 diagnosed with fibromyalgia in 1995. The fact is, 15 I'm a person that experiences more pain than many 16 Some of it can be explained by biology or 17 neurophysiology, but some of it is a mystery to me and others. 18 I appreciate the opportunity to share some 19 20 of my story, what I have tried, what works and what doesn't, as well as my hopes for the future of 21 fibromyalgia research and treatment. 22

121 1 Over the past 18 years, I have tried an 2 alphabet soup of medications from Amitriptyline to Zoloft. I counted the ones I could remember; it 3 was 22. I found the FDA approved drugs, Lyrica and 4 Cymbalta, caused more problems and didn't alleviate 5 the pain. Lyrica addressed sleep, but it did this 6 7 too well. I felt like a walking zombie and wanted to sleep all the time and had no motivation. 8 did not address my pain at all. I had a bad 9 reaction to Cymbalta. 10 Other medications I have tried, such as 11 Elavil, Tramadol, Flexeril, and Effexor also caused 12 problems and gave very little benefit. 13 Starting in 2008, I participated in three 14 15 research studies. I am a human guinea pig. This 16 included an FMRI brain scan study where all 17 medications were eliminated and exercise was the 18 only intervention. We discovered that exercise as a sole therapy is not a cure-all. In fact, I was 19 in a mess of pain, anxiety, and depression when the 20 study ended. After the exercise study, I embarked 21 22 on a journey back to stability.

122 1 I share my experience with the exercise 2 research study to illustrate that exercise is only one part of the treatment that has gotten me to 3 where I am today. Treating fibromyalgia requires a 4 5 multi-modal approach. I am happy to report that I have arrived at a custom system of treatments that 6 7 works for me, and most of my symptoms are now well 8 managed. I exercise, mostly Pilates and some 9 strength training and cardio. I have a physical 10 11 therapist who helps by treating acute problems. I attend psychotherapy with an excellent 12 13 psychiatrist, and this has helped me to understand 14 that how I am feeling affects my life, and vice 15 versa. 16 Biofeedback training and breathing 17 exercises are also very helpful. And I treat myself to massages and dry needling for myofascial 18 19 pain. 20 My medication cocktail includes medications targeted at my specific symptoms --21 22 Verapamil and Botox injections for migraine

123 1 control, a custom antidepressant mix of Remeron 2 that gives much-needed deep sleep and low doses of Zoloft and Abilify to address depression, anxiety, 3 and some of the pain. With the insomnia and depression in 5 remission, I am much more able to emotionally deal 6 7 with the remaining pain symptoms. I am able to work full-time despite my symptoms, but this 8 impacts my off-work downtime as I have to rest and 9 recover when I am not working, or I may be in too 10 11 much pain to enjoy activities. 12 This makes socializing and making plans difficult. I have gained a great deal of weight on 13 my current medications. This has been 14 15 disconcerting but manageable with diet. 16 The medications also seem to cause my 17 brain fog and memory problems to be worse. 18 ideal treatment would address the all-over pain, insomnia, and fatigue while also allowing clear-19 headed thinking and memory without fatigue or 20 weight gain. Tall order. 21 22 I have had a rough go of it, and it is

124 1 very complicated. I have left out a lot of 2 details. I would say most experiences with fibromyalgia are complicated, but I have found a 3 combination of therapies that works for me. broken down my symptoms and addressed them one by 5 one. I am doing well. 6 7 My wish for the future of fibromyalgia research is that a more discrete definition of 8 fibromyalgia can be developed and biomarkers found 9 to potentially identify probable cause so that 10 11 treatments can be more targeted. There is no plain 12 vanilla fibromyalgia patient. We are a Baskin 13 Robbins array of varied symptoms and presentations. 14 To expect there to be one medication that will address all of the symptoms of this diverse 15 16 population is naïve. 17 Fibromyalgia researchers do not appear to have generated scientifically acceptable and 18 19 testable hypotheses of causation. Until efforts are directed to this very important matter, 20 fibromyalgia research will continue to remain in a 21 state of limbo and treatment will continue to be 22

125 1 hit or miss. I read once that one FDA approved 2 medication for fibromyalgia helps 30 percent of 3 people get only 50 percent relief from their 5 symptoms. This does not appear to me to be a very effective treatment. 6 7 Thank you to the FDA for this opportunity to share my experiences and thoughts for the future 8 9 of fibromyalgia treatment. DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Nancy. 10 And, finally, we have Deborah. 11 12 MS. WARD: First, I'd like to thank the 13 FDA representatives for allowing us to have this 14 Secondly, and most importantly, I'd like to 15 thank Sara and her group that did an outstanding 16 job to get all of us together, both in December and 17 now. My name is Deborah Ward. I'm 62. I'm 18 married and I'm a writer. I was diagnosed with 19 arthritic TM joints and fibromyalgia 28 years ago. 20 I include my TM joints because they were the reason 21 22 I was first diagnosed with fibromyalgia. My TM

126 1 specialist, TMJ specialist, asked me certain questions and he said, "I think I want you to go to 2 a friend of mine." 3 My daughter calls my pill bag a drugstore, 4 5 and I guess it does appear as that to a lot of healthy people. I take 15 different drugs a day, 6 7 not willingly, grudgingly, but I still have to take The drugs associated with my TM joints and 8 fibro symptoms are Neurontin, Zanaflex, Cymbalta, 9 Motrin, Fioricet as needed, Trazodone for sleep, 10 11 lidocaine patches, I use my TENS unit a lot, and 12 Hydrocodone when absolutely necessary. 13 I also receive 200 milligrams of Botox 14 injections every three months. This is my only treatment that isn't covered by health care 15 16 insurance. I also have radiofrequency nerve 17 ablation done bilaterally from C6/7 to T7 every six and a half months, and now enjoy an epidural every 18 19 two and a half months because of the shooting pain down into the top of both of my shoulder blades, 20 and the hypersensitivity to my skin where it makes 21 22 it difficult for anyone to even touch me.

127 In between these treatments, I try to swim 1 2 and use the elliptical. Unfortunately, there is just too many times when there is a downtime in 3 between the two different types of treatments, like with the Botox and the nerve ablations, where my body just gives up and I neither have the energy 7 nor the motivation to try and do the swimming because I can't turn my arm over. 8 9 Many years ago, I did try acupuncture and was disappointed when my acupuncturist sat me down 10 11 and agreed that it wasn't going to work for me. 12 Nor did the herbal medicines I tried. 13 Unfortunately, some of us are unable to handle our 14 pain systems without the crutch of drugs, no matter 15 how badly we'd like to try that. 16 My treatments help control most of the 17 muscle spasms, some of the nerve pain, neck and 18 back pain, but do nothing to help with the achy feeling I wake up every morning with, my constant 19 lack of energy, the brain fog that is all too often 20 embarrassing, as you've already heard, and the 21 22 inconsistent sleep patterns. That worries my

128 1 husband a lot. 2 Early in my treatment, I used a mild muscle relaxer, an anti-inflammatory, and a 3 sleeping aid. I had trigger point injections using two percent lidocaine, physical therapy that 5 included massage, chiropractic care, TENS unit, 6 biofeedback, and exercise. And the last three I 7 still continue. 8 9 Within two years after being diagnosed, both muscle -- I'm sorry -- both the muscle relaxer 10 11 and the sleep aid had to be replaced to stronger drugs. And then four years later my trigger point 12 injections stopped working. 13 14 So my rheumatologist referred me to a 15 neurologist who was doing Botox injections. 16 them done to my neck and my upper back, all around 17 the shoulder blades and down the spine. It feels like a bee sting with every prick of the needle, 18 19 but, believe me, it works. It hasn't for a lot of 20 people, but it has worked for me for over 11 years. DR. EGGERS: Any final thoughts about your 21 -- what has worked and what hasn't? 22

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             MS. WARD: Yes. Naturally, the drugs have
2
    worked.
             There are always those side effects that
    are not helpful. The Botox has helped a lot, and
3
    now the nerve -- the radiofrequency nerve ablation
    that I have done every six and a half months makes
5
    a big difference in coordination now with the --
6
    there we go, brain fog -- the other treatment I
7
    have to have.
8
             I just -- I think all of those have worked
9
    well for me, and I think my physicians have seen
10
11
    where I'm at a roadblock and they know of different
    items that I need to try. And if it doesn't work
12
13
    out, then they go back to the drawing board and
14
    work with me.
15
             DR. EGGERS: Great. Thank you so much,
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    Deborah. And thank you to all the panelists.
17
             I'm going to save clarifying questions,
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    and then, as those topics arise, if you have
    questions that you want to address FDA.
19
20
             Again, I want to thank the panelists.
21
    Please, a round of applause.
22
             (Applause.)
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130 1 It's a lot to be up here in front of 2 everyone, and the web, and we very much appreciate it. 3 And what I think is so great about this 4 panel that was up here is, to my understanding, 5 they demonstrated the wide range of this complex 6 7 treatment regimen. We heard everyone did something 8 different, and everyone named, I believe, more than 9 15 things that they are doing. And I just want to get a show of hands. I 10 see a lot of heads nodding, but let's get a show of 11 hands of how many of you saw your own treatments 12 13 reflected in what you heard. 14 Okay. Yes. Great. And did anyone -- we 15 won't get into this now. Does anyone do something 16 completely different? Okay. So we have a few very 17 different things. Okay. So we'll delve into 18 those, and remind me if I forget to ask you that 19 again. 20 Let's start with a polling question, if it works this time. Our fingers are crossed. Oh, do 21 22 we still have clickers? If someone doesn't have a

131 1 clicker, raise your hand. And I'm going to go through this while you 2 get the clickers. So what are you currently doing 3 to treat your condition or its symptoms? And these are just very, you know, broad buckets of types of 5 treatments, but this will give us a sense of the 6 7 wide range of treatment approaches. You can check all that apply --8 9 prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, exercise, physical therapy, massage, 10 or acupuncture, dietary supplements or other diet 11 12 changes, lifestyle changes such as pacing activities or avoiding stressful situations, 13 14 behavioral therapy such as pain programs or support 15 groups, some other therapies that have not yet been 16 mentioned that don't fit into one of those other 17 categories, you're not sure, or you're not 18 currently doing or taking any therapies. 19 So I'll give you a few minutes, because I imagine that many of you have many of these. 20 21 (Pause.) 22 Okay. It sounds like we -- people have

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132
1
    finished, so we'll go to the results. Okay.
2
    surprising based on what we heard from the panel
    comments. Lots of you are taking lots of stuff,
3
    with the highest being the lifestyle changes such
    as pacing activities or avoiding stressful
5
    situations by almost all of you in the room here.
6
7
             And 85 percent of you are taking
    prescription medications, which I guess means that
8
    15 percent of you are not.
9
             Next, let's see. Exercise, physical
10
    therapy, dietary supplements and diet changes, I
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12
    think the bottom line here is that it sounds like
    you're taking just about everything to tackle this
13
14
    condition.
15
             On the web, what are we --
16
             MR. THOMPSON: The webcast has very
17
    similar results, except 80 percent of people take
    some sort of over-the-counter product, and only
18
    63 percent do some sort of exercise, and 53 percent
19
    for physical therapy.
20
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
21
                                  Thank you.
22
             All right. So we want to -- just like we
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133 did in Topic 1, we want to delve a little bit more 1 2 detail into some specific things. And we are going to start by asking you to talk a bit more about the 3 prescription medications that you take on a daily 4 or very regular basis with the hope of addressing 5 the underlying condition. 6 7 The three drugs that are approved for the condition -- Lyrica, Cymbalta, Savella -- some 8 9 other antidepressant or some other anti-seizure medications that you're taking on a daily basis. 10 11 I'm going to ask for a show of hands 12 because we didn't tease that out in the polling 13 question. How many of you in the room are taking 14 one of those types of medications on a very, very 15 regular basis? Okay. And just so we have a sense,

- 16 how many do not? Okay. So it looks like more of
- 17 you take them than not, but that there still is a
- 18 sizeable number who don't take any of these.
- 19 We heard a little bit about some of these
- 20 up here, but I want to ask if you could just focus
- 21 on a symptom. What symptoms are you finding that
- 22 these treatments are addressing the best? Okay.

134 1 We have over there. 2 MS. FAUNTLEROY-COCKRELL: My name is I gave you my name the first time when I 3 got on here. But vertigo, basically, for the 4 Cymbalta, Lyrica for the onset pain that you deal 5 with when you have fibromyalgia. It kind of calms 7 it some, but you still have that pain, but you can live with it when I'm on my Lyrica. And I also 8 9 take Lorazepam for a sleep aid at night. DR. EGGERS: Okay. Anyone else want to 10 11 follow up on that? On what these treatments 12 address best? Okay. Over here? 13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I've been 14 taking Trazodone since my -- almost the beginning 15 of my diagnosis, and it helps me sleep. I really 16 don't have any sleep problems because of that. 17 DR. EGGERS: Anyone else? Okay. We've 18 got a couple here. We'll go to -- we'll go in the back, and then we'll go to Elizabeth and Shay. 19 20 MS. GIANNOLA: I am taking a cocktail, and it has been trial and error. I have been on Ambien 21 22 for years. I'd rather not be. Lyrica,

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135
1
    Nortriptyline, and Tramadol for pain. I exercise
2
    regularly.
             DR. EGGERS: How well are those that you
3
    are taking regularly -- how well are they
4
    addressing your sleep issues?
5
             MS. GIANNOLA: Well, it's like this woman
6
7
    over here had said. It manages it. It doesn't
    take the pain away. I can feel it breaking through
8
    at certain times of the day. With the Lyrica, if I
9
    miss a dose, I feel it, the neuropathy, the pain,
10
    throbbing.
11
12
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
13
             MS. GIANNOLA: So I take it twice a day,
14
    250.
15
            DR. EGGERS: Okay.
16
             MS. GIANNOLA: Yeah.
17
             DR. EGGERS: Great. We had Elizabeth and
18
    then Shay.
19
             DR. JONIAK-GRANT: Just in terms of the
    prescription medications, I'm a little bit
20
    different with the Lyrica. I only take 100
21
22
   milligrams a day. I work as -- when I can work
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136 1 part-time as a professor, so I get too many 2 cognitive impacts with Lyrica. I also have to take it at sleep because about 40 minutes after I take 3 it I get severely depressed. No reason why. husband will say, "Why are you depressed?" I'm 5 like, "No reason. Just feel miserable." That's 6 7 one. Imitrex I do a lot for the headaches. 8 then something that is slightly different, is kind 9 of up for debate, the FDA has not approved it yet, 10 11 may not, is Limbrel. It's a medical food and I 12 take that because I have Von Willebrand's Disease, so I can't take NSAIDs. And for some reason the 13 14 Limbrel doesn't cause my Factor VIII to go down as 15 much and contribute to additional bleeding and 16 bruising. So that's one that has worked for me 17 that is sort of in this weird medical food, not 18 sure what the clinical trials say in terms of efficacy compared to NSAIDs. But NSAIDs aren't an 19 20 option for me, so --21 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. 22 Okay. We'll go to Shay.

137 1 MS. LONG: Hi. Shay here again. 2 to kiss the people that created Lyrica. It doesn't make the pain go like away, by any means, but I was 3 like crippled. I was just a huddled up mess, not accomplishing anything. And when I -- and I had 5 been on a lot of different drugs already. 6 7 And when they finally put me on Lyrica, because I was in the military, so they have to try 8 9 like everything before they get to the more expensive drugs, so after I came down off of all 10 11 the other drugs and the fun experience that that 12 is, and started with Lyrica, it was really -- I mean, my husband said it was the first time he saw 13 14 me smiling in a long time. 15 So, you know, it doesn't fix everything, 16 but it has helped a lot. But with it I take 17 Wellbutrin in the morning. I am like probably a huge serotonin toxicity risk at this point because 18 19 of the particular cocktail I'm taking, but I -- the Lyrica will keep me sleeping all day if I don't do 20 something, like my energy level is so low. 21 22 put me on Wellbutrin to try to help counteract that

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138
    and it works pretty well, and also helps curb a
2
    little bit of the weight gain, because you don't
    have an appetite anymore.
3
                               So --
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
4
5
             MS. LONG: -- there you go.
             DR. EGGERS: Anyone in the back there?
6
7
    Yes.
8
             MS. WINE: My name is Bonnie. I'm hearing
9
    all of these -- everyone taking meds, pain meds,
    and they help t hem. I have been on I can't tell
10
    you how many over the last 18 years. I take a new
11
12
          It will last for maybe two years or
    something, and then nothing. So I go to another
13
14
    one for two years, and then it stops. I have been
15
    on, well, like I said, everything everybody is
16
    talking about.
17
             The last ones that I have taken and had to
18
    stop was Ultram or Ultracet. I was on that for
    about the longest time, maybe five, six years, when
19
20
    it stopped. I am now taking 10-1/2 milligrams of
21
    Hydrocodone three times a day. It just barely
22
    helps. And I am also on 100 milligrams of
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139
1
    Neurontin two to three times a day. I swear by
2
    that.
             I cannot take Lyrica. It did not help and
3
    it gave me -- it swelled my mouth and my tongue.
4
    Cymbalta did the same thing, plus it kept me from
5
    sleeping well. And the Savella did not help at
7
    all.
             So this is where I am. I don't know -- I
8
9
    do go to a pain doctor in Hagerstown, Maryland.
    don't know what is next if the Hydrocodone stops,
10
    because he has told me that he will not raise the
11
12
    dose anymore on that. I have been on --
13
             DR. EGGERS: Can I ask a followup question
14
    to this?
15
             MS. WINE: Yes.
16
             DR. EGGERS: Because what you are talking
17
    about, these treatments, how long do you give a
    treatment -- approximately how long do you kind of
18
19
    take it before you would make a decision about
    whether it's working or not?
20
21
             MS. WINE: It's years. Like I say, I was
    on Ultram for four or five years or longer. And
22
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140
    actually I stayed on it -- it had stopped working
2
    completely, but I was still taking it, trying to
    give it a chance.
3
             I have been told that my body does not
4
    absorb nutrients or vitamins or just about anything
5
    very well. And I think this is my top problem,
6
7
    that things do not help me as they do a lot of
    other people, or they don't help as long, because
8
9
    I've been told my body gets used to it and then it
    says, "Huh-huh. I don't want this anymore. I'm
10
    not going to take it."
11
12
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you.
13
             MS. WINE: So this is where I am at this
14
    point.
15
             DR. EGGERS: Thank you. Can I ask this
16
    followup question kind of in the room of how long -
17
    - how long you typically would try a medicine
    before you would expect to be able to say whether
18
    it's working or just make the determination that
19
    it's not working for you.
20
             I see in the back -- I'm sorry, I've
21
22
    forgotten your name.
```

```
141
1
             MS. GIANNOLA: Laurie.
2
             DR. EGGERS: Laurie. Laurie in the back,
    please? And then we'll come up -- and then we'll
3
    go over there.
5
             MS. GIANNOLA: About five years ago I was
    prescribed Lyrica, and I was on it for two days
6
    before I decided I couldn't do it. I'm a
7
    psychotherapist. So having that, I felt like I was
8
9
    high, so I stopped.
10
             Out of desperation, about six months ago -
    - I'm just coming out of a six-month flareup now.
11
12
    Six months ago, I was given the Lyrica again, asked
13
    for it. "Let me try it again. Let me try
14
    something else." It took a while for me to not
15
    feel that -- not have the side effects. I pushed
16
    past it.
              I pushed through it. I started with very
17
    small doses, and I'm now up to 500 a day. And I
    don't have any side effects at all from it.
18
19
    Doesn't work 100 percent. The pain is still there.
20
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Does this sound -- is
    this resonating with you, that you are trying it
21
22
    for a long time, having to push through some side
```

142 1 effects to be able to determine its effectiveness 2 for you? I see a lot of head nods. Do any of my colleagues want to follow up on this question? 3 Okay. All right. Let's -- you can keep 4 talking about the effectiveness if you want to, but 5 I want to make sure we get to the downsides of 6 7 these treatments, if there are others. I know we have talked about waking. How many -- if you are 8 9 comfortable raising your hand -- have heard of someone whose had a problem with waking or had your 10 11 own issues with waking because of a medication 12 you're on? Okay. Significant. I think we have 13 heard about it enough. 14 Are there other downsides that you would 15 like to raise? Okay. Oh, lots of hands going up. 16 Let's go back over there, and then we'll come over 17 here. MS. ATTERBURY: Hi. I'm Sharon. I'm 18 taking Cymbalta. My downside is that eight to 12 19 bowel movements a day. You know, you can't get a 20 lot of work done if you're in the bathroom. 21 22 that's what I find. It also cut the appetite.

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143
    have lost considerable -- I've gotten back in some
2
    pants that I couldn't get back into. I've gotten
    back into some shirts I couldn't get back into.
3
    But, still, those bowel movements, I'm sore at the
4
    end of the day.
5
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Others?
6
7
             MS. CASTAGNA: Hi. My name is Nicki.
    lot of the prescription medications -- I have been
8
9
    on Tramadol, various doses, opiates, they all
    affect my sleep. So when I take them, they may
10
    help my pain a little bit, but I'm awake pretty
11
    much all night.
12
13
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
14
             MS. CASTAGNA: Which then just starts this
    horrible feedback, this positive feedback of being
15
16
    in more pain because I'm not getting enough sleep,
17
    so I take more of the medication, and then I sleep
    even less. That's my biggest side effect with a
18
    lot of these drugs.
19
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. I'm going to follow --
20
    is it Nicki?
21
22
            MS. CASTAGNA: Yes.
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144 1 DR. EGGERS: Nicki, I'm going to follow up 2 on Nicki's question, because we talked a lot about sleep difficulties earlier. And this is a very 3 difficult thing to tease out, but in your experience, can you -- is it easy to attribute your 5 sleep problems with your underlying condition, the 7 treatments that you're on, or there is absolutely no way to tell? 8 9 So, first, you would say it's because of your underlying condition, if you want to raise 10 your hand, and not treatments. Okay. 11 And then raise your hand if you think it's 12 13 definitely to your -- within your experience, your 14 treatments, because of your treatments that affects 15 your sleep. Okay. 16 And if you can't tell at all? Okay. So 17 there's a mix. There's a wide range of 18 experiences. 19 Okay. Other downsides? Oh, wait, before 20 we do that, let's let Gwenn and then Sarah go. MS. HERMAN: Yeah. Nobody has mentioned 21 that it affects your sexual life also, a lot of 22

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145
    these medications, that men can't perform or women,
1
2
    you know, have problems also.
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. So it's Sarah, and
3
    then we'll go back out here.
4
             MS. LYALL: I was just going to say the
5
    only treatment that I use that is prescribed is
6
7
    I'll use an opiate pain medication when I'm having
    a really bad flareup. But the downside to that is
8
    it also -- basically, I almost feel high off of the
9
    pill, so, therefore, I can't sleep, I can't do
10
11
    anything.
               So that's the downside. I have to take
12
    it to make the pain go away, but then I can't
13
    sleep.
14
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
             MS. LYALL: So it's a tradeoff.
15
16
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Other downsides?
17
             MS. WILSON: I'm taking I guess two opiate
18
    -- or I'm taking Tramadol and a Butrans patch
    because the other things don't work for me.
19
20
    tried Savella. I ended up in the hospital because
21
    my blood pressure was so high and I was vomiting
22
    and I couldn't keep any food down. I just felt
```

146 1 horrible. I was actually diagnosed with fibromyalgia 2 when I was on Cymbalta off-label for migraines, so, 3 obviously, it wasn't helping my pain at all. did help somewhat for migraines. It also made me 5 gain a lot of weight and made me very sweaty. So I have also tried Neurontin. They didn't help for Amitriptyline made me gain a lot of weight, 8 did not help for pain. 9 10 So it's hard I think to find something 11 that does help. And one thing I wanted to bring up 12 is I think doctors, when they see -- if something doesn't work for you, and you are on opiates, I 13 14 feel like they look at you as you are drug-seeking, 15 even though it's well documented that I have tried 16 multiple other things. It's in my chart. 17 tried the other things; they see it. And the opiates, they don't help 100 percent, but it's 18 19 something that I can get out of bed and I can walk my dog and I can function somewhat. 20 21 I'm not able to work anymore, but I can still function somewhat. If there was another 22

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147
    treatment, sure, I would love to take it. But for
2
    now, this is what works.
             DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Valerie.
3
             I saw some head nods. We'll come here,
4
5
    and then --
             MS. WALKER: I'll quickly run through all
6
7
    three of the approved medications. Lyrica made me
    sleepy, stupid, and angry. And those were like
8
9
    week one, week two, and week three. We weren't
    getting any less side effects; we were just adding
10
    one every week. I was getting ready to go back to
11
12
    work at that point after a period off, and I
13
    couldn't continue. So week four was when I said,
14
    "Can't do that anymore."
15
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
16
             MS. WALKER: Cymbalta, after six days,
17
    gave me reduced vision to the point where I had to
18
    make the computer letters on the screen about the
    size of these slides. And so six days on that was
19
20
    all I managed.
             Savella absolutely was wonderful for the
21
    pain, but after a year of kind of soldiering
22
```

148 1 through I felt like I was in Groundhog Day in the 2 first trimester of pregnancy. For all of the women who have been pregnant and had morning sickness, it 3 was like a year of continual morning sickness. I never got past it. I reduced the dosage back to I 5 think 25 milligrams. Still couldn't get past it. 6 7 And I hated giving it up, but I couldn't do it. 8 My wonder drug was Vioxx. Thanks, quys. 9 I took that one little pill every day and I felt normal for five years. But my current treatment 10 11 regimen is -- my primary fibromyalgia drug is Neurontin. I'm actually taking G-Release, which is 12 13 the -- you guys know -- the extended release 14 version that has come out recently. And that 15 doesn't take all the pain away, but it makes me 16 functional. 17 The only thing that I take that has no side effects and works well for me is Hydrocodone, 18 which I take for breakthrough pain. No side 19 effects whatsoever, except pain relief, and that's 20 the drug that allows me to live my life without 21 22 fear of the pain because I have a tool to manage

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149
1
    it.
2
             DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Sue.
             I want to ask a question -- we'll take --
3
    two more. We'll take those two, and then -- we'll
4
    take three more. We'll take Louis, too. You have
5
    so much to say, everyone.
6
7
                    So let's go with Louis first.
             MR. OGDEN: I can't remember whether I
8
    tried Savella or not, but both Cymbalta and Lyrica
9
    very quickly they made me so dizzy and with so much
10
11
    vertigo that I just couldn't do it. It seemed like
12
    the floor was 100 feet away from me, and I was
13
    clumsy, walking into things.
14
             The best medications I have taken is, in
15
    fact, opioids. And I am on high-dose opioids
16
    because I have a -- I have intractable pain, but I
17
    also have -- I'm thinking of the -- a genetic
18
    defect which keeps me from metabolizing them very
19
          So it takes very large quantities for me
    to -- and it's very effective and it works.
20
21
             DR. EGGERS: No side effects?
22
             MR. OGDEN: No side effects. And for the
```

150 1 last three and a half years I have had the best 2 quality of life that I have had since I was a teenager. 3 DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Louis. I see a 4 lot of head nodding. 5 Two more over there, and then we'll 6 7 -- and then I want to go on to the over-the-counter medications and ask a few questions about those. 8 MR. THOMPSON: Another reminder for those 9 on the web, we'll be queuing up the phone in about 10 11 10 minutes, so you should dial in now. DR. EGGERS: And what we are looking for 12 13 on the -- when you are -- to preview what we are 14 asking for on the phone is specific health aspects 15 of a treatment that you would say that would make 16 an ideal treatment, if they addressed this specific 17 aspect of my health. Okay. You know, I'm actually going to --18 I want to make sure we get a question about the 19 20 over-the-counter, because I think we are hearing a lot about the prescription medication, pain 21 medications that you take on an as-needed basis, 22

151 but I want to get the complement of that, the non-2 prescription. We heard some non-prescription medications 3 are taken. Can you raise your hand again for me if 4 you take a non-prescription medication on what you 5 would say is a not regular basis but when needed? 7 Okay. And do you find those effective? Can you raise your hand again if you find it effective? 8 9 Okay. Can we just have a few examples of how 10 well those are addressing your pain? Okay. 11 12 we'll go in the back there. Oh, no. I'll let you 13 guys choose. You guys are better at that. 14 MS. ALEKEL: Well, this is not for pain, 15 but it's for sleep. 16 DR. EGGERS: Okay. 17 MS. ALEKEL: I'll take Melatonin. And I 18 think this young woman over here was talking about And three milligrams, one and a half to three 19 20 milligrams per day. And you need to take it at the right time of day, and that's important. 21 It is non-addictive. It really has 22

