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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

STUDY APPROACHES AND METHODS TO EVALUATE
THE SAFETY OF DRUGS AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS
DURING PREGNANCY IN THE POST-APPROVAL SETTING

PUBLIC MEETING
Docket Number FDA-2014-N-0157

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FDA White Oak Campus 10903 New Hampshire Avenue Building 31, Conference Center The Great Room, Room 1503 Silver Spring, Maryland

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Capital Reporting Company

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		4
1	CONTENTS	
2	Welcome and Introduction	6
3	Vicki Moyer, MS	
4	Senior Regulatory Project Manager, Pediatric and Maternal Health Staff	
5	(PMHS), Office of New Drugs (OND), Center	
6	for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Meeting Objectives and Goals	8
7	Solomon Iyasu, MD, MPH	
8	Director, Office of Pharmacovigilance & Epidemiology (OPE), Office of Surveillance	
9	and Epidemiology (OSE), CDER	
10	Opening Remarks Lynne Yao, MD	19
11	Associate Director, PMHS, OND, CDER	
12	Pregnancy Registries and Other Post-approval Studies Current Status and FDA Observations	26
13	Leyla Sahin, MD, FACOG Medical Officer, PMHS, OND, CDER	31
14		21
15	Hoda T. Hammad, MS, MPH ORISE Fellow, OPE, OSE, CDER	31
16	Clarifying Questions for the Presenters from the Panel	42
17		4.2
18	Topic 1: Pregnancy Registries - Perspectives/Challenges Relating to Data Collection and Analyses	43
19		4.2
20	Moderator Introduction to Topic 1:	43
21	Melissa S. Tassinari, PhD, DABT Senior Clinical Advisor, PMHS, OND, CDER	
22		

			5
1	CONTENTS (Cont.)		J
2	Study Design and Methodology	44	
3	Sonia Hernandez-Diaz, MD, DrPH		
4	Director of the Pharmacoepidemiology Program and Associate Professor of		
5	Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health		
6	Comparison Group	67	
7	Lewis B. Holmes, MD Director, North American Anti-Epileptic		
8	Drug Pregnancy Registry, Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School		
9		0.2	
10	Multi-product Registries	92	
11	Jessica Albano, PhD, MPH Sr. Director, Epidemiology, Post Approval & Strategic Services,		
12	INC Research LLC		
13	Data Collection/Experience with Vaccines	108	
14	Adel Abou-Ali, PharmD, ScD, MD Deputy Director of Global		
15	Pharmacoepidemiology and Risk Management, Sanofi Pasteur		
16	(Industry representative)		
17	Clarifying Questions for the Presenters from the Panel	123	
18	Topic 1 Panel Discussion and Q&A	130	
19			
20	Moderator Wrap-up Morning Session	187	
21	* * * * *		
22			

		6
1	PROCEEDINGS	O
2	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	
3	MS. MOYER: My name is Vicki Moyer. And	
4	I serve as a regulatory project manager in the	
5	Center for Drug Evaluation and Research in the	
6	Office of New Drugs in the Pediatric and Maternal	
7	Health Staff.	
8	On behalf of the Planning Committee, I	
9	welcome you to this public meeting to discuss	
10	study approaches and methods to evaluate the	
11	safety of drugs and biological products during	
12	pregnancy in the post-approval setting. Your	
13	attendance and participation today in person and	
14	via the webcast are sincerely appreciated. We	
15	would like to thank the many individuals inside	
16	and outside of FDA who have put a significant	
17	amount of time and effort into bringing this	
18	meeting to fruition.	
19	Before we begin, I would like to share a	
20	few housekeeping details. Please silence your	
21	cell phones and Blackberries and other devices.	
22	Please check in at the tables outside the lobby if	

7

you have not done so already. Agendas and discussion questions are available at the registration tables. Open public comment speakers need to 4 sign in at the speaker registration table. 5 have not checked in at the meeting registration desk, you need to do so. Otherwise, you may not be able to speak during your time. If you have not registered in advance to speak and would like to speak, we will try to accommodate you if we 10 have extra time. Alternatively, please submit 11 your comments to the public docket. 12 The slide presentations for all of our 13 presenters will be posted on the FDA webpage with 15 the meeting announcement. Transcripts of the meeting will be available approximately 30 days 16 17 after the meeting. We encourage you to post 18 comments to the docket, which is open until June 19 30th, 2014 for your feedback. 20 Restrooms are outside of the main conference room in the back of the lobby area, 21 towards the coffee kiosk. We will have a 15-

- 1 minute break at around 9:45 in the morning and
- 2 also one around 3:20 in the afternoon. Lunch will
- 3 be at noon. At the kiosks in the lobby, coffee
- 4 and other refreshments are available for purchase
- 5 during the breaks and lunch hour.
- 6 Before proceeding with our first
- 7 speaker, I will provide the panel members with
- 8 some instructions and ask them to introduce
- 9 themselves. During the meeting, please remember
- 10 to turn on and speak into the microphones every
- 11 time the moderator recognizes you to speak and
- 12 turn them off when you're not speaking. Clearly
- 13 state your name each time before you speak since
- 14 the meeting will be transcribed.
- Now I would like to introduce Dr.
- 16 Solomon Iyasu, who will be our first speaker.
- 17 MEETING OBJECTIVES AND GOALS
- DR. IYASU: Good morning. It is my
- 19 pleasure to welcome you on behalf of CDER and FDA
- 20 to this public workshop, which is really a very
- 21 important activity that we have been concerned
- 22 about for some time. And so Dr. Kweder, who is

- 1 actually the deputy director, is running late. So
- 2 maybe if she arrives in time, she might want to
- 3 give some remarks. But for the purpose of the
- 4 first introduction into this subject area, I just
- 5 wanted to lay out sort of what the needs are and
- 6 what we are gathered to do during the next day and
- 7 a half.
- 8 So the topic for discussion today is
- 9 "Study Approaches and Methods to Evaluate the
- 10 Safety of Drugs and Biological Products During
- 11 Pregnancy in the Post-Approval Setting." Okay. So
- 12 why are we here, really? As you know, human data
- 13 which is about medical product safety in pregnancy
- 14 at time of market approval is really very scant,
- 15 if not absent. So almost all the safety data that
- 16 we collect or we get about human experience is
- 17 really obtained in the post-approval period. Some
- 18 of it is because there is intentional exposure
- 19 because there are some conditions that require use
- 20 during pregnancy. So we can't really avoid it.
- 21 So we learn some -- we get some data from those
- 22 exposures or they're really for approved uses in

- 1 terms of, let's say, vaccines, where the use might
- 2 be indicated in pregnant women. So there are data
- 3 that are collected post-marketing that could be
- 4 useful, to understand, the safety profile of the
- 5 medical product.
- 6 There is also unintentional exposure to
- 7 products that happens in the post-market period.
- 8 As you know, you know, about 50 percent of
- 9 pregnancies are unplanned. So there has got to be
- 10 unintentional and also accidental exposure to
- 11 medical products during pregnancy, even before
- 12 pregnancy is recognized.
- 13 So let me just go over a little bit of
- 14 the history. I think, you know, the first
- 15 guidance that FDA published on pregnancy
- 16 registries was in 2002. In that guidance, we say
- 17 that we could request studies, primarily pregnancy
- 18 registries, of sponsors to understand the safety
- 19 profile of drugs if we have a question that is of
- 20 concern.
- 21 And generally there was voluntary
- 22 participation by pregnant women into these

- 1 registries. We specified that they should be
- 2 prospective so that outcomes are collected later
- 3 on; that