152

- 1 virtually no side effects, and this is with
- 2 clinical double-blind placebo studies. And the
- 3 other thing I take is Vitamin D. And I take
- 4 Vitamin D because most of us find it very difficult
- 5 to get enough Vitamin D by synthesizing it in our
- 6 skin, because most of us live indoors and we're not
- 7 outside very much.
- 8 So get your Vitamin D levels checked -- 25
- 9 Hydroxy, D3. Get them checked and talk to your
- 10 physician about how much you need.
- DR. EGGERS: I think what you're talking
- 12 about is something that you would take on a daily
- 13 basis. So let me ask for a followup on looking at
- 14 those -- the pain or sleep meds that you would take
- 15 on a sort of as-needed basis and get a sense of how
- 16 well those are working.
- 17 MS. DUGAN: I am a big user of Biofreeze.
- 18 When my pain is bad on particular days, I just feel
- 19 like for something that's topical, especially
- 20 because I'm single and it's a spray, and it's hard
- 21 to get your back when you have nobody to do it for
- 22 you. So I found that Biofreeze gets me a lot of

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153
1
    relief, particularly if I have pain and I'm
    struggling to fall asleep because of it. I'll
2
    spray it on shortly before I go to bed and that
3
    will freeze it enough to get me to be able to fall
5
    asleep.
6
             DR. EGGERS:
                          Okay.
7
             MS. FAUNTLEROY-COCKRELL: I use Bayer
    Advance. It's 500 milligrams per pill. You get
8
    this package, two pills, which adds up to 1,000
9
    milligrams. But when I told my doctor what I was
10
11
    doing, she said I was taking too much. So I cut
12
    back to PRN 500 milligrams as needed.
13
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
14
             MR. SMITH: As an alternative, I take
15
    Isogenix, which is like a liquid food that I take
16
    normally like once a day, but then I supplement it
17
    with what they call an accelerator pill, and that
18
    helps to increase my energy throughout the day.
19
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Are there any web
20
    comments on -- oh, I'm sorry.
                                   Sharon has a
21
    question.
22
             DR. HERTZ: There has been a little
```

154 1 discussion of opioids, and I have two questions 2 about them. One is, I heard now twice something about a paradoxical reaction almost where people 3 were having trouble sleeping on opioids. Usually it's sort of the opposite. 5 So I'd be interested I knowing if that's 6 7 something that comes up a little bit more often in this population in patients with fibro. 8 9 would also like to get a sense, if we could -- I don't know if people are comfortable or not -- how 10 11 many people are using opioids, either as needed or more regularly. 12 13 DR. RAPPAPORT: And then I have a follow 14 up to that question, which is, of those people, how 15 many of you are having trouble getting those pills? 16 DR. EGGERS: Okay. So maybe I can take 17 the second one, the third one, and then the first So a show of hands just who is comfortable 18 admitting taking opioids on a regular or a periodic 19 basis? Okay. 20 And then, how many of you have difficulty 21 getting your prescription? We heard an example of 22

155 1 that. Okay. 2 MS. WARD: Difficulty getting a prescription through? It goes through DEA now. 3 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Oh. So you have to 4 5 take a test. Okay. And now to address Sharon's question about 6 7 the sleep. How many taking those opioids are finding sleep difficulties? Is that correct? 8 9 Okay. Okay. And I think we heard about that. Do you want more elaboration? Okay. Great. 10 11 So let's go into -- we're cutting close on 12 I am going to -- we have I think about six 13 people for the open public comment. So I'm going 14 to steal a little bit of time for the open public 15 comments so that we can ask a few more questions, 16 and we need to go to the web and let the folks on 17 the phone -- before we do that, James, are there any additional thoughts that have come up about the 18 19 pain medications' or the prescription medications' effectiveness or downsides? 20 MR. VALENTINE: I think most of the 21 comments have been very in line with what has been 22

156 discussed in the room. You know, I think the 1 2 overarching consensus is that it takes a long time to find the right combination of drugs, 3 supplements, exercise, diet, lifestyle, alternative 4 therapies. You know, there is a whole list of 5 things, mostly overlapping with what has been 6 discussed in the room. 7 I think one of the main things that hasn't 8 9 been discussed in relation to pain is the use of marijuana to treat pain, and especially for 10 breakthrough pain with -- for patients that are on 11 12 opioids or other pain medicines. 13 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. 14 All right. There are a few questions. 15 don't have much time to get into the non-drug 16 therapies. But we did hear -- the panelists gave 17 great examples of what they're on. So I am going to ask two show-of-hand questions. 18 19 So I think -- first -- three show-of-hand 20 questions. Remind me who takes what are considered 21 non-drug therapies to be a major component of their

treatment regimen. Okay. So not everyone but a

22

157 1 large proportion of you. 2 How many of you would say that collectively your non-drug therapies or lifestyle 3 changes are as important as any prescription medications you're on? Okay. 5 And then how many of you would say that 6 they are important but they can't match the benefit 7 of those prescription medications? Okay. Okay. 8 Thank you. 9 I think we've talked enough about that so 10 11 we have the sense of how they are working and what works for you. 12 13 I want to conclude with a discussion about 14 the overall management and some about the ideal treatment. And we have discussed a lot of this 15 16 topic kind of throughout the other discussions that 17 we have had, but I think it would be useful for us to see, with a show of hands, that thinking about -18 - this is what Nancy explained. 19 20 Think about all of your therapies 21 together, that whole regimen. How many of you 22 share Nancy's perspective -- I'm going to try to

158 1 paraphrase -- that although you still battle your 2 condition every day, you feel like you are managing 3 as best as you can expect? Okay. And how many of you feel that -- the 4 5 converse, although you're taking as much as -whatever you can, that really you cannot say that 6 7 your condition is well managed at all? Okay. 8 For those of you that raised your hand no, 9 I want you to, at least some of you, to tell us what is -- if you could fix one thing that's not 10 11 being addressed, what would it be? What one health thing about your treatments, about your condition 12 13 that you wish the treatments would better address? 14 Okay. Elizabeth? 15 DR. JONIAK-GRANT: My biggest thing that I 16 think impacts me the most are the migraines. 17 as Deborah mentioned, I do bilaterally C3 through C7 cervical facet radiofrequency ablation, but the 18 nerves grow back. So, and they find that over time 19 20 that they grow back more quickly. The biggest problem with that is the treatment itself is 21 22 extremely painful. You have to be awake. You have

159 to be alert. And, you know, they're going into 2 your spine. And then I get a flareup from that for a 3 good month, and then I start to settle down again. 4 But I think that for me that's one of the biggest issues sort of in terms of that some of the 6 7 treatments can be very painful in and of themselves and cause flares. 8 9 And, you know, finding doctors that know what they're doing, too, that -- luckily, I'm by 10 11 Stanford, so that helps. But, you know, it's not -- everyone is not in that situation. And the 12 13 expense. It is hard to -- we spend \$25,000 a year 14 out of pocket on medical treatments. And it has 15 been 10 years, so there you go. 16 DR. EGGERS: Thank you. A couple others? 17 We have back there and then Shay has her hand up. 18 MS. LONG: Oh, okay. Hi. I think that even if my pain levels stayed where I -- where they 19 20 are right now, if I just had more energy I feel like I would be in such better shape, because it's 21 really like being so exhausted that I can't get 22

160 1 anything done. And then I haven't gotten anything 2 done, so it leads to me being kind of depressed about having not gotten anything done, and then I 3 eat a chocolate cake and gain more weight, and, you know, I mean, it's a vicious cycle. 5 So I think it's the fatigue thing, like 6 7 Anita -- I need super-caffeine. That would be 8 great. MS. ATTERBURY: Hi. 9 Sharon. If I could have a perfect treatment, it would be able to 10 11 regulate my sleep cycle. In bed, I do not sleep. 12 I stay awake. I'm fully awake. I know everything 13 that goes on. I know when the dog gets up and I 14 heard his toenails clicking on the wooden floor. 15 know when the deer peer through my window, because 16 they make a little noise. 17 But anywhere else, I sleep. I sleep 18 sitting at my desk. I sleep behind the wheel 19 driving home to and from. I now take something to 20 manage that just so I can stay awake during the day and hold a job. I got fired for sleeping on the 21 22 job. I knew they knew I was sleeping, but I was

161 too embarrassed to admit I was sleeping on the job. 2 So they fired me and I just didn't say anything and 3 I just went away. DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Sharon. 4 5 FDA, do you have -- oh, so we have a followup question from Bob. 6 7 DR. RAPPAPORT: This is -- I neglected to ask this earlier. Have any of you been treated 8 9 with or tried to take any type of stimulants to treat the fatigue? And if you have, of those 10 people, how many of you have had success with that? 11 12 DR. EGGERS: Okay. So how many use 13 stimulants or have tried them? Okay. A few. 14 few. 15 How many found them effective? Okay. 16 Would you like any description? They make 17 me be the timekeeper, so I keep my eye on this 18 clock. I'll let Jan go. 19 MS. CHAMBERS: One important component 20 that has not been brought up here today is muscle relaxants as a class of medications. Some of the 21 benzodiazepines really are useful for people with 22

162 1 fibromyalgia. 2 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thanks, Jan. Okay. Gwenn, and then -- we'll let Gwenn, 3 and then we'll go to Liz's question. 4 MS. HERMAN: Yeah. I feel like one of the 5 most important components of our treatment plan is 7 having a treatment provider that is educated about chronic pain, about fibromyalgia, and will sit with 8 us and work with us because it is more than a 15-9 minute session, because you see how complicated, 10 11 you know, our conditions are. It is just not one 12 condition. 13 So we need a team of providers that are 14 going to be working with us that are going to listen and believe us. 15 16 DR. EGGERS: So, Liz. 17 DR. KILGORE: I just wanted to ask, since 18 your diagnosis, have you ever had a time where you're been pain-free or symptom-free? Or once you 19 20 get the diagnosis, do you always have some level of symptoms? So I don't know maybe if you can ask as 21 22 a show of hands or something like that.

163 1 DR. EGGERS: Sure. How many of you have 2 periods where you are completely symptom-free? Okay. 3 So do -- maybe -- we haven't heard about 4 5 that, I don't think, so can one of you explain that just briefly, what that -- when that happens, how 6 7 long it happens? Okay. Right here. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: 8 I have been -- I was diagnosed in 1989. I -- directly 9 afterward, I didn't have much trouble. One of the 10 11 things I think that helped me a lot is I used to live in Colorado. The dry environment, the high 12 13 pressure there, the sunny skies, I didn't have any 14 trouble while I was living in Colorado. 15 And in 2002, I moved to Minnesota, and 16 within two months of living in Minnesota I had -- I 17 can't even call it a flare, because it lasted for a 18 couple of years. It was just, you know, I had no 19 control over my fibromyalqia at all. And ever since then I have been working at correcting it. 20 21 But even in Minnesota, though, usually 22 during the winter months, January and February, I

164 would go -- I would be without pain for two months. 2 And I think, once again, it was the dry air, it was the high barometric pressure, because once the 3 summertime came, once March came, I'd start feeling 5 the pain again. Unfortunately, that was before and now it's pretty much constant, but I did have 6 symptom-free. 7 DR. EGGERS: How many of you -- a show of 8 9 hands -- find that weather can affect positively and negatively your symptoms? Okay. A show of 10 hands. 11 Okay. And since we don't have time to 12 delve into that, if you're going to put in your 13 14 comments on the website -- I'm seeing some nods 15 from my colleagues -- please describe that, and 16 other triggers, other factors that trigger your 17 symptoms to make them better or worse. 18 I want to make sure we can get to the 19 So, again, the question that we would 20 really like to have addressed is if you -- if there 21 was some aspect of your condition that is not yet -

- it hasn't been talked about yet that you would

22

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165
1
    find an ideal treatment would address.
             Operator, can we have a caller?
2
             OPERATOR: Yes. And we do have a question
3
    from Mike Herness. Your line is open.
4
5
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Hi, Mike.
             MR. HERNESS: Well, I guess this is --
6
             DR. EGGERS: Oh. And, Mike, can we ask
    you to speak as -- Mike, excuse me.
8
9
             MR. HERNESS: Yes?
             DR. EGGERS: We have a hard time hearing
10
    you, so can we ask you to speak as loud as you can
11
12
    directly into your phone?
13
             MR. HERNESS: Okay. It's more of a
    statement than a question I guess --
14
15
             DR. EGGERS: Okay.
16
             MR. HERNESS: -- about fibromyalgia, it
17
    being a syndrome or a collection or, you know, of
18
    signs and symptoms, more than I think, which come
    under the category of a disease. It takes a very
19
20
    long time for most people, you know, to get the
    point of a true diagnosis. When you get to the
21
22
    diagnosis, because it's so much more generalized
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166 1 than specific, so many people do get caught up into the pharmaceutical end of it, and then try to find 2 alternative types of treatment. 3 And if there was just a way of shortening 4 5 up the curve on all of that, I think it would just be tremendous. So, you know, versus putting bad 6 7 dates on things, trying to come up with more, you know, diagnostic-specific, I can't even talk -- you 8 9 know, specific to the problem, so that things can be treated and -- diagnosed and treated better and 10 in a shorter period of time. 11 12 DR. EGGERS: Okay. 13 MR. HERNESS: Thank you. 14 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Mike, 15 for that point. 16 Can we have one more caller, Operator? 17 OPERATOR: Yes. Our next question is from 18 Lauren Horowitz. Your line is open. 19 DR. EGGERS: Hi, Lauren. MS. HOROWITZ: Hi. I've been diagnosed in 20 21 2004, and I have been a guinea pig for 10 years. 22 don't understand -- I live in Florida. It is a

167 1 chronic -- I've tried everything, the latest being 2 low-dose Naltrexone, and I put all my hopes into that and it didn't work. So I'm currently on 3 Cymbalta, but I don't understand what the problem is with doctors writing pain medicine for chronic 5 I'm 52. I live in bed. I live alone. And I don't understand. 7 The other thing that wasn't brought up, 8 9 that I don't know if anybody else has, is I actually have pain even in my scalp. 10 11 DR. EGGERS: Lauren, you're getting head 12 nods both for your first comment and the second --13 and the symptom that you raised. So thank you very 14 much for that. 15 I did promise -- I think that's all the 16 time we have for the phone now. But I did promise 17 that if those of you who raised your hand to my earlier question about that your experiences were 18 completely different from those on the panel that I 19 20 would come back to you and ask you. So if you had some important point to share about your experience 21

with treatments, and it hasn't been talked about

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168
1
    today -- depending on how many hands we have -- can
2
    we -- we can address those for a few minutes.
             Okay. So we'll take the hands that are
3
       Briefly, please.
4
    up.
5
             MS. DUDLEY-JOHNSON: Hello?
             DR. EGGERS: Hi, Sabrina.
6
             MS. DUDLEY-JOHNSON: Sabrina. I have a
7
    special circumstance. Due to stomach problems, I
8
9
    no longer have a stomach. I had 95 percent of my
    stomach removed. So I can't take my regular
10
11
    fibromyalqia medicine anymore. It has to be either
    dissolvable, chewable, or in liquid form.
12
13
             So out of the multitude that I was taking
14
    before my surgery, I am down to two -- liquid
15
    Gabapentin and liquid Hydrocodone. So my goal
    would be that there would be -- whatever drug comes
16
17
    along next, that it would be either chewable,
18
    dissolvable, or in liquid form.
19
             And then, a question you asked earlier
    about, how long do you go before you find out if
20
    it's effective or not? My doctor asked me to stay
21
22
    on the medication for eight weeks before I start
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169 crying that it doesn't work. So at least eight weeks. And then if I have adverse or side effects 2 within the first couple of weeks, we stop it right 3 4 away. DR. EGGERS: Okay. Anyone -- okay, there. 5 6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Briefly, I 7 think the bottom line is the inflammation, and I do I have created a combination of six 8 different anti-inflammatory herbs, including -- I 9 don't remember all of it, but mainly turmeric, 10 11 cumin, fenugreek, and a few others. And I take half a teaspoon almost every day, sometimes every 12 13 other day. 14 The only medication I take when my pain and discomfort is about nine to ten on a scale of 15 16 zero to ten, I take 400 milligrams of Ibuprofen, 17 and it helps me a lot. Of course, as earlier I 18 said, watching what I eat, right exercise, and 19 trying to do stress management, I have been doing 20 very well. 21 And one additional comment is, for ladies, that is my experience. As you age and as you get 22

170 1 into menopause, you get better in terms with 2 fibromyalqia. DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much. 3 Two more comments. I saw two 4 Okay. We're going to go with Heather, and then 5 we're going to end with Louis, and then the web 6 7 comments. 8 MS. CROSSIN: Thank you. I represent 9 about 100 people in southern New Jersey in my support group, and they would be really mad at me 10 11 if I don't bring up low-dose Naltrexone, because 12 our members who have tried it, it has changed their life because it has helped with lowering certain 13 14 types of pain, not all of it, but certain types of 15 pain. It has helped with improving fatigue. 16 it has also helped us with our immune system as far 17 as not getting sick as often as we used to. 18 But it does take a good six months before you notice the difference. But since it is a 19 20 generic, we feel like there needs to be so much 21 more research done on it to see if it helps more 22 people.

		171
1	DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thanks.	
2	And then, Louis, a final comment?	
3	MR. OGDEN: I would just like to say in	
4	reference to his comment about stimulants, not only	
5	is it a good thing for your fatigue, a lot of	
6	schools of thought look at it as being a catalyst	
7	to make opioids work better.	
8	DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you.	
9	Okay. I know that there is so much more	
10	to talk about, but we are going to close this	
11	portion of the discussion. I want to thank you.	
12	We have had several meetings, and this meeting has	
13	been truly I think a very productive discussion on	
14	things that are very important to FDA about	
15	specific symptoms, about treatments, why how	
16	they're working, what is not working, what the	
17	downsides are.	
18	And so I really want to thank everyone in	
19	the room for your contributions today and for your	
20	patience and for listening to one another and	
21	answering our questions and being quite open about	
22	things that are often very difficult to talk about	

172 in a roomful of strangers. So I want to thank you. 2 I want to, again, thank the panelists. I'm going to walk over to the -- to get 3 the public comments set up. And while I do, James, 4 are there additional web comments that are -- that 5 struck you as being unique to the conversation? 6 7 MR. VALENTINE: I think I just want to emphasize a few things that were -- comments about 8 9 what the web participants would want in new therapies. I think over the course of the entire 10 11 day one of the themes was how many of the patients had to stop taking many of the treatments, whether 12 13 they be the prescription treatments or some of the 14 other prescription treatments that were not 15 specifically for fibromyalgia and even over-the-16 counter products because of side effects. 17 So a lot of people said that they would 18 like to see products that help address both pain 19 and fatigue but with lower immediate and long-term side effects. I think the web participants agreed 20 with the room that they would also like to see new 21 22 therapies focusing on the fatigue first, that they

173 seem to be able to manage their pain more so now 2 with current therapies. And then ultimately they would like to see therapies that are not just 3 focused on symptoms but trying to stop the underlying progression of fibromyalgia. 5 6 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, James. 7 If there are topics that are important to you that we haven't addressed, please, again, send 8 9 us a comment through the website. Even if you sent us one already, feel free to send us another 10 11 comment following up on things that we've talked 12 about today or addressing something that we didn't 13 get a chance to discuss. 14 And with that, I'm going to move into the 15 open public comment session. Again, the purpose of 16 this part of the meeting is to allow an opportunity 17 for people to comment on topics other than our main 18 discussion topics. And it is also a chance for stakeholders other than patients or patient 19 20 representatives to contribute. Keep in mind, we won't be addressing any 21 comments that we hear during this session, but all 22

174 of the comments that we have are being transcribed. 2 We're listening. We're in listening mode. We'd like this to be a transparent 3 process, so we encourage you to note any financial 4 interests that may be relevant to your comment. 5 you do not have any such financial interest, you 6 7 may wish to state that for the record. But if you prefer not to state this information, you can still 8 9 provide your comments. So we collected signups before the meeting 10 and during the break, and we have six speakers 11 lined up. I'm going to ask you to stay to three 12 13 minutes for your comments. Again, you can follow up your comments with the public docket as well. 14 15 We're not going to use a timer for this 16 portion, just like we didn't use a timer for any 17 other portion. But I am keeping track of time, and I will be asking you to wrap up if you go beyond 18 your three minutes, just to make sure we can keep 19 everything moving along fairly and efficiently. 20 21 Okay? 22 So first we have -- I'm going to read all

175 1 of the names, so you know your order. We have 2 Sally Okun -- I apologize if I mispronounce any of these names -- Elizabeth --3 DR. JONIAK-GRANT: Joniak-Grant. 4 DR. EGGERS: You know your last name. 5 Gleason, Kristen Ogden, Louis Ogden, and then Juan 6 7 Mendoza. Okay? So we'll start with Sally. 8 can stay where you are and the microphone will come 9 to you. 10 MS. OKUN: Great. Thank you so much, and 11 thank you so much for this hearing. My name is Sally Okun, and I'm from Patients Like Me. 12 13 web-based environment. It's a research-based 14 platform with a social connectedness and networking 15 component to it. 16 I am happy to be here on behalf of our 17 40,000 members who are living with fibromyalgia. When we did a four-day survey in December in 18 19 anticipation of this meeting, we sent a survey out to about 8,000 members, and we had a 20 percent 20 response rate within that four days. So there is a 21 22 lot of interest in giving you feedback and giving

176 1 you information. 2 One of the things that hasn't been brought up that I want to just reemphasize is that there is 3 much to learn from real-world evidence, and we need a systematic way of collecting this data. 5 meetings are great, but we really need to hear the 6 7 voices of more people in a systematic, quantifiable 8 way. 9 One of the things that we have I think as an advantage on Patients Like Me is the ability to 10 11 have that research-based component, so patients can 12 actually tell us about their symptoms and their 13 treatments and their side effects. And a number of 14 things did come up in our survey when we asked 15 questions about this. 16 So one of the things that hasn't been 17 brought up in terms of the context of treatments is 18 really the social connectedness dose effect. We 19 learned that there is a significant amount of patients who are either using our site to provide 20 some of their own support but other social media 21 22 sites as well, and it is having an impact on their

177 1 overall outcomes and their ability to cope. 2 Diet, nutrition, and personalized exercise programs were also high on the list. 3 Interestingly, 66 percent of the patients 4 reported not taking any of the FDA approved 5 products at this time or in the last month or so. 6 7 Many have tried them in the past and have moved on to other things. So this is another opportunity 8 9 for us to start thinking about what other things are they taking. 10 11 So 52 percent of those patients reported 12 taking other prescription medication. We have the Medidata to start telling you what they are taking 13 14 and why they are taking it, so that we have that 15 off-label information that could be quite useful in 16 terms of thinking about next steps and new drug 17 development. The other thing I wanted to raise was the 18 impact of side effects. We heard some about that 19 today, but we did ask about their concern as well 20 as some of the bothersome characteristics of this. 21 22 So 72 percent of our patients are very concerned or

178 1 concerned about side effects. Fifty percent report having some side effect to the medications that 2 they have been taking that are prescription 3 medications. And 35 percent are making adjustments 4 to the dose or frequency, and 30 percent are 5 stopping altogether. 6 So these are adherence issues that we 7 could begin to tease out and better understand. 8 9 Lastly, I'd like to just suggest that we have to have a better way of helping patients tell 10 11 clinicians and others about the effects they are 12 feeling. Sixty-three percent of these patients 13 reported adverse events to their health care 14 providers, but we really don't have any way of 15 knowing whether those ever made it into any of the 16 information that FDA gets because of the voluntary 17 component of the reporting by health providers. 18 Thirty-seven percent have had an adverse event but never told anyone about it, and only one 19 percent reported to the FDA or the manufacturer. 20 So we are missing a huge amount of the information 21

we may need to better understand this.

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179 1 And, lastly, what I'd like to just really reinforce is the heterogeneity of this condition is 2 significant. Only two percent of the patients who 3 followed up on the survey reported fibromyalgia as their only condition. In fact, we collected over 5 90 different comorbid conditions from that one 6 7 group of patients. So the response rate, as I said, was about 20 percent. 8 It was about over 1,500 patients that contributed to the survey, and 9 I received hundreds and hundreds of messages after 10 11 the survey with additional information, which we 12 will post to the docket. 13 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Sally. 14 Next we have Elizabeth Joniak-Grant. Did 15 T --16 DR. JONIAK-GRANT: Hi, again. Very 17 briefly, one thing I want to point out that other people -- I haven't heard mentioned is that the 18 longer I'm on the medications the more side effects 19 I seem to start developing. I saw it particularly 20 around year three and year four. I started getting 21 22 unexplained tachycardia, palpitations. I had

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- 1 petechial rashes. Now I'm getting skin lesions.
- 2 And the longer I'm on the medicine, the more sort
- 3 of of the infrequent ones from the clinical studies
- 4 I'm developing.
- 5 The second thing is, if you read about
- 6 Lyrica, they actually report that they had an
- 7 unexpectedly high incidence of hemangioscarcomas in
- 8 two different strains of mice. This is a very
- 9 aggressive cancer that they usually only see in
- 10 dogs. And they actually had one percent of the
- 11 people in the clinical trials that developed new or
- 12 worsening preexisting tumors.
- 13 And what it says is this could be
- 14 significant. We're not sure if it's significant.
- 15 And then, if you do any research, look through the
- 16 medical stuff, look through journals, it is kind of
- 17 like, oh, well, it didn't happen in the rats,
- 18 though, and that's how it is left.
- 19 So I think, really, if people are looking
- 20 at being on some of these medicines for decades,
- 21 this notion of kind of reexamining this issue with
- 22 hemangiosarcoma is important in terms of Lyrica.

181 1 And then, the other thing I wanted to 2 bring up is this notion of fertility issues. I am in my mid-thirties, and for those of us that are 3 diagnosed at a younger age where we haven't had 4 children yet and want to consider having them, 5 there is ideas that, one, fibromyalgia may be 6 7 linked to fertility issues and infertility Endometriosis is already established, 8 problems. but also low antral follicle counts. 9 10 But then, fertility issues also seem to 11 come up from the medications, the SSRIs, like 12 They're showing that it's damaging sperm 13 and the DNA of sperm. So I'm thinking, why not --14 why don't we look at some eggs and see what it's 15 doing to the DNA. And then, also, practically 16 speaking, what does a person do who wants to have 17 children and is on the medications? Do you come off the medications, which is what I have chosen to 18 19 do because of the very limited studies about some of the severe birth defects they have found, again, 20 21 only in animal studies. And then, can you even manage to be pregnant without the meds? For me, 22

182 1 the decision is, no, we are going through a 2 gestational carrier eventually. And then that brings up the whole other 3 issue of the discontinuation syndrome, which if 4 anyone has gone through with the Cymbalta 5 especially, or the Lyrica, is very, very, very 6 7 difficult. I'd say it's the hardest thing I have 8 ever gone through, and I just got through it in the 9 last two weeks, and trying to get --10 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much. 11 DR. JONIAK-GRANT: -- the FDA mandates to 12 start happening in terms of dealing with that and 13 the tapering. 14 DR. EGGERS: Thank you. Thank you very 15 much, Elizabeth. 16 We have Rae Gleason. Can you raise your 17 hand? MS. GLEASON: Again, my name is Rae 18 I'm the Medical Education and Research 19 Director for the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic 20 Pain Association. I have been doing this work for 21 20 years. I helped create the National 22

183

- 1 Fibromyalgia Research Association in Salem, Oregon,
- 2 and was responsible for heading up five
- 3 international research symposiums.
- And so through the years, there has been a
- 5 lot of work that has been done, and I do think that
- 6 we're farther ahead at least in published papers
- 7 than we were when I started so many years ago. But
- 8 one of the things that we still are lacking is a
- 9 diagnosis. And the problem with having treatments
- 10 for fibromyalgia is if you can't get a diagnosis,
- 11 there isn't any place to start.
- 12 And there is a couple of things that
- 13 happen with that. Some of it is financial. If you
- 14 look at the problems of not being able to function
- 15 in a position, in a job, you lose productivity and
- 16 eventually you lose a position, which isn't good
- 17 for either you or your employer.
- 18 And the other part of it is the medical
- 19 costs themselves, you know, add to that financial
- 20 burden. If you look at the Institute of Medicine's
- 21 research -- I'm sorry, Pain in America Report that
- 22 was published in 2011, it talks about a bill of

184 1 about \$650 billion a year spent on pain. And there 2 still really isn't a whole lot of answers for that in terms of, you know, how it is approached. 3 So for diagnosis, the other big problem in 4 fibromyalgia is the lack of education for our 5 medical doctors. We still have medical schools 6 7 that don't teach anything about fibromyalgia, so we have all these new doctors that come out and they 8 9 don't know anything about it, much less how to diagnose it or how to treat it. 10 11 And I have been working with that. We 12 have put on about 20 medical education CME programs 13 for that. And so the thing is is that with our 14 diagnostic criteria now, there is three, going to 15 four. It is very confusing for doctors to know how 16 to diagnose it, and there is a blood test. 17 It's the FMA blood test that has been 18 researched at the University of Illinois that is very specific, and I think it's something that we 19 should think about to help people not take five 20 years still today, even after three FDA approved 21 22 medications, to get a diagnosis of fibromyalgia.

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1	DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Rae.	
2	We have Kristen Ogden, if you can okay.	
3	MS. OGDEN: Thank you. I'd like to start	
4	by thanking the FDA for having this meeting. I	
5	think it is terrific. I only wish it had happened	
6	for me and Louis maybe 30 or 40 years ago, so that	
7	perhaps things may have gone a little better for	
8	him along the way.	
9	We have been married 41 years. He is a	
10	great guy. You've all gotten to know him at least	
11	a little bit because he has spoken up a time or two	
12	here. I appreciate the atmosphere of courtesy and	
13	respect that was established at the beginning of	
14	this meeting. We came here not knowing whether we	
15	would speak about his recent use of high-dose	
16	opioids as the treatment that has, for him, been	
17	most helpful and most effective.	
18	And when I say "not knowing whether we	
19	would speak about it," I do believe there remains a	
20	certain stigma associated with the use of these	
21	medications. Clearly, we are not insensitive to	
22	the fact that they are abused and that they have	

186 1 caused harm in some circumstances. But I can tell you, in all honesty, that this man has been 2 benefited tremendously by them. 3 We have been pursuing, almost non-stop, 4 help for his pain problems since 1997. We began 5 seeking help for his illness in the 1980s, and at 6 7 that time the answers were, "Mr. Ogden, you look 8 like a young healthy man. Your labs are normal. 9 If you say you hurt, I can't disprove it, but the implication is, well, it's all in your head." 10 I think a lot of people still don't get it 11 about severe pain. I think there are a lot of pain 12 doctors who don't still really get it about 13 14 extremely severe, constant pain. When we made the 15 decision in 2010 to pursue high-dose opioid 16 treatment for him, it wasn't something that we 17 approached lightly. All you have to do is read the 18 newspaper to know that going down that path might 19 likely produce challenges and difficulties. 20 I was, I have to say, astonished at how helpful it was and how quickly. And there have not 21

been any significant side effects. These

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187

- 1 medications do not, in his case, make him drowsy or
- 2 drugged. Our lives have simply been made better.
- 3 While these substances are disabling to some
- 4 individuals, they have been enabling to my husband,
- 5 and we have had the best life for the last three
- 6 and a half years that we have had in decades.
- 7 It is difficult. There are no doctors in
- 8 Virginia who use these medications at the doses
- 9 Louis takes. So for the last three and a half
- 10 years we have been traveling to California every 12
- 11 weeks for treatment with a doctor who specializes
- 12 in treating intractable pain. His name is Forrest
- 13 Tennant, and he has been in practice there since
- 14 1975.
- I couldn't imagine my life getting much
- 16 better until we recently were notified -- and I'm a
- 17 federal employee. Let me just say that to you
- 18 folks at the FDA. Like you, I'm a federal
- 19 employee. I have 36 years of service. I always
- 20 thought the Federal Employee Health Benefits
- 21 Program was the best insurance anybody could get of
- 22 middle income lifestyle. But we got a letter in

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    September from Blue Cross/Blue Shield saying they
    decided Louis' dose of medication is not medically
2
    necessary and that they were only going to pay for
3
    half of it.
             DR. EGGERS: Kristen?
5
             MS. OGDEN: And so we're paying out of
6
7
    pocket --
             DR. EGGERS: Kristen, I'm going to ask you
8
9
    to just wrap it up, please.
             MS. OGDEN: I'm taking Louis' three
10
11
    minutes. He's just --
12
             DR. EGGERS: Oh.
13
             MS. OGDEN: We're sharing.
14
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. All right.
15
    you've got three more -- you've got two and a half
16
    more minutes.
17
             MS. OGDEN: I just need to let you know
    that we still have issues of stigma and lack of
18
    understanding. We are paying out of pocket while
19
    we fight this through the disputed claims process.
20
    We have, in our first step, cited the FDA decision
21
22
    letter that was issued in September 2013 that
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189 1 acknowledged that these medications in high doses 2 are helpful to some people. In that decision, responding to a petition 3 from PROP, the FDA decided not to impose daily dose 4 limits or duration limits because there was no 5 scientific evidence to support doing that. When we 6 7 replied to Blue Cross requesting reconsideration, we provided a copy of that letter. We quoted that 8 9 letter; we provided other letters from AMA and the American Pain Society, American Academy of Pain 10 11 Management, to say, look, some people need these 12 medications. And they -- Blue Cross so far has 13 blown us off, and it's costing us over \$5,000 a 14 month. And although I do have a good job, we cannot afford that. 15 16 Louis? 17 MR. OGDEN: I would just like to add that 18 we need to do something to get rid of the stigma. It seems that it's looked at as being a drug of 19 20 abuse, one, first. And the media, the doctors, you wouldn't believe some of the things I've been 21 22 called -- a drug addict, these kinds of things.

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190
1
    God, I forgot where I was going because of fibro
2
    fog.
                  I'm an outlier, if you want to --
3
    everybody, I'm sure, is familiar with the standard
4
5
    Bell curve. I'm somewhere over here at the very
    tip end of this as an outlier. And it seems to me
6
7
    that instead of spending so much time concerning
    ourselves with the number of people who abuse these
8
9
    medications, that we need to worry about people who
    have problems like I do and have such good results
10
    from them.
11
             DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much.
12
13
             MR. OGDEN: Thank you.
14
                          Thank you. Thank you, Louis.
             DR. EGGERS:
             And we have -- I think it's Juan Mendoza?
15
16
             MR. MENDOZA: Yes.
17
             DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you.
18
             MR. MENDOZA: Yes.
                                 Juan Mendoza, Vice
    President of the National Fibromyalgia Partnership.
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20
    Our mission is to make medically accurate, quality
    resource information on fibromyalgia available to
21
    our membership, health care professionals, and the
22
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191 1 community at large. Our goal is provide 2 informational tools so as to promote the timely and appropriate diagnosis and treatment of 3 fibromyalgia. 4 5 Briefly, it was mentioned, trigger points and tender points. I consider that it's important 6 7 to distinguish between the two. There is a condition which is misunderstood called chronic 8 myofascial pain syndrome. That deals -- which is 9 prevalent in fibromyalgia patients, this condition 10 11 occurs when hyper-irritable spots called trigger points can cause severe pain and disability. And 12 13 their pain can also complicate the assessment of 14 fibromyalqia pain. 15 So it is important that, you know, to 16 educate our health care providers between the two 17 because they are not the same. Okay? Since -because of lack of time and our statement is on the 18 19 docket, I'm just going to move on to significant downsides of current treatments. 20 21 One is the price of medication and 22 treatments is often high. It is often, in the case

192 1 of non-drug treatments, not covered by insurance. 2 The other is long-term safety of a drug is not And, finally, effective medications without 3 any adverse -- the ideal condition will be 4 effective medications without any adverse effects -5 - effects will be ideal, of course. 6 7 However, in the meantime, it would be extremely helpful to encourage head-to-head 8 comparison trials conducted by fibromyalgia 9 researchers with no stake in the outcome. 10 11 analytical assessments and meta-analysis will be 12 helpful as well. Only a few of these currently 13 exist for the newest fibromyalgia drugs. 14 And, finally, in an effort to find better 15 ways to effectively treat the pain and fatigue of 16 fibromyalgia, it is useful to develop a systematic 17 approach -- this is important -- a systematic 18 approach which can improve: a) sleep patterns that 19 produce better sleep; b) physical rehabilitation to 20 improve functionality; and c) psychological and emotional therapy when needed. 21 Thanks. 22

		193
1	DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much.	
2	And thank you to all those who contributed	
3	to the public comment.	
4	Our closing oh, do you want	
5	DR. RAPPAPORT: Can we make a couple	
6	just a couple of clarifying comments?	
7	DR. EGGERS: Sure.	
8	DR. RAPPAPORT: I'll talk and you can do	
9	it. There were a number of comments today that I	
10	heard, just now and earlier, about sort of a range	
11	of problems that you're having. One is you	
12	know, is Rae I believe talked about the cost of	
13	chronic pain to society. And, Louis, you're having	
14	trouble getting your drugs.	
15	And I heard from people at the break who	
16	came up and talked to me about, you know, how do we	
17	get our voices heard as fibromyalgia patients when	
18	people don't believe we're sick?	
19	There is power in numbers, and I strongly	
20	encourage you to join with your advocacy	
21	organizations, with Jan and others, to have your	
22	voices heard because that is how you make changes	

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194
1
    for yourself and for your community. So please do
2
    -- you know, there are ways that you can make your
    voices heard.
3
             DR. EGGERS: Thank you.
4
5
             Okay. And now we'll have Sharon Hertz
    come up and give some closing remarks. And as
6
7
    she's walking up here, I'm just going to remind you
    all that there are evaluation forms up at the
8
    registration table. If you could take a few
9
    minutes to fill that out, tell us what we are doing
10
11
    well, what could be improved, it's really helpful
12
    to us. So thank you.
13
             Thank you, Sharon.
14
             DR. HERTZ: Hi, all. There is a lot to
15
    summarize. But before I even get there -- and very
16
    little time. But before I even get there, some of
17
    the comments that I have heard, I don't know how
18
    often people are accessing the actual approved
19
    labeling for these products, but I'm hearing things
    about side effects that aren't known, but in fact
20
    they're in the labeling.
21
22
             And I was -- you may have seen me on the
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195 1 Blackberry. I swear I wasn't emailing. I was 2 looking some things up to be sure that I didn't misspeak. But some of the side effects, including 3 sexual dysfunction and some others, are actually listed for some of these drugs. So I know that 5 many of these products come with patient labeling, 6 7 and that tends to be shorter. But please know that there is a lot more information available in the 8 9 full product labeling -- or package insert we call it -- and you can access those a number of 10 11 different ways, on our web as well as other 12 resources. 13 The hemangiosarcoma issue in particular I did want to mention, because we -- when we follow a 14 15 product through its development, we take these 16 things quite seriously. And I was actually 17 involved with our regulatory oversight at the time 18 that signal became apparent. 19 And I can't go into some of the details 20 about what we did at the time, but we did do quite a bit. And we never say, "Well, it was positive in 21 22 one and negative in another species. Therefore,

196 1 we're not going to." Trust me, we are never that 2 simple. We actually required the sponsor to do 3 work to prove that there was a reason why one 4 species was being more susceptible to this than 5 another. And we got compelling data to suggest 6 7 that was in fact a species-specific or -centric type of finding. So please know that we do take a 8 very serious look at all of the information coming 9 in as we are developing these drugs. 10 And a lot of this information is available 11 12 online. Our reviews -- you know, from my desk I actually often revert to Google rather than our 13 14 search window. But if you Google for an FDA review 15 on a drug, it's actually often very helpful. 16 And so -- and I'm going to throw this to 17 the advocacy organizations because I suspect they 18 may have folks who can also help with navigating some of these paths. Today we heard some very, 19 very helpful information from you folks and really 20 appreciate you taking the time. We understand the 21

challenge for many people who are suffering from

22

197 1 chronic pain to travel and participate in these 2 meetings, and we greatly value your effort. Some of the important things that I have 3 heard are speaking to a lot of the heterogeneity 4 5 within the symptoms in fibro, and we very much are aware that there is never going to be a one size 6 7 fit all for the population, or potentially even to address all of any one person's symptoms. 8 9 We heard quite a bit about the different manifestations of pain and fatigue, some 10 11 interesting symptoms that we haven't heard much 12 about in the past, including the eye pain and visual symptoms, some of the other things including 13 14 the feeling cold. The stiffness was very 15 interesting for me to hear. That was one in 16 particular I wasn't as familiar with. 17 And I think that the emphasis that we have heard on multi-modal therapy is very important. 18 will do our part to help facilitate the drug part 19 of that treatment when we get applications coming 20 We'll try and do our due diligence to make 21 sure that we do identify all the safety-associated 22

198

- 1 issues as well as the benefits, so that as you and
- 2 your prescribers get together you can make informed
- 3 decisions about the available risks. And we will
- 4 continue to try and make sure that as information
- 5 becomes available we update information.
- And I think those are the key points that
- 7 I wanted to just summarize. In addition, also, we
- 8 heard the message about more targeting of certain
- 9 symptoms, that it would be nice to see some
- 10 therapeutics in those areas, including fatigue and
- 11 sleep-associated issues.
- 12 So, once again, thank you and please take
- 13 time once you get home and settled again to send in
- 14 any additional comments to the docket. We will
- 15 review them all.
- MR. FREY: Okay. Before Sara wraps up, I
- 17 just wanted to follow up with something Sharon said
- 18 about our labeling and reviews. One fairly easy
- 19 way of finding that stuff is just to Google "drugs"
- 20 at sign, so drugs@fda. And there you will see the
- 21 alphabet and you can search for your drug by name
- 22 and eventually get to the approval document, the

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1	review memos that are written by our scientific	
2	disciplines, as well as the approved labeling.	
3	So I just wanted to mention that.	
4	DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much.	
5	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: No dot com	
6	or anything? Just	
7	MR. FREY: Just Google "drugs at FDA," and	
8	it's the first hit.	
9	DR. EGGERS: Okay. All right. Well,	
10	thank you again. I hope that everyone has safe	
11	travels home, whether, again, it's just around the	
12	beltway or whether you are traveling to further	
13	distances. And I just want to echo my colleagues	
14	again and say thank you so much. As patients and	
15	patient representatives, you are the input of this	
16	meeting, and it is very important and very	
17	valuable.	
18	Thank you.	
19	(Applause.)	
20	(Whereupon, at 5:06 p.m., the Fibromyalgia	
21	Public Meeting on Patient-Focused Drug	
22	Development was adjourned.	

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1	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER	
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5	the best of my ability.	
6	I am neither counsel for, nor party to this action	
7	nor am I interested in the outcome of this action.	
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	rag	C 1	
\$	18 20:22 38:11	2015 16:14 17:7	400 178:5
\$100,000 112:16	42:15 85:10	203 3:12	41 37:18 38:8
\$25,000 167:17	128:13 146:5	209 3:14	194:8
\$5,000 198:15	19 2:12 117:4 120:2	20993 1:10	42:18 41:12
\$650 192:19	1975 196:15	22 124:4 128:16	44:59 44:1
	1980s 195:5	24 43:6 122:21	45:08 44:5
$\frac{1}{12:17,183:2}$	1989 171:17	24/7 42:18 74:22	46:07 45:5
140:14	1990 20:21	25 156:3 160:8	46:48 45:20
1,000 161:8	1992 76:2	250 143:6	48 128:2
1,500 188:2	1994 65:14	26 1:7 55:8	48:17 47:6
1:00 1:7	1995 128:4	26th 4:15	48:32 47:11
1:49:24 101:8	1997 195:4	27 104:2	48:49 47:15
1:53:39 105:4	1))// 1)3.4	28 133:10	
1:55:13 106:19	2		5 5,000 100:14
1:56:04 107:13	2 3:6,7,10 109:20	3	5:06 209:3
10 39:4 158:10	2,157 90:20	3:00 63:21	50 37:18 38:8
167:19 175:8	20 16:8 38:7,21	30 23:16 37:10,17,21	132:16
100 64:1 126:6	39:4,8 72:4 78:8 96:17 184:13	38:7,9 124:1	50:02 48:15
143:13 146:16 149:13 154:15	188:1 191:18	132:15 186:21	50:38 49:3
157:10 178:20	193:9	194:5	500 126:6 149:11
10-1/2 146:14	200 134:3	30's 38:2	161:7,11
109 3:5,6	2002 172:1	31 1:9 37:17 38:7	51 37:18 38:9
10903 1:9	2004 175:8	32 59:1	52 175:15 186:4
10th 4:13,14	2007 10:16 12:3	33 96:13	53 140:10
11 20:22 136:11	23:9	35 108:5,16 186:19	57:19 54:22
112 3:9	2008 23:10 129:4	36 2:15 196:20	
12 150:15 196:11	2009 23:11 50:2 125:1	37 2:17	60 37:18 38:9
13 16:22	2010 50:8 195:14	39 15:18 99:6,9	60's 38:2,3
14 2:9 17:3	2010 30.8 193.14 2011 192:18	4	61 37:18 38:10
15 133:18 137:22	2012 15:15,22 18:3	4 2:1	62 133:8
139:22 170:17	108:8	4,500 16:3	63 75:4 140:9
16 16:13 59:2	2013 16:14,15	40 37:18 38:7 72:4	64 75:4
113:7	50:19 198:1	143:17 194:5	66 185:19
176 3:11	2014 1:7 17:7	40,000 184:10	00 100.17
	l	l .	

		3C Z	
7	148:12 149:18 154:18 161:4	achy 135:9	85:5 110:14 111:12 192:15
70 37:18 38:10	168:16 181:14	acknowledge 10:7 91:11	198:18
71 37:18	192:10	acknowledged	addict 199:1
72 186:15	abnormal 21:15 24:8	198:2	Addiction 2:7 7:10
75 3:2 72:2		across 38:13 57:6	adding 155:8
	absolutely 30:12 74:21 134:2	acting 65:16	addition 19:17
8	152:4 155:18	action 210:6,7	21:19 22:3 24:19
8 2:5	absorb 147:21	active 18:12 76:19	43:16 207:12
8,000 184:13	abuse 198:21	124:6	additional 17:6
80 20:8 38:22	199:9	activities 26:17	18:21 23:5 24:16 87:17 144:7
140:8	abused 194:21	54:3,5,7 65:1	163:18 178:10
85 139:20	academia 10:4	89:17 116:6 126:13 131:1	180:17 188:4
9	Academy 198:12	139:4,18	207:19
90 16:6 20:9 36:21	accelerator 161:16	activity 21:14	address 16:14
38:16 39:18	accept 48:21	24:22 43:10 81:6	27:12,15 33:16 34:8,12 68:7
187:21	acceptable 132:8	97:16	91:10 110:15,20
95 176:19	acceptance 125:10	actual 102:20	128:21 130:15
98 72:1	-	203:21	131:8 132:5 137:11 142:4
	accepted 114:2	actually 65:12	163:6 166:17
A L 11:6 - 120.15	access 204:13	69:20 77:16 78:1 84:22 86:11	173:10 176:11
Abilify 130:15	accessing 203:21	107:22 124:1,3	181:9 206:12
ability 20:14 25:18 26:17 44:3 55:22	accident 117:5	126:18 127:3	addressed 16:5
57:15 185:3,16	accommodate	147:17 153:21	17:22 128:18 131:17 158:15
210:4	40:13	156:10 158:17 175:19 185:5	166:14 173:7
ablation 134:7	accommodating 42:8	188:22 189:4	181:21
136:19 166:22	accommodations	204:7,19	addressing 49:21
ablations 134:18	90:2,5	205:6,16,18	140:19 141:14
able 7:1 28:6,21	accomplishing	acupuncture 25:1	142:19 159:10 182:3,12
31:12 33:4 42:9	144:20	119:1,5,7 134:22 139:2	•
43:7 44:13 52:5,8,17	According 20:20	acupuncturist	adds 161:8
55:15,16 56:2	accurate 200:2	120:10 135:1	adequate 88:4
57:3 61:2 62:9	ache 21:12	acupuncturists	adherence 186:22
65:13 76:7 81:21 104:5 113:18	aches 22:1 72:9	119:3	adjourned 209:5
119:22	79:10	acute 130:1	Adjournment 3:14
130:18,19	achieve 6:2	add 3:4 30:20 52:1	adjust 84:13

	1 αξ	,	
adjustments	against 45:5	aloe 121:10	among 21:10
186:20	age 37:14,17 104:2	alone 97:1,2,15	amount 99:22
adjusts 78:9	178:11 189:21	125:7 175:16	122:18 185:12
Administration	aged 76:12	alphabet 128:14	187:14
1:5,8	aggressive 189:3	208:4	amplified 45:4
admit 58:12 169:7	ago 43:15 60:14	already 29:8	Analgesia 2:7 7:10
admitting 162:19	86:1 106:9	135:12 144:22 182:1 190:3	19:17
Adobe 36:4	115:12 117:4 133:10 134:22	alternative 161:13	Analisis 2:11
adult 75:3	148:21 149:4,6	164:6 174:12	analysis 7:7 14:10
adults 20:7	192:4 194:6	altogether 186:21	analytical 201:14
Advance 161:7	agonizing 44:20	Alzheimer's 97:6	analyzed 16:5
advantage 185:3	agreed 135:2	am 8:2 53:22 55:8	Andrea 91:21
adverse 177:12	181:11	56:22 59:1 60:10	Anesthesia 7:9
187:6,11 201:7,8	agreeing 88:18	62:15 63:8 68:5	19:17
advice 66:9	90:14	76:18,19 84:16	angry 155:5
advisory 14:19	ahead 42:1 69:21	96:8,14,22 98:1	animal 190:16
advocacy 203:1	83:4 91:22 96:2	101:2,7 110:10 117:16 119:15	Anita 168:13
205:21	122:13 192:2	124:1 128:1	announced 15:16
advocates 9:3	aid 60:19 135:17 136:2 142:1	129:5,16,17	annoying 45:9
32:18		130:4,18,19,22 131:18 142:12	98:22
affect 20:13	aides 24:13	131.18 142.12	answer 37:16
26:15,16 89:13	aimed 25:7	146:14,16 147:2	63:11 67:12
111:1 151:6	air 98:15 172:12	148:7 157:13	85:17 114:7
172:18	airplane 67:2	160:16 163:12	answered 37:15
affected 20:8	alcohol 52:14	164:19 177:2 183:10 184:9	63:10
affecting 114:5	Alekel 85:21 86:22	189:19 210:6,7	answering 29:9
affects 19:22 20:6	87:2 159:13,16	AMA 198:11	30:7 180:11
59:21 64:7 66:13 104:8 105:4,18	alert 167:5	amazing 82:3	answers 113:2 192:21 195:6
130:4 152:11,19	alleviate 61:11	Ambien 142:14	anticipation
afford 198:16	62:2 128:18	amenable 11:13	anticipation 184:12
afraid 122:4	all-over 127:10	America 20:20	antidepressant
afternoon 7:5	131:8	192:17	130:13 140:22
19:15 63:17	allow 14:20 182:7	American	anti-depressants
79:15 80:3	allowing 131:9	198:11,12	24:14
afternoon's 19:18	133:3	Amitriptyline	anti-
afterward 171:18	allows 31:18 103:13 156:19	128:14 154:5	inflammatory

	1 αξ) - 	
135:16 177:20	209:3	April 16:15	assisted 50:12
anti-seizure 24:14	applications 15:13	Araieli 101:2	associated 133:20
140:22	207:3	area 8:20,21 10:9	194:19
antral 190:4	apply 17:14	17:15,21 18:4	Association 90:19
anxiety 70:17	138:21	36:6,8,12	100:8 112:12
71:16 72:5 127:6	appointment	areas 16:6,13,19	191:17,19
129:10 130:15	50:15	17:8 21:6 22:22	assumed 27:17
anybody 105:8	appreciate 37:8	207:15	assure 9:9
175:18 196:22	46:3 90:19 112:7	aren't 14:13 31:11	
	128:9 137:16	55:4 95:3 102:4	astonished 195:19
anymore 11:4 66:2	194:11 206:3	144:12 204:1	atmosphere
145:19 147:6 148:5 154:18	appreciative 4:16	arise 137:10	194:11
155:11 176:21	36:13,14 37:12		attack 58:13 97:2
	,	Arlington 128:2	127:4
anyone 6:15 32:5 36:14 69:5,6	approach 27:8 110:4 116:16	arm 62:21 113:13	attacked 64:16
75:17 79:2 80:4	117:15 122:16	134:21	attacks 56:20
91:19 94:13	129:17	arms 24:3 44:9	
105:21 134:12	201:20,21	46:22 73:13	attempted 50:10
138:5,6 142:2,9	approached	113:8	attend 130:2
145:22 177:15	192:22 195:16	array 132:3	attention 114:2
187:12 191:1		arresting 62:18	125:15
anything 44:7	approaches 3:8 6:12 109:6 110:2	arrived 129:18	ATTERBURY
47:19 53:16 56:4	116:15 138:20		92:1 150:14
62:1,8 70:14		arterial 17:4	168:15
102:17 126:11	appropriate 31:8 200:6	arthritic 133:10	attribute 152:1
144:20 147:22		arthritis 12:22	audience 3:4 28:20
153:8 168:6,7,8 169:9 193:4,6	approval 208:5	20:19	32:20 70:4 95:22
208:12	approve 13:4	asleep 21:22 105:8	104:13 107:16
	approved 8:9	161:1,4	111:9
anywhere 169:1	10:15 11:9 12:3	as-needed 158:21	audio 210:4
apart 44:17	23:7,9,10,11,12,	160:14	autoimmune
apologize 183:17	14 24:1,10	aspect 51:14	117:8
apparent 88:3	114:18 125:1 128:16 132:14	158:16 173:8	
204:21	140:20 144:2		autonomic 107:9
appear 132:7,17	155:4 185:21	aspects 53:19 69:12 72:15	available 12:2
133:17	193:19 203:22	110:5,19 158:13	40:14 115:17
appetite 145:19	208:7	assessment 200:17	200:3 204:11 205:15 207:8,9
150:18	approving 8:9		,
	11	assessments	Avenue 1:9
applause 49:9 68:15 137:13,14	approximately 20:6 147:12	201:14	average 27:4,5
00.13 137.13,14	20.0 17/.12	assist 49:22	

	1 48	,	
avoid 54:7	basically 44:16	begin 17:11,14	196:4,22 210:4
avoiding 139:4,18	125:10,13	50:2 111:20	better 9:1 10:22
awake 151:7 167:4	141:18 153:6	187:1	11:2,22 19:7
168:18 169:4	basis 43:4 110:12	beginning 51:14	24:17 26:18
awakening 43:11	124:11 140:18	86:8 119:2 142:6	59:19 61:15,17
S	141:1,6 158:21	194:12	84:14 85:11 116:17 123:1
aware 86:16 206:10	159:6 160:12,14 162:20	begins 23:1	159:12 166:17
	basketball 124:6	begun 51:16 52:13	168:4 173:4
away 5:10 67:19 104:5 118:11		behalf 184:9	174:20 178:12
126:16 142:22	Baskin 132:3	behavioral 24:21	179:19
144:18 153:9	bat 93:8 94:1	84:12 139:5	187:1,3,15 194:7
156:13 157:10	bathes 78:7	behind 81:11	196:2,17 201:18,22
169:9 177:14	bathroom 57:1,2,4	169:2	,
	150:17	believe 17:5 18:16	beyond 112:16 183:12
B	batting 93:6,18	19:6 55:14,20	
baby 56:11 67:22	battle 166:4	77:9 78:20 91:14	biggest 27:15 47:10 49:4 56:18
babysitting 67:6	Bayer 161:6	113:15 115:13	59:17 151:14
background 2:12	ř	121:1 136:10	166:19 167:3,9
6:2 19:19	beat 66:9	137:22 170:22 194:18 198:22	bilaterally 134:7
bad 43:8 44:16	beautiful 8:6	202:15,21	166:21
45:16 57:5,22	49:19,20	believing 48:20	bill 192:19
84:21 92:11	became 52:7	<u> </u>	billion 192:19
126:5 127:5 128:22 153:5	204:21	Bell 199:6	
160:17 174:16	become 44:3 68:1	beloved 45:13	biofeedback 130:6 135:20
badly 135:6	becomes 42:21	beltway 36:14	
•	207:9	208:18	Biofreeze
bag 133:16	becoming 45:21	benefit 13:13	160:17,22
balance 12:20	64:19 114:1	17:15 25:13,22	Biologics 16:12
50:11,12 77:22 89:6 119:6	bed 44:19 45:21	129:3 165:10	biology 128:7
	50:13 56:7 57:3	benefited 195:2	biomarkers
barely 146:16	60:11 61:3 67:11	benefits 196:21	131:21
barometric 172:12	80:8,16 85:1 113:7 118:7,9	207:5	birth 104:4 190:15
Baron 108:3,4,5	154:16 161:3	benign 13:6	bit 13:5 26:5,22
barriers 94:20	168:17 175:15	benzodiazepines	38:6 39:12
base 47:4	bedroom 64:14	170:7	46:8,18 47:1
based 23:15	bee 105:6,19 136:9	best 34:7 56:9	59:18 60:4 61:16
139:15 184:7	beforehand	66:14 141:14	69:8,10,17 72:7 75:11 77:4 81:4
basic 5:14	122:10	142:4 157:12,22	83:20 89:3 92:19
Saute J.1 I	122.10	166:6 177:19	94:8 109:7,13,21
			, ,

	1 48	,	
110:6,7 125:4	105:4,8,19	breaks 44:10	73:4,6,10
140:14,16	106:6,21 113:22	breakthrough	bus 56:22
141:11 143:12 145:18 151:7	114:6 116:16 117:7,19 125:3	156:17 164:12	busy 16:3
162:6 163:14	134:19 147:20	breast 113:12	Butrans 153:15
194:10 205:2	148:3	breathing 45:5	button 49:15
206:13	body's 20:1	130:6	buy 65:10 92:16
black 77:6 98:9	Bonnie 146:2	brick 63:22	buy 05.10 72.10
Blackberry 204:4	book 59:6 124:14	briefly 99:21	С
blades 134:11	born 50:9	171:14 176:14 177:17 188:11	C3 166:21
136:8	bothers 52:18	200:8	C6/7 134:7
blankets 67:13	67:16	bring 11:21 13:20	C7 166:22
bleeding 24:8	bothersome 72:16	48:13 100:8	cake 168:9
144:8	186:14	104:7 154:8	California 196:10
Bless 108:18	Botox 130:12	178:22 189:19	caller 103:17
blinded 25:15	134:3,18 136:6,17	bringing 8:5 107:1	104:19 107:2
blink 92:3	bottle 126:9	brings 118:21 190:21	108:1 173:11 175:3
block 52:9			
blood 13:1 24:7	bottom 140:3 177:18	broad 138:18	calming 114:6
59:11 107:12,17 118:20 153:18	bought 65:6	broadly 114:2	calms 141:20
193:13,15	bounced 65:17	broken 131:17	campus 1:8 30:13
blown 198:14	bound 45:21	Bronx 49:18	canal 115:6
Blue 197:2		Brooklyn 49:17	cancer 17:1 189:3
198:8,14	bowel 20:4 22:8 117:10	brought 111:11	candidate 127:14
B-no 37:3	150:16,22	170:5 175:17 184:18 185:10	capture 25:22
board 137:6	bowl 102:8	bruising 144:8	captured 87:8
Bob 2:6 7:8,20,22	box 32:3 123:13	buckets 138:18	car 43:3 45:7
14:4,5 83:12	brain 57:11 98:2	build 28:12,13	63:3,4 77:17 84:19 96:15,22
169:12	101:19,20	ŕ	117:5
Bob's 7:13 85:18	113:21 119:14 121:5 129:6	building 1:9 28:21 65:6,10	cardio 129:22
bodily 125:15	131:7 135:11	built 88:16	cards 125:12
126:12,17 127:11	136:21	bump 119:15	care 24:12 33:12
body 21:1,8	break 3:5 6:21	bumpy 77:17	44:17 59:5 90:8
42:17,20 50:7	77:3 103:12	bumpy //.1/ burden 192:16	119:17 120:1,11
51:4 54:16 57:7	109:5,10 183:3 202:18		124:12 134:5
72:11,18 76:10 78:9 79:13 80:10		burning 43:1 48:12,14	135:19 187:6 200:4,19
70.9 79.13 80.10	breaking 143:1	10.12,11	

	Γαξ	, ,	
career 45:14 65:14	16:11	55:21,22 104:15 179:1	chiropractors 116:11
careful 122:6	cell 17:2 120:20	changes 25:2	chocolate 168:9
carefully 16:8	cells 91:7	92:2,15 114:8	choose 16:8 70:10
caregivers 9:4 32:17	center 2:3 4:4 7:10 16:12 83:16	117:12 139:3,17	159:12
caretakers 37:7	central 20:13	140:2 165:6 203:3	chose 114:20
carrier 190:19	50:19 114:3,4,7	changing 119:19	chosen 65:14
	centralized 42:20	character 64:1	71:21 190:14
carry 77:15	centric 205:10	characteristics	chronic 16:22
carrying 116:6	certain 47:14	21:9 186:14	19:22 20:1 21:3
cartoon 64:1	133:13 143:1	characterized	51:4,5,8 59:4,5,20 63:15
case 35:4 195:22 201:4	179:3 194:19	21:21	69:9,18,19 70:11
cases 22:14 90:9	207:14	Charlottesville	71:3,19 72:2,7
125:22	certainly 57:16	124:19	86:11,12 90:18 100:7 108:10
CASTAGNA	CERTIFICATE 210:1	chart 59:7,8	112:11 117:3,15
151:3,10,18		154:14	120:12 170:15
catalyst 179:18	certify 210:3	check 78:6 138:21	175:10,15 191:16 200:12
catch 46:21	cervical 115:5,15 166:22	checked 160:7,8	202:16 206:5
catch-22 61:10	chair 53:3,6 81:18	chemicals 125:2	circles 58:7
categories 70:19	104:3 125:5	Cheryl 141:17	circumstance
71:18 139:8	chairs 109:12	chest 51:6	176:18
category 70:14 174:6	challenge 56:18	chewable 176:22 177:6	circumstances
caught 174:10	206:4	Chiari-1 115:19	79:5 194:22
causation 132:9	challenged 44:9	Chicago 62:15	citation 106:12
cause 20:10 44:11	challenges 195:18	64:21	cited 197:22
88:22 127:5	Chambers 90:17 99:5 112:3,6,10	child 52:20	City 52:18
131:6,22 144:6	170:4	childhood 75:4	claims 197:21
167:12 200:15	chance 29:13	children 89:12	clarifying 137:9 202:9
caused 113:9	34:12,19,20	189:22 190:12	
128:17 129:3 194:22	35:18 36:1 87:10	Chinese 118:3,19	Clarissa 108:3,4
causes 48:4,6	99:19 100:3 147:19 182:4,10	120:12	class 8:12 170:6
causing 112:14	chances 31:9,10	chiropractic	clean 89:16
CDER	change 48:9,21	114:12 135:19	clear 32:9 131:9
2:4,7,11,14,16	92:12,17 120:7	chiropractor 46:19 114:11,20	clearer 95:11
3:13 7:7 14:6	changed 54:3	115:22	Clearly 194:20

	1 αξ	,e o	
clears 94:2	cold 21:14 43:8	90:21 100:2	compare 27:4
click 32:2 36:9	48:10,12 55:12	163:13 175:21	compared 144:11
	98:13 206:18	178:10	-
clicker 36:2,9 138:14	colleague 69:11	179:14,16	comparison 201:12
	colleagues 4:7	181:22	
clickers 29:15,18	5:22 7:3 9:5 26:4	182:2,6,8,19	compelling 205:9
30:11	29:2 46:4	202:6	complement
35:17,19,20	99:3,20 149:20	comments 2:17,20	158:22
70:10 138:13,16	173:2 208:19	3:6 16:4,9 18:21	complete 64:2
clicking 168:20	collected 183:2	28:9 30:21	91:6
Climbing 44:19	187:21	31:14,16 78:22	
clinic 124:19		87:12 88:8,11	completed 90:20
	collecting 184:20	89:11 100:2,4	completely 13:14
clinical 7:15,17	collection 174:4	104:18 111:7	30:8 69:6 79:3
19:16 24:9	collectively 165:5	139:15 161:19	81:6 115:11
25:13,16,22	· ·	163:15 164:1	138:7 147:18
45:14 115:22	College 20:20	173:1 178:15,18 180:16,17,21	171:10 176:6
144:10 160:1	Colorado	182:13,14	complex 22:5
188:20 189:5	171:20,22	183:1,5,6	64:10 137:19
clinicians 187:4	Columbia 50:15	202:9,12 203:20	complicate 200:16
clock 170:3	com 208:11	207:19	complicated
close 10:6 32:16	combination	commercials 66:6	131:13,15
34:10 58:20	105:6,19 126:7	commitment	170:18
75:22 125:15	127:17 131:16	125:10	component 165:2
163:11 179:22	164:4 177:19		170:4 184:8
closed 101:11	Combinations	committed 28:7 102:21	185:4 187:10
closely 9:18	25:4		components
		committee 14:19	170:13
closing 3:12 6:19	comes 57:8 87:21	common 20:18	
202:7 203:9	94:2 162:6 177:5	64:12 99:15	comprehensive 54:14 126:22
clue 124:17	comfortable 29:10	127:2	
clumsy 157:11	30:7 103:9 150:5	communicating	compression
CME 193:9	162:9,18	19:2	115:15,18
	coming 13:21 29:6	community 35:5	computer 32:4
cocktail 117:21	59:6 61:7 68:11	86:17 89:21	77:16 92:6
130:10 142:12 145:13	73:10 76:12 91:7	112:8 125:8	155:15
	98:16 114:10	200:4 203:4	concentrating
coffee 30:14	149:5 205:12	comorbid 187:21	70:13 71:6,20
cognitive 20:5	207:3		72:3
22:6 51:13 69:15	comment 3:11	companies 10:5	concentration
113:5 126:17,20	6:14,17 31:14	companion 55:8	22:6 94:11
127:11 143:16	32:2,3,5 34:10	71.10	
127.11 143.10	77:5,8 87:7	company 51:18	concepts 25:22

	- Y	,6 9	1
concern 89:12	85:9 86:6 117:3	202:6	costing 198:15
186:13	cons 121:21	contribution 37:8	costs 192:15
concerned 8:15	consensus 164:3	contributions	couch 113:7
186:16	consider 189:22	180:9	counsel 210:6
concerning 199:8	200:9	control 103:1	counted 128:15
concerns 10:1	considerable	114:5 130:13	counter 61:5 158:6
conclude 165:15	150:19	135:7 172:5	181:7
concrete 26:18	consideration	controlled 25:15	counteract 145:17
concretely 33:15	17:18	conversation 28:20 32:11	counts 190:4
condition 14:10	considered 16:9	33:14 34:7,18	couple 10:10
15:9 24:18 27:13	165:1	65:5,7 68:20	44:13,19 75:5
29:3 37:22 39:7	consists 117:16	102:22 180:19	89:11,18 98:8
45:12 55:20 63:13 110:13	constant 55:7 64:4	conversations 35:9	102:19 103:12
111:5 138:17	93:6 115:6 135:10 172:15	converse 166:8	106:4,9 116:9 142:10 167:20
140:5,19,21	195:13	convinced 113:11	172:4 177:13
152:3,6	constantly 92:3	115:21	192:8 202:8,9
166:5,10,16 170:19 173:8	93:18 98:12	cook 64:11 73:9	coupled 59:10
187:18,20	102:11 126:12	cooking 64:18	courage 68:16
200:11,14 201:7	constipation 103:4	cooperating 8:7	courageously
conditioner 98:15	contact 108:13	coordination	68:18
conditions 24:6	contacts	136:20	course 22:12 23:21
170:18 187:21	92:13,18,22	cope 185:16	35:2 69:10 178:6
condo 64:13	context 6:1	copy 198:9	181:1 201:9
condominium	14:12,18 15:10	cord 115:7,15,18	court 65:16
64:9	185:10		courtesy 194:11
conducted 6:6	continual 156:1	CORINNE 210:2,12	cover 67:11
25:15 201:12	continually 116:4	correct 40:4 163:8	covered 99:21
conference 86:20	continue 35:14		134:5 201:4
confessions 86:2	44:22 56:16	corrected 95:8	CPAP 83:6,7
confirm 106:16	101:6 132:11,12 135:21 155:10	correcting 172:6	crash 79:14
confirmed 39:16	207:8	correctly 37:11 106:17	80:2,14 81:5,8
confusing 193:12	Continued 3:1		create 42:17 45:19
connect 82:21	contribute 5:2	correlate 97:21 106:20	191:18
connectedness	21:19 25:18 31:7	corresponding	created 144:17
184:7 185:11	32:13,18 103:15	16:11 36:3	177:19
connection 35:7	144:7 182:11	cost 92:19 202:15	credibility 89:20
Commence So.	contributed 188:2	2030 /2.1/ 202.13	

	rag	- '	
crippled 144:19	129:18 130:13	day 6:8 21:14 26:6	debate 144:2
criteria 20:22	cut 150:18 161:10	27:4,5 43:11 44:19 47:13 56:5	debilitating 42:14
193:11	cutting 163:11	58:14 67:6,22	112:15 115:11
critical 9:17 14:6	cycle 168:11,17	76:16 79:4,17,19	Deborah 74:2 95:8
Cross 198:8,14	Cymbalta 23:9,11	80:3 81:5,14,15	111:21,22 133:1,8 137:8
Cross/Blue 197:2	46:15 61:7 77:20	83:9 97:19 121:14,15	166:21
crossed 138:12	117:16 128:17,22	122:21 124:16	decades 10:11
CROSSIN 178:19	133:22 140:21	133:4,19	189:15 196:6
crossword 121:3	141:19 146:21	143:1,5,14 145:14	December
crushing 74:21,22	150:15 153:22 155:13 157:7	146:15,17	4:12,14,17 28:2 36:17,18 40:10
crutch 135:5	175:13 190:7	149:11 150:16	133:6 184:11
cry 93:10	191:1	151:1 155:20 156:7 159:19,20	decide 121:20
crying 177:11		161:15,17 166:5	decided 149:1
cue 125:17	D.C 36:6,8,12,21	169:5 178:1,2	197:3 198:5
cues 125:15	D3 120:18 160:8	181:2	decision 15:11
126:12	DAAAP 2:7,14	days 5:8 44:12,13,16	17:18 59:21 147:13 190:18
culture 64:11	3:13	45:16 48:10	195:14 197:22
cumin 177:22	daily 2:18 6:10	50:14 52:6 53:4	198:4
cup 91:4	19:5 50:22 51:16	57:20 66:14 67:10 75:5,6	decision-making
curb 145:18	52:13 53:7,8	81:20 92:3,5	14:6
cure 18:11 27:18	56:6 60:7 66:13 70:6 89:17 111:2	116:9 149:1	decisions 14:13
cure-all 129:9	114:22 115:3	155:13,16 160:17 184:14	60:9 207:7
cured 60:18	116:3 124:11	day-to-day 110:12	decrease 23:17 47:21 48:9 53:9
curious 105:8	140:18 141:1 160:11 198:6	DEA 163:3	deep 21:12
current 3:8 6:12	dairy 117:9 120:9	deal 9:10 52:11	42:19,21 49:22
12:2 14:10 15:2 18:7 27:8 126:15	damage 24:7	55:14 58:8 64:22	51:5 130:14
131:4 156:8	damaging 190:7	102:10 119:9	deeper 77:4
181:15 201:1	data 184:21 205:9	130:18 131:3 141:19	deer 168:21
currently 23:7	date 89:17	dealing 117:15	defect 157:16
51:3 116:11 125:1 138:16	dates 174:16	191:8	defects 190:15
139:9 175:13	daughter 50:9	deals 200:12	deficiency 60:15
201:15	64:22 113:17	dealt 102:10	99:13
curve 115:2	133:16	125:12	deficient 60:16 120:17,21
174:14 199:6	daughters 51:19	Death 58:10	defined 25:21
custom 25:6			40111104 25.21

	1 ag		
defining 20:2	90:3 103:7	devoted 18:4	75:18 77:7 78:5
definite 100:21	122:14	diagnose 193:7,13	79:3,4,5 80:4
definitely 59:16	describing 78:15	diagnosed 20:9	81:4 87:22
78:13 84:11,14	107:18	50:19 59:1,3	88:2,13,17 91:19
85:9 97:16 152:9	description 170:1	66:4 75:5 85:22	94:14 101:16,18 103:3 110:4,5
definition 131:20	descriptions 94:9	93:16 108:8	118:16 119:5
	*	114:15 124:4	120:1,7,21 121:7
degree 93:11	desk 35:12 65:17	128:4 133:9,12	123:17 133:18
delayed 62:5 82:1	169:2 205:16	135:22 153:21	134:17 137:4,21
deli 43:21	desks 9:14 11:21	171:17 174:19	138:7,8 143:13
deliberately 93:10	desperation	175:7 189:21	144:1,21 176:6
·	113:11 149:4	diagnoses 59:12	177:20 187:21
delve 6:7 69:14	despite 130:20	diagnosis 39:16,19	189:2 204:14
94:7 109:7 110:7	detail 140:15	50:5 59:13 85:8	206:13
138:9 140:14 172:22		105:2 106:15	differentiate 87:20
	detailed 29:3	112:14,18,19,22	differentiation
delving 77:4	details 131:14	142:7 171:3,5	89:3
demonstrated	204:22	174:8,9 192:5,7	difficult 43:3 45:9
137:19	determination	193:1,20 200:6	67:9 74:14 81:7
density 106:18	148:13	diagnostic 20:21	113:19 126:20
dependent 81:5	determine 34:1	193:11	131:3 134:12
-	149:18	diagnostic-specific	151:22 160:4
depending 176:10	determined 50:5	174:17	180:12 191:3
deployment 84:11		dial 78:11 158:10	196:7
depressed	devastated 125:6		difficulties 20:3
143:18,19 168:8	develop 11:22 15:8	dialogue 3:4 32:14 103:15	42:14 43:16
depressing 58:2	16:12 19:9 21:7		113:5 151:21
depression 22:8	25:6 201:19	diet 76:9 120:8	163:8 195:18
70:17 71:16 72:5	developed 131:21	131:5 139:2 140:2 164:5	difficulty 21:21
129:10	189:5	185:17	70:12 71:6,20
130:15,17	developing 9:7		72:3 162:22
depth 78:20	188:14,20	dietary 25:1 139:2 140:2	163:2
*	205:13		diligence 207:4
Depury 3:13	development 1:6	differ 21:9	diminish 57:15
Deputy 7:13	2:9 9:18,20	difference 106:18	Dionne 62:19
describe 28:10	14:2,8	112:21 136:20	
73:4 75:17 80:1	15:4,12,14 16:17	179:9	direct 25:12
82:14 94:14	17:17 18:8	different 6:5 10:12	directed 132:10
173:2	25:19,20 186:10	16:6 20:22 22:22	direction 74:21
described	204:18 209:5	23:16,20 38:6	directly 6:18 29:21
21:11,12 51:9	devices 114:18	42:6 57:12 60:5	82:15,21 171:17
72:22 75:9,19		68:8 69:7 71:9	02.10,21 1/1.1/

173:21 Director 2:6,10 3:13 7:6,9,13 8:8 100:6 117:2 191:16 disability 45:15 48:18 200:16 disabled 62:16 109:6,9,20 110:10 111 161:22 165 180:1,3 182 discussions 1 15:6 165:19 disabled 62:16 11:12 15:2	diverse 132.0 diversity 38:3 division 2:6 7:9,13,15,18 8:8 9:9 10 17:19	168:19 dogs 96:16 189:4 doll 63:2 DONCKEL 54:20 55:2,10 done 10:4 40:16 69:22 81:14
3:13 7:6,9,13 8:8 100:6 117:2 191:16 disability 45:15 48:18 200:16 161:22 165 180:1,3 182 discussions 1 15:6 165:19 disease 2:18 6	diverse 132.0 diversity 38:3 division 2:6 7:9,13,15,18 8:8 9:9,10 17:19 19:14,17	doll 63:2 DONCKEL 54:20 55:2,10 done 10:4 40:16
180:1,3 182 100:6 117:2 191:16 disability 45:15 48:18 200:16 180:1,3 182 discussions 1 15:6 165:19 disease 2:18 of the sease 2:18 of the s	diversity 38:3 division 2:6 7:9,13,15,18 8:8 9:9,10 17:19 19:14,17	DONCKEL 54:20 55:2,10 done 10:4 40:16
191:16 discussions 1 disability 45:15 48:18 200:16 disease 2:18 (11:12 15:2	4:15 division 2:6 7:9,13,15,18 8:8 9:9,10 17:19 19:14,17	55:2,10 done 10:4 40:16
disability 45:15 48:18 200:16 15:6 165:19 disease 2:18 (7:9,13,15,18 8:8 9:9,10 17:19 19:14,17	done 10:4 40:16
48:18 200:16 disease 2:18 (19:14,17	
11.12.15.2	19.14,17	69.22 81.14
disabled 62:16	divisions 16:10	
16:6,13,19		100:10,11 134:7 136:7,19 150:17
17.2,0,13,1	5,21 divorce 90:10	168:6,7,8 179:11
disallowed 52:17 18:4,8,9 50:20,22 5	divorced 63:9	192:1
disappointed 50.20,22 5 53:19 54:1'	7 dizziness	doors 64:15
144:5 174:0	5 107:13,18	dosage 156:3
discharged 65:22 diseases 15:1	6,21 dizzy 157:8	dose 143:2 147:6
disciplines 208:7 19:9 25:9	DNA 190:8,10	185:11 186:20
discomfort 54:2 dishwasher 4	4:16 docket 16:4 18:22	197:3 198:6
178:4 disorder 8:18	31:17 104:18	doses 130:14
disconcerting 12:1,10 13: 10:22 20:14	100 7 000 00	149:11 151:5
19.22 20.10	207.10	196:8 198:2
disconnect 101:20 83:15 84:1, 123:14	doctor 50:15 59:5	dot 208:11
discontinuation 190:22 disorders 20:	60 14 21 66 7 22	double 25:15
	73.5 89.22 92.12	double-blind
120.0	93.13 118.19	160:1
129:8 disproportion discrete 131:20 20:8	nality 120:4,11,13 127:4 147:3	downside 126:14
discrete 151.20	161 0 177 0	150:15 153:5,8
100 4	.6 196.11	downsides 27:16
uisputeu 177	doctoral 126·19	110:20,21,22 116:10 150:2,10
discussed 6:19 dissolvable 1 15:5 98:7 102:16 177:6	76:22 127:14	152:15 153:13
164.2 8 10	doctors 89:20	163:21 180:7
165:17 distance 36:1	134.9 107.13	201:1
discussing 26:10 distances 208	3:19 175:14 193:3,5,12	downtime 130:21
104:16 109:17 distant 53:9	195:12 196:7	134:16
discussion 2:15,20 distinct 110:1	198:22	Dr 4:2
3:2,9 6:4,9,22 7:22 26:6,7 27:6 distinguish 2	00:10 document 32:4	7:8,12,16,19 8:1 19:15 26:3 36:22
28:13 29:22 30:3 distress 20:1:	5 76:5 208:6	38:12 39:1,14
33:7,19 34:5 distressed 44	:3 documented	40:3,19
68:6 95:22 99:12 disturbances	154:12	41:4,8,10,15,20
104:12	dog 44:14 154:17	42:3 46:2,7,12

	rag	C 13	
48:1,3,6 49:6,13	161:5,12,18,21	84:1 156:6,9,19	15:5,11,12 42:21
54:10,18 55:1,9	162:12,16 163:4	177:4 186:9	43:18 45:3
58:10,17 62:12	164:14 166:19	198:21 199:1	113:10 119:10
67:14 68:3 72:6	167:20	201:5 205:18	169:4 172:9
73:15,18	169:10,13,19	207:2 208:4	182:13 183:3
74:2,4,7 75:7	170:9 171:1,2,9	207:2 200:4	
77:1,10,11,12	170.5 171.1,2,5		dysautonomia
78:14 79:21	173:14,16,19	drugged 196:1	107:10
80:13 81:10	174:2,21	drugs 8:9,12,19	dysfunction 204:7
82:1,5	175:1,6,20	9:1,11,21 10:2,8	dysfunctional
83:1,11,13	176:16 177:15	11:8,12,14,22	114:1
84:3,6 85:2,15	178:14	12:2,7,9 13:7	117.1
86:19 87:1,3,16	179:13,20	16:11 23:7	
88:6 90:11 91:8	181:19	24:11,14 25:4	<u>E</u>
92:8 93:2,13	183:19,20	128:16	earlier 11:15
94:3 95:1,18	188:6,10	133:18,20 135:5	61:13 123:21
97:9 98:3,18	191:6,7,10	136:3,15 140:20	151:21 169:14
99:2,10,17	193:21	144:21 145:4,5	176:5 177:7
100:22 101:12	197:6,9,13,15	151:15 164:4	178:6 202:13
102:3,12	199:13,15,20	201:16 202:17	early 80:7 112:19
103:5,20 104:10	202:4,8,10,11	204:8 205:13	135:15
105:11,13,15,21	203:7,17	208:3,13	easy 152:1 208:2
106:2,7,13,22	208:10,15	drugs@fda 208:3	·
107:5,15,22	, and the second	0 0	eat 121:12,15
109:1,11 112:4	dragging 43:7	drug-seeking	168:9 178:7
116:20	drawing 137:5	154:12	echo 93:4 208:19
122:11,14	Drink 121:13	drugstore 133:17	echoing 88:11
123:2,5,8,12,19		drunk 63:4	90:11
127:20,22	drinking 5:11		
132:22 136:13	driving 63:4 92:21	dry 93:16 130:8	edema 24:3
137:7 140:12	101:7 169:3	171:20 172:11	educate 200:19
142:2,9,17	drop 94:21,22	Dudley-Johnson	educated 170:15
143:4,7,9,11	107:12	62:14,15 67:15	
144:13		83:5 93:15 106:8	education 100:6
145:20,22	dropped 65:22	176:15,17	113:21 191:15
147:7,10	drops 93:19	due 51:2 176:18	193:2,9
148:6,9,18	drowsy 195:22	207:3	efAnesthesia 2:6
149:15	· ·		effect 76:7 82:11
151:2,9,16,19	drug 1:5,6,8 2:3,8	Dugan 58:22	151:14 185:11
152:22	4:4 7:11 8:21	99:12 160:16	186:17
153:11,13	9:18 10:5,15	dumb 79:19	
154:22 155:12	12:15,18,19	duration 39:12	effective 12:19
156:22 157:19	13:14 14:2,7,18 15:4,12,14 16:17	198:6	13:3,5 25:5
158:2,11 159:15	17:17 18:8		57:17 92:19
160:10	23:6,14 25:19	during 9:20	116:12 123:14
	23.0,14 23.19	14:14,16	132:18 157:18

	ı ag		
159:7,8 169:22	85:2,15 87:3	193:21	175:18
177:9 194:16	88:6 90:11 91:8	197:6,9,13,15	emailing 204:4
201:6,8	92:8 93:2,13	199:13,15,20	S .
effectively 201:18	94:3 95:1,18	202:4,10 203:7	embarked 129:12
1	97:9 98:3,18	208:10,15	embarrassed
effectiveness	99:2,10,17	eggs 190:9	169:7
149:19 150:1 163:20	100:22 101:12	eight 8:11 76:3	embarrassing
	102:3,12	112:13 115:12	43:17 135:12
effects 13:2,11	103:5,20 104:10	150:15	emergency 50:5,17
23:22 26:14	105:11,15,21	177:10,11	g • ,
89:10 111:1	106:2,7,13,22	· ·	emotional 20:15
136:16	107:5,15,22	either 11:6 64:18	25:3 47:10 76:4
149:9,12,18	109:1,11 112:4 116:20	88:19 103:1	115:8 202:2
155:7 156:16,18	122:11,14	162:10 176:22	emotionally
157:19,20 159:22 177:12	123:2,5,8,12,19	177:5 185:13 192:13	130:18
181:7,11 185:6	127:20,22		emphasis 206:21
186:12,16 187:4	132:22 136:13	elaborate 52:15	•
188:14 195:21	137:7 140:12	104:17	emphasize 180:21
201:8,9 204:1,6	142:2,9,17	elaboration	employee
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	143:4,7,9 144:13	163:10	196:18,20,21
Effexor 129:2	145:20,22	Elavil 129:2	employer 192:13
efficacy 10:2 12:20	147:7,10	elderly 52:19	empowering
144:11	148:6,9,18	l	113:22
efficiently 183:14	149:15	eldest 113:16	empty 109:12
effort 5:1 19:11	151:2,9,16,19	electrifying 114:10	enable 6:15 29:19
54:8 201:17	152:22 153:11,13	elevated 24:7	
206:6	154:22 155:12	eliciting 17:12	enabling 196:3
efforts 14:3 132:9	156:22 157:19	eliminated 129:7	enclosed 63:1
Eggers 2:2,16	158:2,11 159:15		encourage 30:18
4:2,3 7:19 26:3	160:10	Elizabeth 2:13	31:13 32:13
36:22 38:12	161:5,12,18	7:16 19:16	111:11 182:18
39:1,14 40:3,19	162:16 163:4	77:9,11 78:14	201:11 203:1
41:4,8,10,15,20	164:14 167:20	142:11 143:9	encourages 25:20
42:3 46:2 48:1,6	169:10,19 170:9	166:18 183:18 188:7 191:11	S .
49:6,13 54:10,18	171:1,9 172:17		Endometriosis
55:1,9 58:17	173:14,16,19	Ellen 7:14	190:3
62:12 67:14 68:3	174:2,21	elliptical 134:15	energy 35:8 70:12
72:6 73:15,18	175:1,6,20	else 42:8,13 47:19	71:5 91:7 117:17
74:2,4,7 75:7	176:16 177:15	58:3 71:17 80:4	118:1 134:20
77:1,11 78:14	178:14	82:19 83:18	135:11 145:15
79:21 80:13	179:13,20 181:19 183:20	105:9 121:6	161:17 168:3
81:10 82:1,5	188:6 191:6,10	123:6 142:2,9	enforcement 65:14
83:1,11 84:3,6	100.0 171.0,10	149:8 169:1	
	1		

	1 ag		
engage 126:12	192:12 208:5	excited 8:13	101:15 103:9
engaged 54:9	everybody 8:2	excruciating 73:11	107:17 129:13 145:5 152:1,9
engagements 54:1	82:19 146:9 199:5	124:10	176:9 178:11
enjoy 131:1 134:8	everybody's 93:17	excuse 101:19 173:17	experienced 42:16
ensure 32:10	everyday 126:10	Executive 117:2	51:2 53:21
33:11		exercise 23:2 25:1	105:22
entire 181:1	everyone 5:4 34:19 35:19	76:9 121:18,22	experiences
entirely 126:16	38:18 41:17,20	122:6	28:16,22 30:2,5 73:19 128:5
entitled 50:20	42:8,13 49:16	129:7,8,11,13,14	131:14 132:20
environment	69:4 71:4 99:18 137:15,20,21	,21 135:20 139:1 140:1,10 142:15	152:14 176:5
171:20 184:6	146:3 157:4	164:5 178:7	experiencing
epidural 134:8	165:3 167:16	185:18	40:12 50:3 51:12 71:10 94:7 95:4
episodes 53:17	180:8 208:16	exercises 46:20	97:11 124:10
equally 79:19	everyone's 34:22	130:7	expertise 23:1
equipment 114:21	everything 45:9	exercising 73:6	experts 29:2
erratic 103:6	58:3 65:3 66:20 83:17 92:4 140:4	exertion 45:18	explain 69:6
error 142:13	145:3,9 146:9	exhausted 56:22	171:13
especially 22:1,14	168:18 175:10	79:9 168:5	explained 128:6
25:11 31:1 36:16	183:13	exhausting 91:2	165:22
38:19 49:9 89:12 108:10 110:22	evidence 184:19	exhaustion 48:12	expressed 34:21
160:19 164:11	198:7	55:11 76:16,22 81:16 91:6	expressions 35:1
191:2	evident 52:8	ex-husband 66:7	extend 45:18
establish 16:18	ex 65:5	exist 201:16	extended 58:7
established 47:6	exacerbation 27:2		125:20 156:11
190:3 194:12	exactly 68:13 87:14 92:22	expand 34:8	extra 54:8
etcetera 103:4		expect 132:4 148:12 166:6	extreme 95:9
etiologies 20:11	example 18:9 21:10 43:21	expectations 38:18	125:18
evaluated 25:14	163:1	expected 37:22	extremely 97:3
evaluation 2:3 4:4	examples 91:18	expense 167:17	167:4 195:13 201:11
7:11 203:11	159:9 164:19	*	extremities 119:9
evaluations 35:11	exams 126:22	expensive 145:4	
evening 63:18 80:8	excellent 8:2 120:4	experience 22:5 43:1 49:10 50:6	eye 89:5 91:13,16,20
event 187:12	130:2	52:9 63:12 69:7	92:12 93:16
events 187:6	except 13:2 140:8	73:19 75:18	101:11 170:2
eventually 190:20	156:18	78:21 79:2 91:20	206:16
-		94:10,14 98:6,12	

	rag		
eyelid 99:1	fan 47:3	125:1 128:16	feels 42:20,22 57:6
eyelids 53:17	fantastic 36:13	132:14,19 133:3	78:5 80:10 98:13
· ·		137:11 144:2	105:6,19 136:8
eyes 92:14	farther 192:2	169:11 180:4	feet 50:4 51:6
93:6,8,18,19	father 49:19	185:20 187:9,13	52:3,7,12 63:19
94:1	fatigue 16:22 20:3	191:7 193:19	101:22 157:10
	22:2,4 42:13	194:3 196:19	
F	43:5 51:8,20	197:22 198:5	felt 128:19 149:2
face 16:1 34:13	59:5,11,16,20	205:18 208:13	153:20 155:20
102:1	61:12,17 62:2	FDA's 2:8 17:15	156:7
Facebook 47:5,6	63:20 64:3 69:15	30:12 32:11	female 38:14,16,22
ŕ	70:12 71:5,20		76:2 98:20
facet 166:22	72:2 78:17,22	fear 45:22 67:22 156:20	108:20 142:5
facilitate 207:1	79:1,3		171:16 177:17
facilitated 3:2,9	80:5,13,15,17	feature 20:2	208:11
28:13 68:6	81:13 82:2,8,21	features 10:17	fenugreek 177:22
	84:22 87:4,10,12	11:11	fertility 189:19
facilitator 4:6	88:1,3,8,13,20	February 50:8	190:2,5
fact 9:8 61:7 128:5	90:2,8,22 91:2	172:9	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
129:9 157:13	104:1 108:10	- 1 - 12	feverfew 121:11
187:20 194:21	117:22 125:18	federal 31:18	fiber 105:14,18
204:2 205:10	126:17,20	196:18,19,21	106:10
factor 47:10 144:6	127:11 131:9,10	feedback 87:18	fibers 106:11
factors 20:12	168:12 169:16	151:11 184:15	
173:3	179:5,17	feel 5:14,17 30:7	fibro 58:13 71:7
	181:10,13	33:17 43:5 44:20	94:4,11 96:3
faint 64:18	201:19 206:14	45:7 55:18 57:6	105:3 127:5 133:21 162:7
fainted 65:18	207:16	61:16 75:2 76:19	199:3 206:9
fairly 12:9 183:13	fatigued 11:4,5	78:8 80:17	
208:1	82:11 84:16,20	82:10,11,12	fibrocytis 75:6
fake 90:4	97:12	97:5,6 103:9	fibro-fog 22:7
	FAUNTLEROY-	122:17 142:22	69:16 70:15
fall 18:3 44:17	COCKRELL	143:2,20 149:9	94:17 101:19
119:14,15	80:7 141:16	153:6 154:11	fibromyalgia 1:5
161:1,4	161:6	160:18 166:5,7	2:12 3:8 4:11
falling 21:21 50:11	FDA	168:4 170:12	6:3,13
falls 105:8	2:4,7,11,14,16	179:10 182:1	8:10,17,18 9:11
familiar 199:5	3:13 4:5 6:6	feeling 21:11,12	10:12,15,17 12:3
206:20	7:4,11 9:17	43:11 51:10,22	13:9 18:6
	19:10 23:8 25:20	54:6 97:8 98:13	19:19,21
families 9:4	26:3 29:1 32:19	103:1 118:8	20:6,10,18
family 54:9 57:13	33:1,2,15 35:10	125:7 130:4	21:5,6,20
60:2 64:10	46:4 55:3 99:20	135:10 172:14	22:4,17,18
	112:7 114:17	187:5 206:18	23:8,13,15

	1 48		
24:11,13,21 25:9	filled 16:2	198:21 208:14	Florida 175:9
27:8,9,18	final 15:6 54:10	fiscal 16:14,17,22	flow 34:5 118:21
28:16,17 33:11	67:14 123:9	17:3	fluttering 103:2
37:3,10,16 39:3,17,19 47:7	126:18 136:13	fish 43:22 121:15	FMA 193:15
50:1,20 55:7	179:14	fit 10:20 29:4	
58:11 59:2,13	finally 50:17 62:13	70:18 71:17	FMRI 129:6
61:6 62:16	63:3 66:3 133:1	92:13 139:7	focus 18:4,7
63:7,8 66:4,11	145:1 201:6,17	206:11	33:7,15 34:6
67:16 68:2 69:13	financial	fitness 23:3	85:1 92:4 95:19
83:16 86:1 88:1	182:18,20	fits 83:21	102:20 110:11,18
90:18 100:7,11	192:9,15		121:1,3 141:13
105:3,18 106:10 108:8	finding 9:1 43:17	five 20:6 39:3	· ·
112:8,11,12,20,2	85:12 141:13	78:18 95:16 111:15 120:21	focused 14:2,7 15:3 16:17 17:16
2 114:3,9	163:8 167:13	121:13 124:2,3	18:11 22:19
115:10,14,16,18	205:11 208:2	146:13 147:16	78:19 181:17
116:1,15 117:8	finds 102:1	148:21 156:8	focusing 6:9 27:10
124:2,3,15,21	fine 67:1 79:13	191:20 193:18	181:13
127:9 128:4,12	fingers 138:12	fix 62:7 145:9	
129:16	finish 27:6	166:13	fog 55:11 71:7 94:5,11,15
131:15,19,21 132:2,7,11,15,21		flair 27:2	95:4,5 96:4
133:10,12	finished 139:13		113:21 119:14
141:20 153:22	Fioricet 133:22	flare 40:12 48:4,6 49:4 59:19 82:21	127:5 131:7
156:9 170:8,15	fired 169:5,8	92:11 110:16	135:11 136:21
172:5 174:3	first 10:15 16:16	172:3	199:3
176:21 178:13	17:1,3 23:14	flares 42:21 45:19	fogginess 95:10
181:6,18 184:10	26:10 27:20	46:16 48:4,15	folks 9:19 10:18
187:20 190:1	28:5,11 29:12	167:12	35:7 39:21 83:2
191:16,19 192:6	33:22 34:1 35:22	flareup 126:5	163:17 196:19
193:2,4,20 199:22	36:5 50:15	149:5 153:5	205:22 206:2
200:3,7,13,17	62:10,18	167:7	follicle 190:4
201:12,16,19	68:14,21 69:17,22 75:21	flareups 126:1	followup 147:7
202:20 209:4	82:6 91:21 93:3	-	148:10 160:12
field 25:19	94:15 98:10	flare-ups 53:14 54:1 61:9	169:12
Fields 7:14	103:18 111:16		follow-ups 29:4
	124:8 133:2,12	flat 89:15	-
Fifty 186:16	141:17 145:7	flattened 80:11	food 1:5,8 5:14 144:3,10 153:19
fight 62:21 197:21	152:5 155:21	Flexeril 129:2	161:14
fighting 125:11	157:5 162:17 164:21 175:21	flipped 62:20	foods 121:16
figure 10:11 104:6	177:13 181:13	floor 50:11 57:6	
fill 203:13	183:15 197:22	157:10 168:20	forced 43:9 45:14
1111 203.13		10,.10100.20	

	- 0		
forget 51:14 91:13	friend 66:16	gaining 49:22	GIANNOLA
96:4,11,21 97:22	133:15	GALPEER	98:11 142:12,20
98:1 127:2 138:9	friends 41:14 42:6	41:7,9,12,19	143:5,8
forgetfulness	47:4,5 54:9 58:6	42:2,4 46:10,14	148:17,21
94:12	front 28:1,19	48:8 49:12	girls 49:19
forgetting 97:18	32:16,17 35:21	gangbuster 13:8	given 97:3 149:6
forgot 6:22 199:2	68:11 98:21 101:22 137:15	gastrointestinal	gives 30:1 36:1
forgotten 96:7,18	frustrating 43:20	70:16 71:15	96:12 97:20 117:17 130:14
148:16	full 15:14 27:12	gathering 15:8	134:19
form 43:9 54:14	29:10 81:21	gears 109:21 110:1	giving 5:22 104:4
176:22 177:6	109:14 204:12	gee 4:14	156:4 184:15,16
format 2:15 6:4,5 26:8 27:20	full-time 128:3	gel 121:8	glad 8:2 32:20
forms 203:11	130:20	gels 118:16	glasses 92:17,22
formula 118:4	fully 25:10 65:2	general 18:1 22:2	94:22 121:13
formula 118:4	168:18	generalized 174:9	Gleason 100:5
	fun 145:5	generally 12:9	183:21
Forrest 196:13	function 11:5 19:1	59:19 81:13	191:12,14,15
fortunate 113:16	23:20 51:14 122:19	generated 132:8	gluten-intolerant 117:9 120:8
forward 114:15	154:17,19	generic 179:10	goal 22:18 177:4
foundation 28:12 68:19 111:18	192:11	genetic 157:15	200:5
founder 117:2	functional 113:5	gentle 121:17	God 199:2
fountain 5:12	156:14	gentleman 73:22	gone 46:19 79:18
	functionality 115:3 202:1	74:9	84:18 96:17
four-day 184:11	functions 22:7	gestational 190:19	191:1,4 194:6
fourth 52:1		gets 10:22 34:19	Google 205:16,17
framework 17:16	future 100:20 128:12 131:19	45:10 79:13	208:2,13
frankly 51:20	132:21	99:18 148:3 160:22 168:19	gotten 59:17,18 60:6 61:15 78:13
free 5:14,17 33:17	fuzzy 92:4	187:9	84:12 129:15
182:1	14223 72.1	getting 11:2 56:7	150:19,20
freeze 161:3	G	69:21 77:2,13	168:6,8 194:9
freezing 98:13,17	Gabapentin 177:3	82:9 90:13 127:7	government 31:18
frequency 186:20	gain 131:11	151:12 155:7,8 162:14,22 163:2	32:20
Frey 2:10 7:5,6	145:18 154:3,6	175:20 179:6	gradually 45:13
14:4 207:21	168:9	188:16,18	54:2 115:1
208:13	gained 121:18	196:16 202:17	graduate 126:18
fried 121:15	131:3	GI 103:3	granddaughter

	1 ag		1
67:7,18	139:21 153:14	135:4	44:1 45:22 49:7
grapple 86:9	173:15 174:1	handles 91:20	51:15 60:4 67:18
	guide 113:18		86:15 149:2,17
gray 121:5	Ü	hands 44:9 50:4	153:4 162:3,14
great 1:9 8:4 9:2	guided 118:12	71:1,10 72:12	168:8 170:14
10:22 12:4 16:2	guinea 129:5	78:21 85:19 94:6	185:15 186:17
29:17 38:3 41:11	175:8	95:2 101:8	189:22 192:6
93:13 97:19	gun 65:22	102:13 103:8	194:3 202:14,17
103:10 108:14	S	107:19,20	head 65:17 67:12
119:9 123:8	guy 194:9	138:1,3 141:2	74:19 75:10
131:3 137:7,17	guys 156:6,11	150:11 162:18	78:15 82:13
138:5 143:9	159:12	165:20 171:7	90:13 97:10
163:10 164:19	Gwen 94:16	172:18,20	102:12,14
168:14 184:3,21	116:21 117:1	176:10,13 178:16	114:16 117:6
194:9			149:19 155:1
greater 23:17	Gwenn 122:11	happen 94:19	158:3 175:20
37:19	123:19 152:16	189:11 192:9	195:9
greatly 206:6	170:10,11	happened 63:5	headache 44:11
9 .		96:21 194:5	74:22 77:8
green 59:6 121:14	<u>H</u>	happens 80:2,14	headaches 11:3
G-Release 156:10	Hagerstown 147:3	81:13 97:13	20:4 22:9 47:1,2
grew 60:3	half 46:17 52:9	101:7 122:8	51:5 70:17 71:17
· ·	57:2 59:15 67:2	171:14,15	74:15
grinding 42:21 123:15	77:15 134:8,9	happy 122:20	75:9,11,12,15,19
	136:19 157:21	129:17 184:9	77:6,13 78:1
grocery 116:6	159:18 178:1		143:22
GROSSIN 92:10	196:5,9 197:5,16	hard 10:10 58:8 61:14 70:19	headed 131:10
ground 32:8	hall 5:11	121:18,22 154:7	heading 191:20
Groundhog	hallway 64:12	160:20 167:17	e l
155:20	Hampshire 1:9	173:19	heads 83:2 109:1
group 9:10 38:19	hand 17:9 29:5	hardest 35:22	138:2
39:9 55:17	34:9 51:6 65:21	191:3	head-to-head
100:15 133:5	72:14 75:12	harm 194:22	201:11
178:21 187:22	81:19 90:20		health 24:12 26:14
groups 139:6	91:16 106:11	hated 156:4	66:10 110:22
0 1	138:14 150:5	haven't 29:7 34:13	120:1 134:5
grow 121:10	152:7,8 159:3,7	96:17 98:7 100:3	158:13,16
167:1,2	164:22 166:11	168:6 171:12	166:15 187:6,10
growing 121:4	167:22 176:4	181:21 188:12	196:21 200:3,19
grudgingly 133:19	191:13	189:21 206:15	healthcare 22:22
guaranteed 82:20	handed 29:15	having 11:3 35:9	healthy 54:17
guess 107:6 133:17	handle 48:18 49:1	37:15 39:13 42:15 43:14,18	133:18 195:7
J		12.13 73.17,10	hear 8:14,22

12:6,12 13:11,16,19	Hello 41:7 49:16 94:16 103:21	142:7 145:18	176:16 188:10
			1 / 0.10 100.10
13.11,10,17		146:16 161:17	203:17
14:17 16:1	104:22 107:6	167:15 178:6	
27:11,20	117:1 176:15	179:11	hibernation 44:18
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			high 5:20 149:3
28:13,18 32:14	help 8:22 9:21	hem 146:4	153:6,18 171:20
41:17,21 42:2,3	23:5 24:20 27:19	hemangiosarcoma	172:12 185:18
49:9 58:21 65:3	29:3 32:9 33:2	189:16 204:16	189:1 198:2
66:6 68:12 72:21	47:17,20 53:9		201:3
78:21 83:19,22	54:15 56:9 61:2	hemangioscarcom	
88:5 90:12 96:1	84:15 90:8 93:1	as 189:1	high-dose 157:13
98:4 164:18	117:20 120:14	herbal 135:3	194:14 195:14
182:13 184:22	122:22 123:17	herbalist 120:6	highest 139:17
206:19	124:13 126:3	121:9	
heard 18:19,20	135:7,9 145:16		highlight 25:17
69:2,9,16,19	146:4,19 147:1	herbs 120:7	highlights 88:15
72:8 79:21 83:14	148:1,2 151:7	177:20	hit 56:22 63:4,22
91:18 94:9 98:7	154:2,5,6,8,15	hereby 210:2	65:21 94:21
105:9,13 135:12	181:9 193:18		132:13 208:14
137:20 138:4	195:4,5 205:22	Herman 94:16,17	
139:15 141:11	207:1	117:1,2	hits 60:20 79:4
150:5,9 159:2		122:13,19	80:5
162:1,22 163:9	helped 47:1,9 61:6	123:4,7,10,13	HIV 17:1 18:10
168:20 171:12	121:1 123:16	152:18 170:12	hold 33:16 41:2
186:12 188:12	130:3 136:17	Herness 107:4,6	55:15 91:4 169:5
202:13,18,20	145:10 171:19	173:13,15,18,22	
203:3,6,20	179:2,4,5 191:18	174:3,22	holding 86:7
206:1,8,13,15,22	helper 102:2	Hertz 3:13 7:12	holistic 116:15
207:13	helpful 11:17		
	32:17 130:7	46:7,12 87:16	holistically 54:17
hearing 9:12 75:11	136:17 194:16	105:13 161:21	home 50:6 52:10
80:19 82:2 87:13	195:20 198:3	203:8,17	55:16 57:21
146:3 158:19		he's 90:4 108:14	60:10 64:19 67:4
173:19 184:4	201:11,15	197:12	68:1 96:18 104:3
204:1	203:15 205:19	heterogeneity	169:3 207:18
heart 24:7 35:13	206:2	187:17 206:8	208:17
	helping 33:11		honesty 195:1
heat 78:2 116:8	57:14 154:1	hi 7:8,12,16	•
Heather 92:9,10	187:3	41:8,9,10 54:20	hope 8:21 12:12
93:3 178:16	helps 15:9 46:16	58:22 77:12 84:8	13:18 56:13
heating 126:2	62:2 70:7 78:1	90:17 92:1,10	92:5,6 140:18
	85:1,12 111:12	98:11 100:5	208:16
heavy 116:6,7	117:17,18,22	101:2 103:20	hoped 42:5
heightened 45:2	118:5,12,14	107:5 108:4	-
held 15:22	119:9 121:2,12	144:16 150:14	hopeful 56:13
	130:1 132:15	151:3 168:1,15	hopefully 11:15
Helen 80:21	150.1 152.15	173:14 175:6,7	

	0	C 21	
13:15 37:1	husband 47:8 65:6	identified 28:5	96:13,15 97:1,2
hopes 128:11	78:6 96:16 104:2	48:3 87:5	98:13 99:2 100:5
175:12	108:13,17	identify 131:22	101:13 102:13
	135:14 143:19	207:4	103:16 105:8
Horowitz 175:5,7	145:7 196:4		108:5,16
horrible 73:10	Hydrocodone	ignore 94:18	111:6,18 112:10
118:8 151:11	126:6,9 134:2	I'll 4:6 34:14 52:20	117:2 119:16,22
153:20	146:15 147:4	58:2 63:11 67:4	120:6,8,21
horrific 115:2	156:16 177:3	68:13 80:1 81:14	122:3,4,20,22
	Hydrovy 160.0	82:6 94:20,21	123:22 125:17
hospital 50:16 153:17	Hydroxy 160:8	96:11 139:10	126:18 128:5
	hyperactive 76:19	153:4 155:3	133:8,9 136:1
hot 21:11 47:17	hyper-irritable	159:11,16 161:2	137:3,9 138:15
48:11 52:14	200:14	170:3 202:11	141:2,22
55:12 74:1,3,5	hypersensitivity	Illinois 193:16	143:12,19
78:5	134:11	illness 42:15 113:3	145:13 146:2
hour 57:3 64:1		195:5	148:5,15 149:1,5,11
67:2 93:21	hypertension 17:4		150:14,22
hours 43:6 53:16	hypotheses 132:9	illustrate 129:14	150.14,22
79:17 122:21	hypothesis 83:14	I'm 4:4,5,7 5:19	151.7,12,10,19
		7:3,5,8,9,12,14,1	154:18 156:10
house 89:16 109:14	hysterectomy	6,20 8:5,8 9:4	157:15 158:17
	112:13	13:19,22 19:15	160:19 161:1,19
housework 44:15		26:5 27:21 28:4	163:13 166:3
116:7	I	29:15 39:17	167:14 168:18
huddled 144:19	IBS 55:11 103:3	40:7,14 43:8,10	173:1 175:12,15
hug 67:18,21	Ibuprofen 178:5	44:13 45:1,14	180:15 182:5
g ,	ice 78:2 98:14	46:3,10 49:17,19	183:4,15 184:5
huge 58:9	118:18,19,22	51:11,14 52:8,10	188:13,17,18,20
59:19,20 77:13	r r	53:8 54:7,13	190:8 191:15
99:9 145:12	I'd 74:11 75:1	55:1,14,15,16	192:17
187:14	83:19,21 94:7,13	60:8,9 61:3 62:14 63:10,22	196:17,19
Huh-huh 148:4	101:17 133:2,4 142:14 162:5	64:15,19,20,21	197:9,11
human 129:5	142:14 162:5 172:13 187:2,16	65:8,16 66:3	199:4,5,6 200:22
humid 48:11	191:3 194:2	67:6 68:11,13	203:10,22
		69:5,20,22 71:8	205:20
humidity 48:10	idea 30:1 43:20	75:4 77:17	imagery 118:12
humiliating 43:21	ideal 27:17 111:5	79:9,13,18 80:19	imagine 74:18
hundreds 31:1	131:8 158:15	81:1,21	139:11 196:16
188:3	165:17 173:10	82:2,13,20	
	201:7,9	84:8,13,20 88:6	Imitrex 77:21
hurt 11:4 52:3	ideas 190:1	90:17 91:15	126:7 143:22
122:2,3 195:8		92:20 93:7,18	immediate 181:10
hurts 67:19	ideation 99:7	94:4,18 95:7	immediately

			1
125:17	203:14	increased 24:2	Initiative 2:9
immobility 52:7	improvement	increasing 112:15	injections 117:21
immune 179:6	23:18 24:11	indicated 91:2	130:12 134:4
immunological	improvements	indicating 23:18	135:17 136:4,6
20:16	19:4	indications 23:12	injuries 20:14
impact 19:7 25:7	improving 25:2	individuals 196:3	62:17
26:13 50:22	179:4		injury 76:4
59:17 66:13	inability	indoors 160:5	injury-induced
86:11 185:15 186:12	89:10,14,15	industries 10:5	62:16
	inaudible 41:12	industry 9:6,19	innocent 67:21
impacted 60:1	44:1,5 45:4,20 47:6,11,15 48:14	14:15 19:3,11 32:19	input 9:20 15:17
impacting 51:3	49:3 54:21 101:8		25:10 208:21
impacts 2:19 6:10	105:4 106:19	infant 61:20	insensitive 194:20
27:1 130:21 143:16 166:20	107:13	infertility 190:2	insert 204:12
	inch 74:19	inflammation	insidious 42:15
implication 195:9	incidence 189:1	177:18	insomnia 55:12
importance 15:20	incident 65:19	inform 15:10	60:13,18 82:20
important 4:3,19	incidents 65:15	informal 5:17	130:17 131:9
5:1 6:8 10:19		information 14:11	instance 10:21
14:11 17:18 19:1,3 25:11	include 20:3,12,16 24:1,13,21 113:1	18:15 26:6	instead 64:20
26:1 33:2,10	116:17 133:11	31:7,19,22 32:1	116:13 199:8
35:12 43:14 70:3	included 31:4	33:4 43:14 182:22 184:16	institute 86:5
86:15 100:18	113:3 129:6	186:8 187:9,14	192:16
102:4 108:6,19	135:19	188:5 200:2	instructions 95:17
112:9 115:9 132:10 159:20	includes 130:10	204:11	instruments 25:21
165:6,9 170:4,13	including 6:16	205:12,14 206:2	insurance 112:17
176:8 180:4	22:10 36:6 72:8	207:9,10	134:6 196:22
181:20 189:16	177:20 204:6	informational	201:5
200:10,18	206:16,18	200:5	intact 121:4
201:20 206:7	207:15	informed 19:8	intended 33:14
207:1 208:22	income 197:1	40:11 207:7	
importantly 133:4	inconsistent	informs 15:11	intense 45:10 105:5
impose 198:5	135:13	infrequent 188:19	
impression 58:9	incorporate 53:8	infusion 117:21	intensified 45:4
improve 22:13	incorporated 31:4	118:2	intensity 21:13 46:21
27:19 35:14	increase 48:9 50:6	initial 18:2 23:4	
201:21 202:1	161:17	116:2	interest 11:11 54:6
improved 116:4		Initially 52:5	108:12,17
		<u> </u>	

	rag		
182:20 184:15	54:4,8 89:10	153:12	112:2,4,10
interested 8:13	issue 6:17 77:13	154:7,12,13,16	116:20 170:3,9
9:6,12 75:10	104:22 189:16	157:18 159:14	203:2
86:6,13 87:13	190:22 204:16	160:19,20 161:7	January 23:10
162:5 210:7	issued 198:1	162:4 167:15	172:9
interesting		168:5,10,12	jasmine 121:14
61:18,20 71:8	issues 8:15 20:5	172:15 173:22	· ·
206:15,19	22:10 70:17	174:9 177:9	JENIAK 85:5
	71:15 87:10	184:6 189:8 190:7,10 191:3	Jenny 75:21
Interestingly 185:19	89:5,6 103:3 105:10 106:6	193:15,17 195:9	Jersey 178:20
	142:19 150:7	198:14,20	job 55:16 62:17
interests 182:19	167:10 186:22	199:17 200:9	133:6 169:5,6,8
international	189:19 190:2,5	203:14 205:18	192:11 198:16
191:21	197:19 207:5,16	208:14,17	
interpret 10:1	items 77:15 137:4	I've 41:12 42:16	Johns 121:9
interrelated 88:20		46:19 47:5	join 4:22 109:16
109:22	it's 9:2 10:13	48:17,18 53:21	203:1
	13:3,4,5	56:10 58:3	joint 72:9
intersection 86:9	30:6,8,10 33:22 35:5,8 38:21	59:14,17	joints
intervention 129:8	39:11 43:5 44:16	60:1,6,19 61:9	133:10,11,21
intolerant 117:10	48:11 51:21 53:1	62:3 69:22 75:2	
intractable 157:14	55:9 57:22	79:16 80:9,11	joked 60:22
196:12	58:7,15 60:1	81:3,17 82:16	Joniak-Grant
	61:1,10,14,20	84:12 92:2 94:18	77:10,12 143:11
introduce 4:8 7:4	63:18 67:20	96:6,7,15,18,20	166:19 183:19
40:7 111:19	73:11,14 74:20	98:14 99:15	188:7,10 191:7
investigators 9:19	77:14,22 78:5,8	100:11 102:9	journals 189:10
10:4	79:17,18	106:4 107:8 108:16 124:2	journey 50:1
invited 3:4	81:2,3,6,7,15,20,	142:5 148:3,15	129:12
involved 21:4 51:1	22 82:3,21 83:14	150:19,20	Juan 183:22
55:4 204:20	86:7,14,15 87:7	175:7,10 199:1	199:17,21
involvement 18:13	90:11 91:6 92:19	,	Judo 62:20
106:10	93:21 94:17 96:6,9,11,12,13,		
	19 97:3,6,7,22	Jack 58:10	jump 38:9 49:7
irregular 102:8	98:1 100:15		65:9
irritable 20:4 22:8	101:4,22	Jacob 49:14,17 54:10,18 56:19	jumping 76:15
117:10	108:14,20	93:3 102:5 106:2	June 18:10
irritating 45:5	118:20 120:2	120:15	23:9,10
isn't 134:5	122:5 137:15		
192:7,13,20	142:20 144:3	James 163:18 180:17 181:19	K
Isogenix 161:14	147:14,15		Kathy 81:11,12
	148:13,14	Jan 90:16,17	Kevorkian 58:10
isolation 53:20,21	152:5,9,22	99:5,10 106:12	

	rag		
key 12:14,18 53:19	197:19 200:21	law 65:14	72:13,14
207:11	lacking 192:5	lay 56:22	75:20,21 78:20
kick 7:21	ladies 104:13	laying 126:1	121:6 138:2,11 140:1 149:22
Kilfore 19:14	178:11	lead 21:22 44:10	150:12 152:16
Kilgore 2:13	lady 93:5	86:12	157:5 163:11
7:16,17 19:15,16	laid 113:6	leaded 44:20	letter 36:3 197:1
48:3 171:2	large 8:3 9:13	Leader 7:15	198:1,10
kinds 12:12 13:10	115:13 157:17	leads 21:16 168:7	letters 155:15
84:12 124:7	165:3 200:4		198:11
199:1	Large-Group	leaning 44:8	level 5:20 21:14
King 62:22 81:12 82:3	3:2,9	learn 48:18,19,20	59:16 83:8,10
	largest 39:8	117:11 184:19	84:21 118:14
kiosk 5:12 7:1	Larry 104:21	learned 18:12 119:4,12 121:8	145:15 171:6
kiss 144:17	last 8:11 10:10	123:21 185:12	levels 95:10 116:5 160:7 168:2
kitchen 73:8	17:3 18:10 39:15	learning 115:8	
kneading 42:22	83:7 98:14 108:2	least 20:22 23:19	liar 90:4
knew 112:19	135:20	64:10 69:2 78:19	libido 108:7,11
113:21	146:5,6,11 157:21 183:20	89:7 92:17	library 128:3
114:13,20 120:17 169:6	185:21 191:5	166:12 177:11	lidocaine 134:1
	196:5,9	192:2 194:9	135:18
Knight 104:21,22 105:17 106:4,14	lasted 21:2 172:3	leaves 98:2 121:12	lie 80:10 125:20
knives 57:7	lastly 187:2,16	leaving 53:15 67:5	life 19:5 24:5 26:14 27:19 46:1
knock 118:10	lasts 44:12	97:7	48:22 49:1,2
known 19:21 21:7	late 108:7,9	led 50:10 90:9	50:22 51:4 53:7
42:17 201:6	lately 8:7	Lee 85:21	55:19 56:6,11
204:2	later 34:13 80:3	leg 44:20 51:6 52:2	58:12
Kristen 183:21	85:10 136:3	98:21	59:15,17,21 60:7 66:13 70:6 75:3
193:22 197:6,9	latest 175:11	legs 24:4 52:2	76:21 108:20
	laundry 44:15	63:19 73:13 104:1 105:6,20	111:2 112:21
L	, and the second	104.1 103.0,20	114:13 116:3
lab 106:16	Laura 58:18,22 62:12 99:11	118:17	117:13 122:20 123:1 130:4
labeling 203:22	109:19	lesions 188:18	152:19 156:19
204:2,9,12 208:1,8	Lauren 175:5,6,20	less 39:3 101:5,6	157:22 179:2
,	Laurie 98:11	151:14 155:7	196:4,16
labs 195:7	148:17,18	193:6	life-altering 114:8
lack 70:12 71:5 94:11 108:12	lavender 121:9	let's 4:2 37:13,14	lifestyle 48:22
135:11 193:2		69:17 71:1	54:15 56:17

	гад		
139:3,17 164:5	86:17 170:22	load 44:15	lot 8:22 9:2,20
165:5 197:1	listening 32:21	locate 114:17	10:9 11:3 18:18
lift 104:3	33:6 55:3 180:10	located 5:9	35:8 37:5 41:13
light 24:22 70:16	182:15		42:6
71:13 76:20	literally 63:22	locked 44:10	47:3,4,5,9,17
	64:14 81:19 85:7	locks 47:15	51:15 55:13 68:12,16 76:22
lightly 195:16	little 10:12 13:2,5	long 19:6 36:16	83:2,14 88:10,18
lights 63:1 64:5	26:5,22 29:18	39:2,7,20 44:8	89:4,8 90:13
likely 115:17	36:9 38:6,10	53:9 58:13 70:9	92:7 97:10 99:21
195:18	39:11 46:8,18	75:3 76:6 81:3	102:9,12,14,19
liken 74:18	49:15 55:13	84:5,8 89:13	107:19 113:1,3
limb 62:4	59:3,18 60:4	112:21 120:3	116:13 117:18
	61:16 69:8,10,17	122:9 126:11	118:3,15
limbo 132:12	72:7 75:2,11	144:16 145:8,21	119:15,18 120:7
Limbrel 144:3,6	77:4 81:4 83:19	147:11,12 148:2,10,11	121:18 122:7
limitation 76:10	89:3 92:19 94:8	148.2,10,11	123:16 131:13
93:1	109:7,13,21	168:1 171:15	133:18 134:2 135:14
limited 12:5 24:2	110:6,7 119:10 125:4 126:8	174:7 177:8	136:10,17
44:6 54:3 190:14	129:3 140:14	longer 44:4,5 66:3	137:15 138:2
limits 24:22 198:6	141:11 143:12	92:13 147:16	143:22 144:21
	145:18 151:7	176:19	145:10 148:2
line 41:6 46:5	156:7 161:21	188:13,18	149:19 150:17
103:19 104:21 107:4 108:3	162:6 163:14	longest 146:13	151:4,15,20
140:3 164:1	168:22 194:6,10	S	152:19 154:3,6
173:13 175:5	203:19	long-term 181:10 201:5	158:3,20 160:22
177:18	live 36:5 42:19		165:17 171:19
lined 183:4	43:13 46:1 64:9	loose 58:2 89:20	178:6 179:17 181:8 184:15
	73:12,14 117:12	loosing 50:10	192:1,20
lines 31:6	119:20 125:12	Lorazepam 142:1	195:10,11
link 32:1	128:2 141:22 156:19 160:5	Lori 40:17,20	203:17 204:11
linked 190:2	171:20 175:9,15	41:4,8,10,16	205:14 206:8
liquid 161:14	ŕ	42:1 46:2,5,6,7	lotion 121:8
176:22 177:3,6	lived 39:6	48:1,7 49:6,8,11	lotions 121:7
LISA 210:2,15	liver 24:7	56:19	
, in the second	lives 33:13 196:1	Lori's 49:7	lots 139:16 150:11
list 16:13,15 70:9 164:7 185:18	living 37:10 53:20	lose 53:15 96:10	loud 173:20
	58:15,16 171:22	192:11,12	Louis 74:11
listed 74:13 102:8	172:2 184:10	loss 45:20 54:6	75:7,9,19
204:8	Liz 19:13 171:1	1088 45:20 54:6 113:5	101:1,13,15
listen 11:18,20	Liz's 170:11		157:3,5 158:2
33:1 55:4,6	LIZ \$ 1/U.11	lost 58:3 150:19	178:17 179:14
			183:21 194:5

	0	C 20	
196:9 197:3,11 198:17 199:16	M S 50 12	managing 23:8 166:6	may 11:13 13:8 17:5 20:18
202:16 lousy 43:12	M.S 59:12 Mac 80:12	mandates 191:7 Manhattan 50:16	21:8,9,10,11,15, 19,22
love 66:19 87:18 88:5 108:13	machine 83:7 machines 68:12	manifest 75:15	22:4,12,14,21 23:6 43:15 50:19 53:2 54:2 57:11
154:20 loved 37:7 68:22	mad 178:21	manifestations 206:14	68:6 88:16 116:17 122:8
low 83:8 108:6,11 118:1 120:19	main 47:20 76:8 121:4 164:9	manifested 69:20 72:8	130:22 144:3 151:6 182:19,21
130:14 145:16 190:4	182:9 mainly 46:14 49:4	manifests 94:10 manipulated	187:15 190:1 194:6 204:3
low-dose 175:11 178:22	104:13 177:21 major 20:21 52:6	46:20 manipulation	205:22 maybe 13:2 29:20
lower 38:10 63:18 105:4,18 106:21	53:14 55:13 74:15 165:1	116:14 manufacturer	56:15 69:12 82:13 84:7 96:17
108:10 113:13 118:14 181:10	majority 43:11 male 38:14,17,22	187:13	110:15 146:6,13 162:16 171:6,12 194:5
lowering 179:2	malformations 115:19	March 1:7 4:15,18 172:13	MD 2:6,13 3:13
luckily 167:14	malfunction 70:22	marijuana 164:11	meal 64:15 73:9
lucky 55:18		market 60:20	mean 33:9 54:12
lung 17:1	malignant 24:5	marketing 15:13	79:9,12,13 80:9 84:17 92:5,16
Lupus 20:20 59:12 LYALL 82:15	man 195:1,7 manage 24:17,20 76:8 82:17	married 66:3 104:2 133:9 194:8	122:19 127:5 145:7 168:10
123:21 127:21 153:2,12	125:14 156:20 169:4 181:14	Maryland 1:10 36:7 147:3	means 42:9 125:16 139:21 144:18
lying 118:7	190:17	massage 23:3 25:1	meant 114:4
Lyrica 10:16 23:9,11	manageable 131:5 managed 122:17	67:3,4 135:19 139:1	meantime 201:10
128:16,18 140:21	129:20 155:17 166:10	massages 130:8	measurements 25:14
141:19,22 142:14 143:2,13,16	management	match 165:9 matches 38:18	measures 23:16,20 25:12
143.2,13,10	22:19 23:13,15 76:11 77:2	material 99:22	mechanism 14:20
145:1,6,14 146:19 148:22	165:16 178:8 198:12	math 37:11	media 185:14 198:21
149:6 155:4 157:7 188:22 189:17 191:2	manager 128:3 manages 142:21	matter 2:19 6:10 26:11 121:5 132:10 135:6	medical 2:14 7:17 89:21 100:6 112:17 113:17

	rage		
125:7 144:3,10	189:14	men 38:19 152:20	112:5 116:22
167:18 189:10 191:15 192:14	Medicine's 192:17	Mendoza 183:22	184:1
193:3,9	Medidata 186:6	199:18,19,21	microphones 29:6 49:15
medically 197:4	meditation 46:18	menopause 178:12	
200:1	meds 146:3,4	mention 6:22 75:1	middle 79:14,17 80:6 197:1
medication 24:9	160:13 190:18	78:4 103:22 204:17 208:9	mid-thirties
46:14 55:15 56:9	meet 17:19 41:13	mentioned	189:20
58:1 67:3 76:6 116:17 130:10	42:5	61:13,18 78:18	migraine 130:12
132:5,15 150:8	meeting 1:5	90:6 91:5,14	migraines 22:9
151:13 153:4	4:3,7,11,19,20,2 2 5:5,7,8,17	100:9 101:18	77:14 113:4
158:20 159:5	14:19,20 15:22	104:7 105:1 139:7 152:18	121:11,13
177:10 178:3 186:5 197:3	16:3,17	166:21 188:12	123:16 154:1,2 166:20
201:2	17:3,4,22	200:8	
medications	18:4,9,10,19,22 26:2,4 28:5,8	mess 129:10	Mike 107:4,5,15,18,19
23:5,21 24:1,19	31:12,15,21	144:20	173:13,14,16,17
61:5 84:15	33:19 36:18	message 207:13	175:1
117:16 118:3	66:21 67:6	messages 119:19	mild 42:19 43:4,5
124:22 126:10,11	109:18 180:2 182:7 183:3	188:4	135:15
127:18 128:14	184:12 194:3,13	met 106:4	mile 47:13
129:1,7 130:11	208:22 209:4	meta-analysis	miles 64:1
131:4,6 138:22	meetings 6:5 16:21	201:14	military 145:2
139:1,21 140:17 141:1,5 143:12	17:7,10 18:14	metabolic 113:4	milligrams
151:4 152:20	29:8 35:3,4,15	metabolizing	126:6,7 134:3
155:4 157:12	180:2 184:21 206:6	157:16	143:14
158:6,21 159:3	melatonin	method 119:6	146:15,17 156:3 159:18,19
163:19,20 165:7,10 170:6	60:15,17 159:16	methods 25:2 53:9	161:7,9,11 178:5
186:18,19	member 64:10	metro 36:6	million 20:7
188:13	members 69:3	metropolitan	Milwaukee 64:20
190:6,12,13 193:20 194:20	70:5 111:15	36:8,12	mind 45:8 54:16
195:22 196:8	179:1 184:10,13	Mexico 101:3	96:12
198:2,13 199:10	membership 200:3	mic 29:5 76:1 81:4	97:3,4,7,20
201:6,8	memory 22:6	mice 189:2	119:20 121:4 182:12
medicine 55:5	42:13 43:13,16	Michelle 54:19	
148:11 175:14 176:21 188:19	70:13 71:6 131:7,10	58:18	mindful 116:4
	memos 208:6	microphone 58:20	mine 56:20 59:18 80:22 81:1 85:6
medicines 121:19 135:3 164:13	11105 200.0	68:9 73:1 80:21	102:11 116:2
155.5 101.15	<u> </u>		

	- 0	C 20	
133:15	moderate 43:5	123:15	42:22 44:11,20
minimize 80:1	modifications	move 27:7 28:19	45:19 47:18
minimum 29:11	56:17	57:3 65:7 68:5	Myers 117:21
Minnesota	mold 74:19	76:21 78:17 87:4	myofascial 130:8
172:1,2,8	moment 50:11	94:4 99:18 101:8	200:12
	87:11 88:7	109:4 182:5	myriad 86:4
minute 4:8 84:19 170:17	moments 43:15	200:22	·
		moved 172:1	myself 51:18 69:21 78:10 93:9 96:21
minutes 28:10	money 112:16	186:1	119:12,17,19
34:3 40:16 95:16	113:1	movement 62:4	122:2,3 130:8
96:17 98:4 103:12 109:12	monitor 126:12	76:13,14,15 89:5	mystery 128:8
111:17 139:10	month 16:16 17:3	101:4 102:8	mystery 120.0
143:17 158:10	85:6 122:9 167:8	movements 103:6	N
176:12 183:5,12	185:22 198:15	150:16,22	na 132:6
197:12,17	months 21:3 63:6	movies 66:17	
203:13	85:7 106:9 113:7	moving 64:1 72:10	Naltrexone 175:11 178:22
misaligned 114:15	134:4,8,9 136:20	79:13 125:22	
miserable	149:4,6	183:13	nametags 28:1
73:12,14 143:20	172:2,9,11 179:8	MPP 2:10	Nancy 79:8 84:7
mispronounce	mood 20:4 22:8	much-needed	85:3,18 127:22
183:17	97:19	130:14	128:1 132:22
	morning 22:1		165:21
miss 132:13 143:2	56:21 62:9	multi 110:3	Nancy's 166:3
misses 60:20	63:17,21	multi-cultural	narcolepsy 17:2
missing 187:14	79:9,10,22 93:21	64:9	narrowing 115:5
mission 200:1	135:10 145:11 155:22 156:1	multidisciplinary	National 90:18
misspeak 204:6		116:16	100:7 112:11
_	mostly 73:12	multi-modal	191:16,18
misunderstood	98:21 99:1	117:14 129:17	199:22
200:11	129:21 164:7	206:22	natural 61:2
mix 130:13 152:13	mother 8:5 52:20	multiple 8:19 21:4	108:15,21 115:2
mixed 45:17	56:12 61:18 66:9	22:16,17,21	
mobility 53:3	motion 43:2	89:20 154:13	naturally 124:12 125:6 136:15
103:5	motivation 128:21	multi-task 66:20	
modal 110:4	134:20	multitude 177:1	Nature 8:5
modalities 8:19	motor 102:22	muscle 22:10	nausea 48:11
11:15	Motrin 133:22	24:15 51:5 72:9	103:3
		98:22 135:8,16	navigating 205:22
modality 45:3	mouth 57:10 146:20	136:1 170:5	necessarily 88:21
mode 32:21 33:6		muscles 20:1	necessary 134:2
44:18 182:16	mouthguard		

Г	1 ag	C = 3	
197:4	nice 37:1,20 61:1	nor 134:20 135:3	31:5
neck 44:11 63:17	207:14	210:6,7	occur 45:17 53:14
73:14 114:11	Nicki 151:3,17,19	normal 51:21	
115:2 116:1	· ·	89:17 156:8	occurring 114:9
117:6	Nicki's 151:20	195:7	occurs 200:14
118:16,20,22	night 46:17 56:8	normally 42:19	October 15:22
121:7 124:8	65:3 117:20	58:1 67:5 161:15	odd 75:2
135:8 136:7	118:6 142:1 151:8		
needle 136:9		Nortriptyline 142:15	Office 2:3,10 4:5 7:6 16:10
needles 105:7,20	night's 82:10		
· ·	nighttime 45:2	note 182:18	officer 2:14 7:17
needling 130:8	NIH 85:22	noted 21:5	62:16 65:17
negative 66:13 205:3	nine 63:6 107:8	notes 43:14	offices 16:12
	178:4	nothing 118:21	off-label 153:22
negatively 172:19	nobody 152:18	135:9 146:7	186:8
neglected 169:13	160:21	notice 50:21 179:9	offset 126:1
neither 134:19	nobody's 104:5	noticed 5:13 92:2	off-work 130:21
210:6	nodding 80:20	notified 196:17	Ogden 74:11
nerve 106:18	83:3 109:2 138:2	notion 189:15,19	101:17 157:6,20
134:6,18 135:8	158:3	r	179:15 183:21
136:18	nodding's 75:10	NSAIDs	193:22 194:2 195:6
nerves 167:1	nods 78:15 82:13	144:5,11,12	193.0
nervous 20:13	90:13 97:10	numbness 103:2	198:18 199:14
50:20 114:4,7	102:13,14	numerous 50:17	oh 37:14 41:10
networking 184:8	149:19 155:1	nurse 120:5	55:1 69:20 77:7
networks 102:3	173:1 175:21	nutrients 120:21	79:8 83:9,12
neuroleptic 24:4	noise 64:5 168:22	147:21	138:12 150:11
-	nominate 16:19	nutrition 76:9	152:15 159:11
neurologist 77:19 106:14 136:6	nominations 15:18	116:17 185:17	161:19 163:4
		nutritionist 120:6	168:1 169:11
Neurontin 46:15	non 23:5 158:22		173:16 189:11
133:21 146:17	non-addictive	nuts 98:16	197:13 199:4 202:7
154:4 156:10	159:21		
neuropathy	non-drug 23:1	0	oil 121:10,15
107:10 143:3	24:19 25:4	Oaks 1:8	ointment 12:21
neurophysiology	164:17 165:1,5	obvious 101:22	okay 19:13 35:18
128:7	201:4	obviously 8:17	36:9,10,22
newest 201:16	non-prescription	10:22 12:16 90:7	37:2,3,4,20
newspaper 195:17	159:2,4	154:1	38:13,14,15,16
nexus 83:16	non-stop 195:3	occasionally 22:13	39:1,5,17 40:1,4,19 41:20
			40.1,4,19 41.20

	1 48		
42:4,9 55:9 56:2	171:11,15	104:19,20	OTC 126:3
68:12 69:3,8	172:19,21	107:2,3 108:1,2	others 6:16 9:9
70:20,21	173:14,22	173:11,12	12:10 21:17 60:2
71:4,7,14,15,16,	174:2,21 176:13	175:3,4	78:16 90:6
18 72:6,16,18,19	177:15 178:15	opiate 153:4,15	101:16 109:15
73:1,18,19	179:13,20,21		128:8 150:3
74:4,7,8 75:16	183:14,22 194:1	opiates 151:5	151:2 167:21
77:7,8 78:12	197:15 199:20	154:11,15	131.2 167.21
79:2,5 80:5	200:20 203:8	opinions 34:22	203:2 204:7
81:10 82:5	207:21 208:15	35:1	
83:3,11 84:3	Okun 183:17	aminid 105.14	ourselves 123:18
85:19 91:8,18		opioid 195:14	199:9
93:13 94:3	184:3,5	opioids 157:13	outcome 201:13
95:6,12 96:2	old 59:1 67:7	161:22	210:7
98:3,8,18,19	79:19 92:13,22	162:3,10,19	
99:3,17 100:1	96:13 108:5,16	163:7 164:13	outcomes 25:11,17
102:12 103:5,10	128:2	179:19 194:15	185:16
104:16	older 59:18 90:3	opportunity 8:14	outer 119:9
106:3,4,7,13,22	one-fourth 113:12	31:6 41:13	outlier 199:4,7
123:8,21 126:1		103:13,22 112:7	, in the second of the second
138:5,7,8	ones 10:19,20 37:7	116:19 128:9	outlined 33:8
139:13,14	51:3 55:13 63:13	132:20 182:8	outside 4:13 30:12
140:12	68:22 71:21	186:2	36:7,11,21 64:17
141:6,7,15	92:13 128:15		160:6
142:2,4,9	146:11 188:19	opposite 162:4	outstanding 133:5
143:4,7	ongoing 63:20	option 144:12	ovarian 113:4
144:13,15	online 30:19 106:5	options 2:12 14:11	
145:20 148:6	205:15	15:2 17:13 19:20	overall 14:1 61:14
149:15,22		22:18	91:5 117:19
150:8,11	onset 24:6 124:5	oral 126:21	122:15 165:16
151:2,9,16	141:19		185:16
152:7,11,12,15,2	onto 70:20	order 57:12 70:1	overarching 164:3
2 153:11,13 155:12 157:5	open 3:11 6:14	93:10 108:19 131:11 183:16	over-counter 61:4
158:4,17	33:18 86:7	Oregon 191:20	overdo 116:5
159:6,8,10,15	101:10,11 103:19 104:21	S	overlapping 164:7
161:5,12,18	107:4 108:3	organizations 28:17 100:12	overload 64:5
162:16,20	163:13,14	203:2 205:21	
163:1,4,5,9,10	173:13 175:5	originally 4:12	oversight 15:11
164:14	180:11 182:6	49:17	204:20
165:2,7,10,11	opening 2:5 7:21		over-the 158:5
166:6,10,18 168:1	59:7	orthostatic 107:11	181:6
		OSP 2:3,16	over-the-counter
169:19,20,22	operator 40:17	ŕ	138:22 140:9
170:9,10	41:5 103:16,18	osteopath 120:11	10.22

	rag	0.01	
158:19	84:21	200:12,15,16,17	30:16,20 180:22
	86:10,11,12	201:18 202:16	181:11
overtired 125:19	88:8,13,20	206:5,14,16	nautiainata
overview 2:8,15	89:5,7,19	pain-free 171:4	participate
5:21 6:4 26:7	90:2,8,19	-	28:6,21 29:21 30:16
overwhelmed 49:2	91:13,16,20	painful 21:6,18	31:11,12,13
overwhelming	92:11 94:18	113:14 118:9	206:5
51:10,21	95:3,4,6,10	167:4,11	
31.10,21	97:13,21	pains 72:10 79:10	participated 129:4
P P	100:7,13	112:15 114:10	participating
$\frac{1}{\mathbf{p.m} \ 1:7 \ 63:22}$	104:1,22 105:5	115:3	13:22
209:3	108:11 112:12	palpitations	participation
	113:10 116:1,7,9	188:17	18:13
pace 47:14 119:12	117:3,4,5,15,19	panel 2:17,19 3:6	particular 12:10
pacing 139:3,17	118:6,14,22 119:8,16,19,20	9:8,13 27:21	17:21 18:9 84:20
package 15:7	120:4,12 122:21	28:18,22 42:12	86:10 145:13
161:8 204:12	124:10 125:15	69:3 70:5 75:16	160:17 204:16
packed 98:14	126:3,15 127:10	91:19 111:15	206:20
-	128:5,18,21	137:18 139:15	particularly 61:12
pad 126:2	129:10	176:6	160:22 188:15
paid 114:2	130:9,16,19	panelist 33:2 40:8	Partnership 200:1
pain 9:11	131:1,8 134:10	panelists 28:5,15	part-time 143:15
10:8,13,21 11:1	135:5,8,9 139:5	40:7 68:4,15	-
20:2,14,22	141:19,21 142:15,22 143:3	78:18 95:22	party 210:6
21:2,3,6,9,10,13,	142.13,22 143.3	137:8,12 164:18	pass 57:21
15,19 22:3,14,20	147:3 149:13	180:14	past 29:14 45:15
23:8,17 24:13,20 28:17	151:7,12 153:4,9	panels 28:2,9	119:21 128:13
42:13,16,17,21	154:2,5,6 155:19	panic 97:2 127:4	149:10 156:2,4
45:10 47:21	156:13,17,18,20	•	185:22 206:16
48:12,14 50:7	157:14 158:20	pants 150:20	patch 153:16
51:4,5,6,7	159:10,13	papers 192:3	patches 118:16
52:9,16 53:10,22	160:13,17 161:1 163:19	paradoxical 162:2	134:1
54:1 55:11 57:5 59:4,9,19 61:16	164:10,11,12,13	parallels 61:21	path 195:17
63:15 65:21	168:2 170:15	paralyzed 65:8	paths 206:1
69:9,18,20 70:12	172:10,14	paramount 35:2	patience 180:10
71:3,19	175:14,15,19	paraphrase 166:4	-
72:2,7,10,15,17,	178:3 179:3,4 181:9,14 191:17	Paresthesia 98:20	patient 2:19 3:3
18,19,21	191.17		9:3 14:2,7,17,21 15:3,9 16:16
73:4,11,20 74:1,3 77:7	195:4,11,12,13	park 45:8	17:12,16
82:8,22	196:12	partially 53:14	18:3,12,17 19:4
83:6,8,10,17	198:11,12	participants	23:17 25:11,17
, , -, -			

	1 ag		1
29:20 30:10	PCP 124:15	1,22 39:18	perspectives 3:7
31:10 32:6,15		72:1,4,5 99:6,9	6:11,12 17:12
37:6 58:11 69:1	PDUFA 14:16	123:22	18:19
87:22 115:21	15:5 16:8,20	132:15,16	
132:2 182:11	peer 168:21	135:18	petechial 188:17
204:9 208:21	pencil 91:3	139:20,22	petition 198:5
Patient-Focused	people 4:21 8:3,21	140:8,10 149:13	Pettibon 114:19
1:6 2:8 209:4	9:5,10 12:10	154:15 176:19	pharmaceutical
	18:20 31:1,11	184:13 185:19	8:16 27:10 110:8
patients 2:19	34:2 37:10,21	186:4,15,17,19,2	174:11
6:11,16 9:3	38:1 39:6 41:13	1 187:5,11,13,18	
10:18 12:5 16:1	42:6 43:18	188:1 189:4	phase 62:5
21:10,15 22:4	55:3,4 58:20	perception 21:16	PhD 2:2,16
24:10,12	64:11,17 67:12		phone 31:5 40:18
25:5,6,10 26:1	71:9 72:2 74:8	perfect 168:16	95:15,19,20
27:21,22 28:19	83:20,22 85:13	perform 65:13	101:14
29:19 30:10 31:9	88:19 89:1	152:20	101.14
32:13 33:11	90:3,9,14 91:3	performing 116:8	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
58:11 68:22	96:4 98:16	-	158:9,13 163:17
86:17 90:21		perhaps 104:17	173:6,21 176:3
102:21 116:1	99:6,13,14,15	194:6	physiatrist 120:5
162:7 164:12	100:15,16 102:9	period 6:15 63:5	physical 20:14
181:2 182:10	104:7 106:5	85:6 125:21	23:2,20 66:14
185:4,13,20	115:14 117:3,18	155:9 174:20	76:4 108:12
186:4,15	122:5 128:6		114:12,22 115:4
187:3,5,19,22	132:16 133:18	periodic 62:4	116:3,6,8,13
188:2 200:13	136:11 139:13	162:20	129:22 135:18
202:20 208:20	140:8 144:17	periods 44:8	
patient's 6:12 15:1	148:2	171:10	139:1 140:1,11
25:18	162:2,9,10,13	nowinhouol 24:2	201:22
	163:13 169:17	peripheral 24:3	physician 39:16
Patients 3:3,7	170:7 174:7,10	person 38:13 40:8	53:2 124:13
184:5 185:3	178:20 179:12	42:5 52:19 62:18	160:9
Patrick 2:10 7:5	181:8 182:8	79:18 90:3 97:5	physicians 137:2
14:1	184:22 188:12	128:5 190:11	• •
	189:5,13 193:18	personal 34:21	pick 66:15,16
pattern 81:3	195:10 198:3,13	35:1 112:16	74:14 76:20 91:3
patterns 135:13	199:9,11		101:10 121:11
201:22	202:18,21	personalized	picture 14:2 99:9
Pause 139:12	203:21 206:4	185:17	pieces 40:21
pay 112:17 197:5	per 159:19 161:7	person's 206:12	•
- v	perceive 20:14	perspective	pig 129:5 175:8
paying 125:14	•	14:18,21	Pilates 129:21
197:7,20	percent 20:9 23:16	15:1,9,20 16:10	pill 127:8 133:16
PC3 115:16	36:21	19:4 126:8 166:3	153:7 156:7
	38:7,8,9,11,16,2		

	rag	-	
161:7,16	135:17 136:4	postural 107:11	143:12 151:4
pillows 113:8	145:12 148:8	posture 116:5	158:20 159:1
pills 161:8 162:15	155:9,14 174:8 175:2 176:8	potential 23:22	162:22 163:3,20 165:6,10 181:4,5
pins 105:7,20	188:11	potentially 24:5	186:5,19
placebo 25:15	points 21:1,2,7	89:7,21 131:22	present 119:21
160:1	59:9,10 89:18	206:11	presentations 6:1
places 84:18	200:9,15 207:11	pound 77:16	132:4
plain 132:2	poker 74:5	power 53:3,6	presented 59:4
plan 54:15 170:14	Police 62:15	202:22	presenting 19:18
planning 36:17	policeman 63:5	practically 113:6 190:11	President 90:18
87:17 100:19	poling 29:13 30:17		112:11 199:22
plans 131:2	polling 29:22	practice 196:14	pressure 24:7
platform 184:7	39:15 40:4 69:22	practices 25:2	107:12,17 115:7
play 9:17 124:6	138:11 141:3	practitioner 120:5	153:18 171:21 172:12
please 5:17 11:17	polycystic 113:4	precise 20:10	pretty 10:7 30:13
29:4,9,11 30:11	poor 21:22 108:17	predominant 45:22	51:9,16 58:20
32:16 34:10 37:2 73:2 79:7 86:20	population 132:6 162:7 206:11		60:17 83:8 93:4
87:11 110:17	portion 44:14 71:5	preexisting 189:6	145:17 151:7 172:15
137:13 148:19	109:17 180:1	prefer 182:22	prevalent 200:13
173:2 176:14	183:9,10	pregnancy 104:8,14 155:21	preview 158:12
181:21 197:10 203:4 204:10	pose 23:21	pregnant 155:22	•
205:11 207:17	position 118:7	190:17	previous 111:14
pleased 9:5	192:11,12	preliminary 15:16	previously 21:5
pleasure 54:6	positional 115:15	preparation 68:17	price 201:2
plug 111:6	positive 112:20	prepare 111:17	prick 136:9
plugs 106:15	151:11 205:2	prepared 28:9	primarily 29:19
plus 146:21	positively 172:19	210:3	primary 21:5 59:5 120:11 124:12
pocket 167:18	possible 20:12	preparing 126:22	156:9
197:8,20	23:22 34:18 47:22 59:12	Presbyterian	prior 124:5
point 44:1	possibly 41:14	50:15	prisoner 64:19
45:10,21 52:8,15	53:2	prescribed 23:6	68:1
57:22 59:14 60:21 62:3 63:7	post 5:7 43:13	148:22 153:3	prisoners 61:1
76:18 84:16 96:9	50:14 76:5 188:5	prescribers 207:6	private 10:4
104:1 108:6,19	posted 31:21	prescription 61:5	PRN 161:11
113:15 117:21 124:10 125:9	postulated 20:15	92:15 138:22 139:21 140:17	PRO 25:21
124.10 123.9		107.21 110.17	

	Pag	C 3-1	
probable 131:22 probably 13:4 56:4 145:11 problem 53:13 60:13 64:5 74:15 93:20 100:21 148:1 150:6 167:3 174:18 175:14 192:5 193:1 problems 21:20 22:3,5,8 53:12 64:7 67:17 69:15 70:13,15 71:6,7,21 72:4 84:2 90:15 91:14,17 104:5 107:11 117:8 128:17 129:3 130:1 131:7 142:8 152:2,21 176:18 190:3 199:11 202:14 process 15:17 16:19 18:2 35:14 48:20 93:7 182:18 197:21	22:22 200:4 professor 143:15 profile 13:13 profoundly 47:11 program 2:10 7:6 19:7 126:19 196:22 programs 2:3 4:6 23:3 139:5 185:18 193:10 progress 23:19 progressed 52:7 107:9 progression 181:18 progressively 124:9 prolong 119:11 promise 176:2,3 promote 200:6 proofing 92:7 PROP 198:5 properly 92:14	provided 31:7 112:7 198:9,10 provider 170:14 providers 24:12 120:2 170:20 187:7,10 200:19 psychiatrist 130:3 psychological 25:3 66:8 76:14 116:18 202:2 psychologist 127:3 psychology 126:19 127:15 psychosocial 119:18 psychotherapist 149:2 psychotherapy 130:2 public 1:5 3:11 4:11 6:5,14,16 14:15 15:17,19,22 16:4,9,18 18:22 31:17,19 33:18 66:21 86:8 90:5	purposes 30:9 pursue 195:14 pursuing 195:3 push 67:19 149:17 pushed 149:9,10 putting 93:18 174:16 puzzles 121:3 Q qualify 65:20 qualitatively 88:2 quality 108:20 112:21 122:20 123:1 157:22 200:2 quantifiable 185:1 quantities 157:17 quarter 74:19 question 34:11 36:5 37:2,13 39:15 48:2 66:12 68:21 69:22 70:19 82:5,6,9 85:18 103:18
processing 21:16 produce 195:18 201:22	proponent 61:3 proportion 165:3	128:3 163:13,15 180:16 182:6 183:6 202:6	104:20 107:3,16 108:2 122:12 138:11 141:4
product 140:9 204:12,18 productive 32:10	proposal 15:4 proposed 15:18 pros 121:21	209:4 public's 15:20 published 16:15	147:8 148:10 149:21 151:20 157:1 158:18 161:20 162:13
109:9 180:3 productivity 192:12	PRO's 25:12 proud 28:4 prove 205:7	18:1,5,16 192:2,18 pull 43:7 67:11 116:21	163:6 169:12 170:11 173:6,13 174:1 175:4 176:5 177:7
products 2:7 7:10 8:16 9:7 19:18 181:7,9 185:21 203:22 204:9 professionals	provide 2:20 26:5 33:3,4 87:17 183:1 185:13 200:5	pulmonary 17:4 purpose 49:21 182:7	questions 17:11,14,20 18:1,5,11 28:11 29:1,14,21

	1 ag		
30:1,7 33:3,5	raised 166:11	realize 94:20	received 112:22
35:22 37:16 40:4	175:22 176:4	really 9:5 10:10,18	188:3
42:11 46:5,6	raising 71:9 81:18	11:17	recent 194:14
63:11 68:7 75:14	107:20 150:5	13:1,8,9,10	recently 126:21
83:12 87:19 91:1	rally 109:7	14:5,7 15:3	156:12 196:17
111:10 133:14	· ·	17:11 26:12	
137:9,11 158:6	ran 124:13	30:18 32:9,14	recognize 12:4
161:22 163:16	randomized 25:16	35:5,7,13 47:19	13:15
164:16,20,22	range 27:12 28:15	48:18 49:21	recoil 65:21
180:11 185:8	30:4 33:10	52:21 54:15	recommend
queuing 158:9	38:2,12 51:5	55:18,20,22	127:15
quick 58:19 71:1	103:2 137:19	57:13 58:8 62:1	
72:12,14 95:14	138:20 152:13	63:21 67:16	recommendation
quickly 75:1 99:18	202:13	78:19 79:12	53:5 125:3
102:4 155:3		83:15 86:8,14,16	recommended
157:8 167:2	Rappaport 2:6 7:8 8:1 83:13 86:19	87:13 92:11	53:1
195:20	87:1 162:12	95:19 96:1 98:22	reconsideration
	169:13 202:8,11	100:17 102:7	198:9
quit 125:11	· ·	105:1 111:1,12	record 43:14
quite 16:3 37:6	rash 13:2	117:22	56:10 182:21
38:1 105:13	rashes 188:17	120:19,22 121:14 122:5,6	
180:11 186:8	rate 24:8 184:14	121:14 122:3,6 123:15 126:5	recorded 5:5 31:3
204:19 205:1	188:1	142:7 145:6	recover 130:22
206:13	rather 142:14	153:5 159:21	reduced 49:3
quoted 198:10	205:16	166:9 168:5	115:2,5 155:14
		170:7 173:7	156:2
R	rating 23:18	178:21 180:8	Reducing 115:7
racing 45:8	rats 189:11	184:21 185:11	_
radiofrequency	re 65:19	187:7,17 189:13	reduction 22:20
134:6 136:18	react 65:10	192:20 195:12	reemphasize
166:22		203:14 206:2	184:18
Rae 100:5 183:21	reaction 128:22	real-world 184:19	reexamining
191:12,14	162:2	rear 117:5	189:15
191.12,14	reactions 21:17		reference 179:16
	readily 58:11	reason 26:1 50:3	
rag 53:18 63:2	reading 92:7	133:12	referred 21:1,3 22:7 124:18
raise 29:4 34:9,15	S	143:18,20 144:6 205:7	136:5
71:1 75:12 85:19	ready 40:15,17		
91:16 94:6	41:4 155:8	recall 43:22 44:2	reflect 28:15
138:14 147:6	real 29:2 37:11	94:6	reflected 78:22
150:11 152:6,8	62:7 74:16 95:14	recap 109:16	138:4
159:3,7 186:11 191:12	reality 53:5	receive 31:19	regaining 50:12
171.14	-	67:21 134:3	regarding 53:6
			regarding JJ.0

	rag		
75:19	relationships 60:1	128:15 157:6	represented 39:7
regimen 25:6	relative 50:22	177:21	representing
51:16 52:13	66:16	Remeron 130:13	37:21 123:22
55:15 126:15	relatively 13:6	remind 138:9	represents 18:18
127:13 137:20	relaxants 24:15	164:22 203:10	requesting 198:8
156:9 165:2	170:6	reminder 58:19	•
166:2		158:8	requests 90:4
regimens 23:3	relaxation 23:4 115:8	reminding 51:17	require 22:21
registered 8:4			required 205:6
registration 5:13	relaxer 135:16 136:2	remission 130:18	requires 44:7
33:22 35:11		remove 113:12	129:16
203:12	relaxing 53:17	removed 176:20	research 2:4 4:4
regular 43:4	126:2	reoccurring	7:11 18:11 45:14
120:14 140:18	release 47:18	53:12,13	100:6 113:19,20
141:6 159:5	66:22 156:11	repeat 46:11	115:16 128:12
162:19 176:20	released 106:9	105:11,15	129:5,14 131:20
regularly 50:21	relevant 18:7	replaced 136:2	132:11 179:11
142:16,18	34:16 182:19		184:6 189:9
162:11	reliable 25:21	replied 198:8	191:15,19,21 192:17
regulate 168:17	relief 76:14 99:8	report 31:4 129:17	
regulated 14:15	132:16 156:18	186:17 188:22	research-based
19:3,10	160:22	192:18	185:4
regulatory 204:20	relieved 51:11	reported 25:17	researched 193:16
•		185:20 186:4	researchers 86:16
rehabilitation 114:18 115:4	reliever 126:3	187:6,13,19	132:7 201:13
114:18 113:4	relievers 24:14	reporting 187:10	reside 49:18 116:9
rehabilitative	religiously 83:8	reports 18:17 19:1	resonate 74:7 83:2
114:21	rely 47:20 90:7	88:1	resonating 149:16
reinforce 187:17	remain 44:18 52:4	represent 17:17	resource 200:2
relate 26:21 93:11	54:17 132:11	25:12 28:17 178:19	resources 204:15
	remaining 16:20		
related 6:18 25:11 82:8,16 83:6	130:19	representation 9:13 37:1 38:17	respect 34:22 35:2 194:12
88:13	remains 194:18		
89:6,7,8,19	remarks 2:5 3:12	representative	respectful 32:11
95:11,12 103:3	6:20 7:21 111:17	32:7	35:5
relation 8:16 89:2	203:9	representatives	respond 29:5
164:10	remedy 53:17	2:20 3:3 29:20	57:18,19 65:5
relationship 87:14	•	30:10 31:10 37:6 133:3 182:11	119:20
115:17	remember 59:6 70:1 106:17	208:21	responded 99:7
110.17	112:5 125:7	200.21	responding 29:22
	112.0 120.1		

100:15 198:4	207:20 208:6	98:5 102:14	Sara 2:2,16 4:3
response 23:16	Reviewer 7:17	107:20 109:2	41:8 62:14
24:9 82:1 184:14	19:16	139:19 141:4	90:19,22 133:5
187:22		148:10 164:2,8	207:21
	reviews 205:15	180:9 181:12	Sarah 83:1 123:20
responses 28:11 37:4 111:10	208:1	roomful 180:13	127:20
	revolver 65:20	rooms 16:2	152:16,22
responsibility 8:12	revved 45:7		sat 135:1
responsible	rheumatoid 20:19	rough 131:12	
191:20		round 28:8 49:8	satisfactory 122:17
rest 37:16 43:9	rheumatologist 136:5	68:15 137:13	
44:19 46:1 51:11		routine 56:8	save 137:9
52:11 56:14	rheumatology	rule 59:11	Savella 23:10,14
68:20 82:16,18	20:21 124:19		140:21 146:22
119:16	rhubarb	rules 32:8	153:17 155:18
125:17,19	120:14,15	run 17:10 19:6	157:7
130:21	richness 111:12	29:8 31:18 99:15	savvy 10:8
resting 50:13	rid 198:19	124:6 155:3	saw 59:5 75:10
restless 52:2		runner 73:2	78:15 138:3
	ridden 45:21	runners 29:5	145:7 155:1
restore 93:10	riding 43:3		178:15 188:14
restoring 115:1	rip 44:22 45:11	running 73:5	scalding 78:5,9
restroom 5:16	risk 13:12,13,16	rushed 50:4	scale 13:15 178:4
restrooms 5:9	17:16 23:22 24:2	Ryan 128:1	
result 63:8 76:3,22	145:12		scalp 175:19
resulted 54:5	risk/benefit 61:13	S	scan 129:6
	risks 207:8	Sabrina 62:13,15	scary 96:6,12,19
resulting 50:13		68:4 72:20 83:4	97:4,7
52:16	road 39:20 77:17	93:14 106:7 176:16,17	scenario 61:13
results 36:10	80:11	ŕ	scheduled 4:12
38:14 52:11	roadblock 137:3	sacks 116:7	50:14
70:21 116:2 139:14 140:8	roads 77:17	safe 12:16 13:14	school 47:4 113:17
199:12	Robbins 132:3	208:16	
return 30:11 52:10	rocking 125:4	safety 10:2 12:20	schools 179:18 193:3
116:7	role 9:18 33:2	201:5	
		safety-associated	scientific 30:9
returned 50:6	room 1:9 9:14 16:2	207:5	198:7 208:7
115:3	30:2,5 35:7,9	sake 32:11,12	scientifically
revert 205:16	36:2 37:10	Salem 191:19	132:8
review 15:12	50:5,17 63:1,2 65:4 86:3 87:9		screen 155:15
16:10 17:19	88:12,18 90:13	Sally 183:17,22	search 205:17
19:2,10 205:18	00.12,10 70.13	184:5 188:6	5001 CH 200.17

	rag	2 3 3	
208:4	110:7 114:6	86:2 104:1 116:1	shirt 77:6 95:13
seasonal 123:14	138:20 141:7 160:14 162:8	190:15 195:11,13	shirts 150:21
seat 52:17,21	165:13	200:15	Shoemaker 79:8
second 41:16 42:1	sensitive 113:14	severely 114:14	shooting 134:10
51:8 65:19 66:1 77:3 109:6,17	sensitivity 55:12	143:18	shopping 56:3
124:20 162:17	70:15 71:13	severity 14:9	66:18 89:22
175:21 188:21	sensitization 114:3	23:17	short 52:16 99:22
secondary 89:9	sensory 45:2 64:4	sexual 152:19 204:7	shortening 174:14
Secondly 133:4	sent 106:16 182:1	shape 54:16 168:4	shorter 39:12
seconds 78:8	184:12	shape 34.10 108.4 share 40:13 42:9	174:20 204:10
Section 1:9	September 15:15 197:2 198:1	78:16 123:9	shortly 161:2
seeing 11:11 82:13		128:9 129:13	shoulder 134:11 136:8
102:14 173:1	sergeant 65:16	132:20 166:3	shoulders 44:9
seek 89:20 112:17	series 62:17	176:8	46:22 74:16
seeking 112:13	serious 205:12	shared 28:22 49:10 69:7	117:7 125:16
195:5	seriously 204:19	sharing 68:18 75:8	shout 36:15
seem 99:14 131:6 181:14 188:14	serotonin 24:4 145:12	109:3 197:14	shower 45:2
190:5	serve 19:1	Sharon 3:13 7:12	showers 47:17
seemed 157:10	served 34:1	87:15 92:1	78:7
seems 45:9	service 65:20	103:19,20 104:11 105:12	showing 190:7
47:14,17 48:15	196:20	150:14 161:19	show-of 164:21
99:14 102:9,19 107:7,8 122:1	serving 106:19	168:15 169:10	show-of-hand 164:20
198:20 199:7	session 33:18	203:8,16 207:22	sick 81:21 124:16
seen 29:8 89:2	170:17 182:6,13	Sharon's 163:6	179:6 202:21
137:3 204:3	sessions 109:10	sharp 21:11	sickle 17:2
seep 64:12	sets 77:18	Shay 84:5,6,8 85:2,18 142:11	sickness 156:1,2
seeps 64:12	setting 14:12	143:10	sightedness 53:15
seizures 24:6	24:22 26:4 88:3	144:15,16	sign 33:21,22 34:2
sells 5:14	settle 167:8	167:21	54:4 208:3
send 66:15 181:22	settled 207:18	sheet 33:21	signal 204:21
182:1 207:19	several 4:21 5:2 50:18 69:19	she's 8:7 40:9 102:2 124:16	signed 4:21
sending 31:13	107:20 114:13	203:10	significant
sensation 43:2	115:16 180:2	Shield 197:2	23:18,19 26:13 51:3 60:2 63:14
sense 22:2 30:4 70:4,7 95:11	severe 40:12 77:14	shift 109:21	51:3 60:2 63:14 64:7 70:6 71:5
10.7,1 93.11			

	ragi		
91:17 104:15	size 155:16 206:10	sleepy 155:5	solve 84:2
113:20 150:8	sizeable 141:9	slept 61:19	somebody 57:5
185:12 187:18 189:8 195:21	skewed 39:12	slide 5:20 31:22	101:9
201:1	skies 171:21	35:17 109:18	someone 42:22
signs 174:5	skills 115:8	110:17 111:15	43:6,8 82:14
S		slides 19:19 31:20	84:4 96:10
signups 183:2	skin 12:22 45:6,11	155:16	138:13 150:6
SIKES 210:2,15	106:15 134:12 160:5 188:18	slightly 78:4 88:17	sometime 52:19
Silver 1:10		144:1	80:3
similar 39:11 40:1	sleep 10:22 11:2 20:16 21:20,22	slow 79:22 80:2	somewhat 93:9
107:9 116:2	22:3 25:2 45:9	slowly 124:8	154:2,17,19
140:8	46:17 51:11	small 12:11 63:1	somewhere 68:9
simple 205:5	56:7,10 60:12,19	74:20 100:15	199:6
simply 53:21	62:3,5,11 65:2	105:3,14,17	son 104:4
87:21 88:3 196:1	70:15 71:7,21	106:10,11	sore 150:22
sincerely 112:6	72:3 76:17 80:18 81:2 82:10	115:22 149:11	sorry 8:5 46:10
single 127:8	83:6,15	smell 45:4	55:1,8 69:22
160:19	84:1,13,18	smells	81:1 95:7 108:13
sit 9:15 67:1	85:8,10,13 86:10	64:6,8,11,16	136:1 148:15
80:8,18 81:2	88:4 89:15 113:6	smiling 145:8	161:19 192:17
94:1 125:20	117:20 118:5,6	Smith 49:16,17	sort 11:10,21
170:16	128:18,20	54:12 93:4 102:6	48:20 59:15
site 185:13	130:14 134:1 135:13 136:2	106:1 161:13	60:3,5 61:10 83:21 85:9
sites 185:15	142:1,7,8,19	smoothly 34:18	107:17 122:16
	143:17	-	140:9,10 144:9
sitting 44:7 74:10 81:18 91:5 111:9	151:6,13,14,21	snapshot 30:19	160:14 162:4
118:13 169:2	152:2,11	snow 4:17,18	167:10 188:19
situation 75:18	153:7,10 159:14	soaking 52:13	202:13
167:16	160:13 163:7,8 168:17 169:1,2	social 53:21,22	sound 70:16 71:13
situations 69:2	201:21,22	54:3,4,5,7 89:10	149:15
139:4,18	ŕ	184:7 185:11,14	sounds 45:3 56:19
six 70:1 85:6,7	sleep/pain 86:6	socializing 131:2	139:13 140:3
134:8 136:19	sleep-associated 207:16	society 198:11	soup 128:14
146:13 149:4,6		202:16	source 119:8
155:13,16	sleeping 20:3 24:13 43:10 65:7	soft 20:1	southern 178:20
163:13 177:19	84:10,14 85:7	soldiering 155:19	spasming 43:1
179:8 183:3	87:21 135:17	sole 129:9	• 0
six-month 149:5	145:14 146:22		spasms 22:11 135:8
Sixty-three 187:5	162:3 169:5,6,7	solutions 62:7	1.0.0

		T	
spasticity 100:20	114:18	standing 44:8	stenosis 115:5
speak 34:20 43:18	115:6,7,18	73:7,8,9	step 7:20 64:13,17
58:20 87:10	116:14	Stanford 167:15	197:22
100:3 112:5,8	spine 115:20 136:8	start 2:20 16:18	Stephen 62:22
173:17,20	167:6	49:13 56:20	steps 186:9
194:14,18	spirit 54:16	63:21 79:22 80:2	•
SPEAKER 142:5	spoke 69:3 102:7	97:1 101:5	sticking 57:7
171:16 177:17	spoken 84:4	111:21,22 112:2	stiff 124:8
208:11	194:10	138:11 140:16 167:8 172:14	stiffness 21:22
speakers 183:4	sponsor 205:6	177:10 183:22	48:13 72:17
speaking 99:5	-	186:2,6 188:14	100:12 206:18
190:11 206:8	spot 63:16 113:14	191:8 192:7	stigma 89:19
special 36:15 90:1	spots 72:9,13	194:3	194:19 197:19
118:4 176:18	200:14	started 4:2 18:2	198:20
specialist 133:13	spouse 90:7	63:7 84:9 85:6	stimulants
specializes 196:12	sprained 62:21	109:11 117:4,6	169:15,20
species 205:3,8	spray 160:19	145:6 149:10	179:16
•	161:2	188:16 192:3	stimuli 70:16
species-specific 205:10	spread 21:8 37:20	Starting 129:4	71:14
	38:6	starts 63:16	sting 136:9
specific 14:18 21:1	spring 1:10 8:6	151:10	stings 105:6,19
26:14,17 27:1,14 46:6 65:1	squad 63:3,4	state 29:9,10,11	stomach
110:8,15 111:4	<u> </u>	43:5,10 73:2	176:18,19,20
130:11 140:15	SSRIs 190:6	79:6 132:12	stop 40:6 64:3
158:13,16	St 121:9	182:21,22	80:15 101:6,9
174:10,18 180:5	stabbing 74:1,3,4	statement 174:1	114:8 116:9
193:17	stability 129:12	200:21	125:16,18
specifically 105:5	staff 7:4 19:2,10	States 20:7 116:12	146:12 177:13
181:6	51:18	stay 34:10 37:14	181:3,17
specifics 110:8	stage 26:4	52:3 54:8 57:20	stopped 115:7
spectra 120:20	<u> </u>	63:16 74:10 76:6	136:4 146:14 147:17 149:3
spend 125:4	stairs 44:20	89:17 119:22	
167:17	stake 201:13	120:14 168:18 169:4 177:9	stopping 118:20 186:21
spending 113:1	stakeholders	183:4 184:1	
199:8	14:16 182:10	stayed 147:17	stops 146:8 147:5
spent 112:16	stand 50:10 68:13	168:2	stories 68:19 104:3
192:19	74:10 95:7		story 28:10 40:13
sperm 190:8	125:20	staying 21:22	42:9 49:10 67:11
•	standard 43:7	steal 163:14	128:10
spinal 20:19	199:5		

		<u> </u>	
strain 92:20	submit 32:2,4	118:15 139:2	204:4
strains 189:2	87:6,12 111:7,9	140:2 164:5	sweater 77:7 98:9
strangers 180:13	submitted 16:4 18:21	support 25:3 33:12 37:8	sweaty 154:4
Strategic 2:3,11		47:3,7,10 55:17	swell 92:14
4:5 7:7	subpopulations 12:11	102:3 139:6	swelled 146:20
strength 92:15 129:22	subset 115:13	178:21 185:14 198:7	swelling 24:3 52:6,12
stress 20:15 21:14	substances 196:2	supporting 113:8	swim 134:15
45:18 48:19 49:3	suburbs 36:7	supportive 47:8	swimming 134:21
76:11 115:8 116:5 178:8	subway 52:18	55:18	_
	success 18:14	supposed 40:9	switch 110:1
stressful 139:4,18	169:17	sure 9:16 13:19	swollen 50:4 52:4
stretch 5:15 115:6	sudden 24:6 64:2	34:17 39:5,17,22	sympathetic 113:11
stretches 121:17	Sudoku 121:3	41:17 56:7 60:11 67:2 68:13 82:18	
122:1	Sue 81:1 91:5	88:21 91:10	symposiums 191:21
Stretching 47:14	156:22	105:13 139:8	
strike 81:9	suffering 206:4	144:10 150:2	symptom 21:6 22:5,19 23:18
strong 21:16	suggest 68:5 187:2	154:20 158:18	34:8,12 43:17
stronger 136:3	205:9	171:9 173:5 183:12 189:8	70:18 78:3 82:20
strongly 203:1	suicidal 24:2 99:7	199:5 202:10	95:21 102:9
struck 180:18	suicide 102:20,21	204:5 207:4,9	103:10 141:13 175:22
struggle 44:2	sum 16:5	surgeon 113:12	symptom-free
87:19 108:6	summarize 31:2	surgery 177:2	171:4,10 172:16
struggling 76:3	203:18 207:12	surprise 54:2	symptoms 2:18
161:1	summarized 30:22	surprising 139:14	6:10 20:3
stuck 4:16,17	summarizing	surroundings	22:12,13,14,16
student 126:18	18:18	96:11	23:9 24:17,21 25:7
studied 9:21	summer 98:15	survey 30:6 90:20	26:11,13,16,20
studies 9:22 10:3	summertime	99:6 184:11,12	27:3,15 33:8
62:3 129:5 160:1	172:13	185:7 187:19	34:6 39:2,13
188:20	sun 123:13	188:3,4	42:12 46:9,13 47:21 51:1 55:11
190:15,16	sunny 171:21	surveys 100:10,14	61:12 63:12
stuff 44:21 64:14 139:16 189:10	super-caffeine	susceptible 205:8	66:12 68:8
208:2	168:13	suspect 205:21	70:6,10
stupid 155:5	supplement	sustained 30:19	82:12,15,17 83:17 85:11
style 29:7 68:10	161:15	swear 146:18	86:2,4 88:14
style 27.7 00.10	supplements		

89:9 91:9,15 203:12 talks 192:18 135:19 98:5,12,18 99:8,20 102:16 104:15 107:9,17 108:9 110:15,19 tackle 140:4 tapering 191:9 term 76:6 89:1 108:9 110:15,19 tackle 140:4 target 110:12 terms 9:21 10:2 26:19 43:13 9 124:5,7,9 125:14 tailor 17:20 targeted 17:12,21 26:19 43:13 9 94:6 143:11 144:11 167:1 144:11 167:1 144:11 167:1 144:11 167:1 144:11 167:1 178:12 185:1 178:12 185:1 186:9 189:16 191:8 192:21 186:9 189:16 191:8 192:21 191:8 192:21 186:9 189:16 191:8 192:21 191:8 192:2
99:8,20 102:16 104:15 107:9,17 108:9 110:15,19 112:15 115:10 124:5,7,9 125:14 127:9 129:19 130:11,19,20 131:17 132:3,5,17 141:13 171:6 172:19 173:4 174:5 180:5 181:17 185:5 206:9,12,15,17 207:14 syndrome 19:22 tackle 140:4 tacks 119:10 target 110:12 targeted 17:12,21 130:11 132:1 targeting 207:13 taught 46:20 tea 121:14 team 7:15 120:3 178:12 185:16 191:8 192:21 terribly 13:3 terrific 194:4 team 7:15 120:3 170:20 tease 82:7 141:3 151:22 187:1 193:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 terms 9:21 10:2 26:19 43:13:9 94:6 143:11 144:11 167:1 178:12 185:1 179:10 112:21 terms 9:21 10:2 26:19 43:13:9 94:6 143:11 144:11 167:1 178:12 185:1 179:12 178:12 185:1 179:13 178:12 185:1 179:13 179:14 179:14 179:14 179:14 179:14 179:14 179:14 179:14 179:14 179:15 179:17 179:17 179:17 179:18 179:18 179:19 17
104:15 107:9,17 108:9 110:15,19 tackle 140:4 tapering 191:9 terms 9:21 10:2 112:15 115:10 124:5,7,9 125:14 tailor 17:20 targeted 17:12,21 94:6 143:11 127:9 129:19 130:11,19,20 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 178:12 185:1 131:17 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 186:9 189:16 133:21 138:17 120:18 taught 46:20 191:8 192:21 141:13 171:6 120:18 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 172:19 173:4 140:4 141:1,4 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 170:20 tease 82:7 141:3 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 147:18 150:15 153:14,15 207:14 156:10 161:10 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
108:9 110:15,19 tackle 140:4 target 110:12 terms 9:21 10:2 112:15 115:10 124:5,7,9 125:14 tailor 17:20 targeted 17:12,21 26:19 43:13 9 127:9 129:19 130:11,19,20 Taiwanese 119:7 targeting 207:13 130:11 132:1 144:11 167:1 131:17 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 186:9 189:16 191:8 192:21 133:21 138:17 120:18 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 141:13 171:6 139:9,16,20 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 172:19 173:4 140:4 141:1,4 team 7:15 120:3 terrific 194:4 174:5 180:5 145:13 146:3,14 tease 82:7 141:3 60:15 120:19 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 tease 82:7 141:3 124:13,14 16 206:9,12,15,17 153:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9 syndrome 19:22 160:10:10 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
112:15 115:10 tacks 119:10 targeted 17:12,21 26:19 43:13 9 124:5,7,9 125:14 tailor 17:20 targeted 17:12,21 30:11 132:1 144:11 167:1 130:11,19,20 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 178:12 185:1 131:17 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 186:9 189:16 132:3,5,17 133:21 138:17 120:18 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 141:13 171:6 139:9,16,20 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 terribly 13:3 174:5 180:5 140:4 141:1,4 team 7:15 120:3 test 35:16,18 4 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 147:18 150:15 151:22 187:1 193:14,15 207:14 156:10 161:10 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
124:5,7,9 125:14 tailor 17:20 130:11 132:1 144:11 167:1 130:11,19,20 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 178:12 185:1 131:17 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 186:9 189:16 133:21 138:17 120:18 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 141:13 171:6 139:9,16,20 team 7:15 120:3 terribly 13:3 172:19 173:4 140:4 141:1,4 team 7:15 120:3 terribly 13:3 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 tease 82:7 141:3 124:13,14 16 206:9,12,15,17 153:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 124:13,14 16 syndrome 19:22 156:10 161:10 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
Taiwanese 119:7 targeting 207:13 178:12 185:1 130:11,19,20 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 131:17 77:20 96:16 tea 121:14 133:21 138:17 120:18 teach 193:4 141:13 171:6 139:9,16,20 teach 193:4 172:19 173:4 140:4 141:1,4 team 7:15 120:3 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 tease 82:7 141:3 206:9,12,15,17 153:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 207:14 156:10 161:10 teaspoon 178:1
130:11,19,20 131:17 taking 44:10 60:17 taught 46:20 186:9 189:16 132:3,5,17 77:20 96:16 tea 121:14 191:8 192:21 133:21 138:17 120:18 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 172:19 173:4 140:4 141:1,4 team 7:15 120:3 terrific 194:4 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 170:20 tease 82:7 141:3 60:15 120:19 206:9,12,15,17 153:14,15 153:14,15 151:22 187:1 193:14,15 syndrome 19:22 156:10 161:10 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
132:3,5,17 77:20 96:16 tea 121:14 terribly 13:3 133:21 138:17 120:18 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 141:13 171:6 139:9,16,20 teach 193:4 terribly 13:3 172:19 173:4 140:4 141:1,4 team 7:15 120:3 test 35:16,18 4 181:17 185:5 145:13 146:3,14 tease 82:7 141:3 60:15 120:19 206:9,12,15,17 153:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 193:14,15 syndrome 19:22 156:10 161:10 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
133:21 138:17 141:13 171:6 172:19 173:4 174:5 180:5 181:17 185:5 206:9,12,15,17 207:14 syndrome 19:22 120:18 139:9,16,20 140:4 141:1,4 140:4 141:1,4 142:6,12,18 145:13 146:3,14 147:18 150:15 153:14,15 teach 193:4 teach 193:4 team 7:15 120:3 170:20 tease 82:7 141:3 151:22 187:1 153:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
172:19 173:4 174:5 180:5 181:17 185:5 206:9,12,15,17 207:14 syndrome 19:22 139.9,10,20 140:4 141:1,4 140:4 141:1,4 142:6,12,18 142:6,12,18 145:13 146:3,14 147:18 150:15 153:14,15 team 7:15 120:3 170:20 tease 82:7 141:3 151:22 187:1 153:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
174:5 180:5 181:17 185:5 206:9,12,15,17 207:14 syndrome 19:22 142:6,12,18 142:6,12,18 145:13 146:3,14 147:18 150:15 153:14,15 156:10 161:10 team 715 120:3 170:20 tease 82:7 141:3 151:22 187:1 159:14,15 teaspoon 178:1 test 35:16,18 4 60:15 120:19 124:13,14 16 193:14,15 testable 132:9
181:17 185:5 206:9,12,15,17 207:14 syndrome 19:22 145:13 146:3,14 147:18 150:15 153:14,15 156:10 161:10 tease 82:7 141:3 151:22 187:1 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
206:9,12,15,17 207:14
syndrome 19:22 153:14,15 156:10 161:10 teaspoon 178:1 testable 132:9
Syndrome 19.22
20:4 22:9 24:4,5 52:2 62:4 6 76:5 166:8 177:2 technical 70:22 testing 59:8
181:3 185:20 techniques 23:4 tests 50:18 120
93:16 107:12 113:4,5 114:16 186:3,5,6,7,18 116:14 119:18 thank 4:9,22
174:4 190:22 197:11 206:3 7:19,22 8:1
200:12 talk 14:9 29:7 40:7 technology 29:18 13:21 26:2,3
synthesizing 160:4 65:11 68:10 teenager 158:1 36:18 38:18 69:10 17 72:7 22 teenager 158:1 39:1,14 42:7
12.150.20 $09.10,17/2.7,22$ teens $108.7,9$
114:4,7,19 117:8 80.22 88.12,18 temperature 48:10 49:6,10,12
129:18 179:6 140:16 160:8 78:7 54:18,19 55:2
systematic 15:8 174:18 179:22 temperatures 58:17,21 62:
184:20 185:1 180:12 202:11 48:13 68:3,4,15 72:
talked 34:13 56:20 ten 38:7 39:3 62:3 78:14 81:10 8
systematically 72:20 95:21 178:4,5 86:17 87:1.2
14:21 127:16 150:4 tend 52:2 88:6 91:8 92:
systems 21:4 114:6 151:20 165:12 173:9 176:10 tender 21:7 93:2 95:8 97:
182:3 202:15 19 59:9,10 72:9,13 98.3 99.9,10
system's 20:13
80.14 93.17 tends 52:3 204:10 106.22 107.2
106.9 120.15 tenets 125.11 108.21
T7 134:7 146:10 147:11 Tennant 196:13 109:2,8,19
table 5:13 13:20 150:1 159:17 TENS 134:1 112:3,4,6 15:5 30:14 33:22 160:10 TENS 134:1 116:19,20
15:5 30:14 33:22 160:10 1ENS 134:1 116:19,20

	rag		
123:19	119:13,14	therefore 153:7	threatening 24:6
127:20,21	120:15 121:4	205:4	threw 61:8
132:19,22	124:18 126:7	there's 5:11,12	
133:2,5	127:5 143:20	6:21 13:15 27:17	throbbing 42:20 52:12 72:18
137:7,8,12	144:8 150:18	32:8 33:9,21	143:3
140:12 144:13	151:14 153:8	35:7,8 37:5,6	
148:6,9 154:22	156:18 159:20	39:15 41:17	throughout 16:8
156:22 158:2	160:18 162:5	55:13 61:21	114:13 117:7
164:14 165:11 167:20 169:10	166:13 167:9 176:2 189:12	64:10 68:12	161:17 165:18
174:22 175:1,22		71:10 73:1 74:13	throw 64:18
174.22 173.1,22	theirs 106:6	81:11,16 83:13	205:20
179:20	themes 181:2	88:10 91:7 94:13	throwing 63:2
180:1,8,13,14	themselves 4:8 7:4	95:17 102:22 152:13	thrown 62:6
181:19 184:3,4	10:5 40:8 75:15		thumbs 41:21
188:6 191:6,10	91:4 111:19	thermometer 78:6	
193:21 194:2	167:12 192:15	they'd 19:5	thyroid 99:16
199:13,14,15,20 202:4,5	theories 20:16	they'll 29:3	tight 74:16
202:4,3	theorized 20:12	they're 13:9 17:15	tightness 48:14
207:17	theory 83:13,21	30:13 60:5 88:21	timekeeper 170:2
208:10,16,20	114:3	92:18 95:12	timeline 15:14
209:2	therapeutic 2:12	164:19 167:5,14	
thankful 68:18	19:20	180:6 190:7	timely 200:6
Thankfully 81:21		204:2	timer 183:8,9
thanking 194:3	therapeutics 207:15	they've 28:3 46:20 89:1	ting 3:8
_			tingling 22:10
thanks 14:3,4	therapies 23:2,6 24:10,20,22 25:5	third 51:13 162:17	tiny 92:7
62:14 77:12 83:1 104:8 156:6	131:16 139:6,9	thirds 36:11	tip 199:7
170:9 179:13	164:6,18 165:1,5	Thirty-seven	tired 45:1 62:9
202:3	166:1	187:11	82:3,19 97:12,16
that's 6:17	181:1,13,15,16	THOMPSON	117:18 118:8
8:4,20,21 10:22	therapist 130:1	36:20 38:5,21	
11:5,17 12:4	therapy 23:2 25:3	39:11 40:2,17	tiredness
15:3,7 17:22	66:14 84:13	41:2,5 58:19	51:10,21,22 87:20
19:12 31:17 32:4	114:12,22	72:1 88:10 95:14	
34:11 35:8 37:22	116:3,8,18	102:18 140:7	tissue 20:1
40:3 54:15 64:19	125:10	158:8	tittered 61:8
67:11,13 74:19	127:15,18 129:9	thoughts 30:3 45:8	TM
75:18 77:18	135:18 139:1,5	54:10,13 67:14	133:10,11,13,20
	· ·		TMJ 117:8 133:13
102:11 118:7,10	thereby 56:1	130.13 103.18	6:2,19 9:15
78:12 82:16 85:7 93:17 96:1 98:16 99:8 101:17 102:11 118:7,10	140:2,11 202:2 206:22 thereby 56:1	88:4 102:20 123:9 132:20 136:13 163:18	TMJ 117:8 133:12 today 4:15,18 5:2

	1 48		
11:18 12:13	18:7 26:9 30:3	transparent	128:12 129:15
13:21 15:7 28:6	33:8,10,17,20	182:17	131:8
30:2,22 31:12	34:15 109:22	trauma 76:4	132:12,18,21
32:22 33:5,7,14	137:10 181:20		134:5 135:15
34:5,9,21 39:7	182:8,9	traumatic 76:5	136:22 137:20
40:9 49:21 51:4	Torres 101:2	travel 53:9 67:1	138:20 147:12
69:3 86:15 98:7		89:14 206:5	153:3 154:20
104:14 111:12	total 15:19 16:5	traveling 122:8	156:8 158:14,15
112:8 116:19	64:2 81:16	196:10 208:18	165:2,17 167:3
123:22 125:14	totally 53:5 93:11		168:16
129:16 170:5	touch 45:5 67:17	travelled 36:16	170:13,14
176:10 180:9	113:9,13 134:13	travelling 49:20	173:10 174:12
182:3 186:13	touched 14:5	travels 208:17	194:15 195:15
193:19 202:12	72:19		196:11 200:7
206:1		traverses 36:14	207:2
today's 4:6 26:1	touching 64:6	trazodon 60:22	treatments 19:9
33:19	towards 17:7,21	Trazodone 117:19	22:18 24:17
toenails 168:20	39:12	133:22 142:6	26:21
tolerate 13:14,17	towels 64:14	trea 3:8	27:11,12,13,18
43:3 76:10	townhouse 64:21	treat 12:22 15:21	33:9 77:2
		24:13,18 27:9	110:1,9,11,14,19
tomorrow 56:5 67:8	toxic 13:10	126:16 127:9	,20,21 123:17 127:7 129:18
	toxicity 145:12	130:7 138:17	132:1 134:14,17
tongue 146:21	track 56:10 183:10	164:11 169:16	135:7 138:4,19
tonight 56:3,4	tradeoff 153:12	193:7 201:18	141:14 142:3
67:8		treated 8:19 10:18	147:11 150:3
tool 156:20	traditionally 59:3	11:8,12 169:14	152:3,7,10
	training 126:19	174:19,20	166:15,16
tools 115:1 200:5	127:3 129:22	,	167:11,18 176:9
top 58:3 63:14	130:6	treating 6:13	180:5 181:3,4,5
70:11 71:4,11,21	Tramadol 129:2	10:21 11:1 25:7	185:6,10 192:6
72:15 74:14	142:15 151:5	27:8 116:15 129:16 130:1	201:1,3,4
75:13 98:6,17	153:15	129:16 130:1	treats 84:1
134:10 147:22	tranquilize 61:1		tremendous
topic 2:17,18	-	treatment 8:17	174:15
3:2,6,7,10 6:22	transcribed	11:14 13:8 14:10	
14:14 27:7,22	182:15	15:2 17:13	tremendously
34:6 77:3	TRANSCRIBER	22:17,21 23:4	195:2
109:9,20 111:16	210:1	25:6,13 27:17	trial 142:13
140:14 165:18	transcript 5:6	109:6 110:2,4,6 111:5 112:20	trials 25:13,16
topical 12:21	210:3	111.3 112.20	144:10 189:5
160:18	transcriptionist	126:15	201:12
topics 6:9,18 14:5	41:22	127:13,19	tried 60:19 66:10
1,	71.22	127.13,17	ti icu 00.19 00.10

·	rage		
128:10,13 129:1	turmeric 177:21	unbelievably	25:18 180:18
135:3 153:17	turn 13:22 49:14	121:20	unit 64:13 134:1
154:4,13,14	76:1 77:14	underactive 99:16	135:19
157:7 169:15,20	134:21		United 20:7
175:10 179:1	turned 98:14	underlying 24:18 83:15 110:13	116:12
185:22		140:19 152:2,6	
trigger 21:2	turning 125:9	181:18	University 105:2 193:16
117:20 135:17	turnout 8:3	underneath 64:14	
136:4 173:3	TV 80:9		unknown 20:11
200:8,15	twelve 63:6	understand 9:17	unpredictable
triggers 173:3		10:16 17:20	81:6
trimester 155:21	twice 98:15 143:5	26:19 39:20 58:6	unrefreshing
trouble 162:3,14	162:1	110:3 125:8 130:3	113:6
171:18,22	twitching 98:22	175:9,13,16	unrelenting 63:15
202:17	two-year-old	187:1,15 206:3	J
	67:18	·	unstable 107:14
truck 80:12	type 43:2 56:20	understanding	unusual 59:15
true 86:2 174:8	74:22 77:7 80:15	14:22 15:10 19:8 49:22 57:14	update 207:10
truly 180:3	87:20 103:9	111:13 137:18	upload 32:3
trust 78:10 91:3	169:15 205:11	197:20	-
205:4	types 26:19 42:16		upon 34:8 35:14
	46:12 48:15	understands 120:12	88:16
try 31:2 46:21 47:12,20 77:14	72:21 73:20		upper 50:16 73:13
79:22 84:13 86:9	107:10,14 119:5	understood 25:10	98:21 106:6
96:9 118:21	134:17 138:19	69:12	115:19 136:7
119:20 121:17	141:5 174:12	unending 51:7	ups 59:20
122:1	179:3,4	Unexpected 54:1	upset 62:19
134:14,20,22	typical 6:5 96:3	unexpectedly	-
135:6 137:4	97:13	189:1	useful 165:20 170:7 186:8
145:2,16 148:11	typically 6:17		201:19
149:7 166:3	22:19 34:3	unexplained 50:3 188:16	
174:11 207:3,8	148:11		user 160:16
trying 6:2 10:16		unfair 112:1	usual 54:7
43:22 49:1,2		unfortunate 36:18	usually 57:22
52:10 53:8 54:13	ultimately 12:14	Unfortunately 8:7	94:17 119:13
61:10 73:8 87:20	16:7 181:15	50:8 53:1 134:15	162:3 172:8
94:18 147:19	Ultracet 146:12	135:4 172:14	189:3
149:16 174:16		UNIDENTIFIED	utility 12:5
178:8 181:17	Ultram 46:15	76:2 98:20 142:5	UVA 124:19
191:5	146:12 147:16	171:16 177:17	U V A 124.19
tumors 189:6	unable 53:16	208:11	V
tuna 43:22	135:4	unique 18:19	v
		unique 10.19	

<u></u>	1 ag		1
vacuums 14:14	VIII 144:6	waiting 109:15	ways 5:2 12:8 19:8
VALENTINE	Vioxx 156:6	wake 56:21 62:9	26:19 27:14
163:22 180:20	Virginia 36:7	81:15 93:20	69:19 72:8 82:17 201:18 203:5
Valerie	128:2 196:8	135:10	201.18 203.3
73:3,15,16,18,19	virtually 75:3	waking 150:4,6,7	weak 44:21 107:14
97:9,10 154:22	159:22	Waldrop	weakness 22:10
validate 47:7	viruses 20:13	103:19,21	107:13
valuable 209:1	vision 53:13,14	walk 5:15 7:1	weather 21:14
value 206:6	89:4 90:15	44:14,22 47:12,13 52:5,9	45:18 48:8 49:4
van 66:15	91:13,17 92:2,11	53:4 76:21 94:21	172:18
vanilla 132:2	93:8,10 94:2 155:14	96:16 154:17	web 8:4 30:16,20
variation 18:5	visit 66:16	180:15	36:4,19,20
varied 132:3		Walker 80:22 81:1	38:4,5,13,20 39:10,22 40:14
varies 24:9	visits 22:21 50:18	155:3,13	58:21 70:5
	visual 206:17	walking 73:7	71:2,22 72:1
variety 20:11	vitally 86:6,13	101:5 128:19	87:6,7 88:9
various 11:11 21:7 23:5 72:8 151:5	vitamin 99:13	157:11 203:10	90:12 91:12,15
	120:18	walks 52:16 57:6	95:15,17 101:14 102:15 103:7
vary 21:13 22:12	160:2,3,4,7	wall 63:22	111:8 137:16
vascular 43:2	vitamins 118:15 120:18,22	walls 94:21	140:6 158:9
veg 80:18 81:3	147:21	Ward 74:1,3,5	161:18 163:16
veil 93:22	vivid 94:9	133:2,8 136:15	178:17
vera 121:10	voice 5:1 18:17	163:2	180:17,22 181:11 204:14
Verapamil 130:12		warm 53:18	web-based 184:6
versa 130:5	voices 184:22 202:20 203:3,6	warmed 79:11,12	
version 156:12	Voltaren 121:8	Warwick 62:19	webcast 4:20,22 5:6 18:20
versus 174:15		Washington 8:6	30:17,21 31:2,8
vertebrae 114:14	volume 41:17	36:6,8,12 105:2	35:6 103:14
	voluntary 30:8	wasn't 60:14 62:20	140:7
vertigo 89:5 141:18 157:9	187:9	66:5 105:1,13	website 5:7
	volunteer 97:16	135:2 154:1 175:17 195:15	31:17,20 32:1
vibrations 77:16,17	vomiting 153:19	204:4 206:20	87:13 111:7 114:17 173:1
,	Von 144:4	watch 8:4 77:20	181:22
vice 130:4 199:21		80:9	we'd 26:22 82:7
vicious 168:10	W 40 20 57 21	watching 9:14	87:13 88:5 96:1
view 88:17	wait 40:20 57:21 69:20 94:1	76:8 178:7	110:6 135:6
views 34:21	109:13 152:15	water 52:14	182:17
	107.10 102.10		

	1 48		
Wednesday 1:7	8:12,20 9:22	166:2 190:21	67:7 120:16
	10:7,21	192:20	155:18
week 119:2,10	11:1,18,19,20		
122:9 155:6,8,10	12:18 15:7	who's 14:1 30:2,19	wooden 168:20
weekend 40:11	26:10,12 27:20	36:1 38:19 43:6 47:9	woodpecker 79:20
weekly 119:1	30:8 33:5		work 9:18 10:6
weeks 58:2,3	35:9,10,16 36:13	whose 150:6	11:20 12:5,9,11
92:19	37:12 41:16	who've 8:3	18:18 27:13
177:10,12,13	43:16 69:14	wide 38:12 103:2	53:11 55:16
191:5 196:11	85:16 86:7,8	137:19 138:20	57:16 58:1,14
	87:3 95:15 96:18	157:13 130:20	59:11 66:10
weight 121:19	103:11 109:4		77:16,19 81:21
131:3,11 145:18	160:6 163:11	widespread 20:2	85:22 86:5 89:10
154:3,6 168:10	178:16,17	63:15	92:6 94:19 116:8
weird 144:9	182:15 183:8	wife 49:20 50:12	117:3 120:3
welcome 2:1 4:10	184:6 189:8	51:16 52:13	122:2 128:3
8:1 32:5,18	192:2 197:7,14	Willebrand's	130:20 135:2
ŕ	202:21 205:4	144:4	137:5,6 143:14
welcoming 7:21	we've 8:11		149:13 150:17
we'll 6:19 16:18	10:9,13,16 11:9	willing 13:13,17	153:16
17:6 27:7,10	12:3 18:12,16	28:8	154:10,18 155:9
28:20 29:1 31:5	28:1 29:17 40:16	willingly 133:19	170:16 175:12
40:19,22 41:1	41:21 79:21	WILSON 73:3,17	177:11 179:19
58:18 68:20 69:8	83:14 87:5 96:17	96:3 97:14	191:17 192:1
71:2 73:21 75:22	100:10 142:9	153:14	205:7
77:1,3,8 80:20	165:12 182:2		worked 29:14
82:7 84:3 85:15	whatever 48:22	window 168:21	114:22
86:22 91:21 93:3		205:17	136:11,14,16
94:15 99:10	166:9 177:4	WINE 146:2	137:2 144:9
100:1,22	whatsoever 156:18	147:9,15 148:7	working 10:10,14
101:1,13 116:21	wheel 169:2	winter 172:9	12:7,8,9 28:2
127:22 138:8	wheelchair 45:21	wisdom 75:8	29:6 40:10 54:7
139:14 142:10,11	Whereupon 209:3		56:5 73:5 130:22
144:15	-	wish 131:19 166:16 182:21	136:4 147:14,18
148:19,20	whether 10:20	194:4	148:13,14
150:12 153:1	12:16 147:14		160:15 165:13
155:1 157:1,2,3	148:12 157:6	withdrawing 54:5	170:21 172:6
158:5,9 159:11	181:3 187:8	woman 142:21	180:6 193:8
170:10,11	194:13,17	159:17	works 61:11 119:8
176:13 183:22	208:17,18	women 20:7	128:10 129:19
203:8 207:3	whiplashes 114:13	152:21 155:22	131:16 136:10
Wellbutrin	White 1:8		138:12 145:17
145:11,16	whole 61:12 120:8	wonder 156:6	154:21 156:16
ĺ	122:16 164:6	wonderful 60:18	157:18 165:14
we're 5:21 6:7	122.10 107.0		

	rag	C 10	
workshop 86:7	53:10 62:1 98:7		
world 44:17	101:18 124:1		
worried 127:1	139:7 144:3 173:9 189:22		
worries 45:19	yoga 25:1		
135:13	York 49:18,20		
worry 199:10	52:18 106:17		
worse 43:10 56:14	you'll 7:1 18:4		
61:15 78:13 124:9 131:7	31:20 49:14		
173:4	young 93:5 96:13		
worsen 22:15	97:5 124:22 159:17 195:7		
worsened 45:13	younger 37:17,21		
worsening 27:3	38:6 59:3 189:21		
44:3 189:6	youngest 50:9		
worst 45:22	yourself 203:4		
48:8,16 61:8 67:10,22 84:11	you've 28:1 36:2		
118:7	107:19 122:14		
Wort 121:9	125:12 135:12 194:9 197:16		
wound 15:6			
wrap 183:11	Z		
197:10	Zanaflex 133:21		
wraps 207:21	zero 122:4 178:5		
write 51:15	Zoloft 128:15		
87:7,11	130:15 zombie 128:20		
writer 62:22 133:9	Zomble 128.20		
writing 175:14			
written 208:6			
X			
x-rays 50:18			
114:14			
Y			
YANOSY			
210:2,12			
yellow 95:13			
yet 27:17 34:13			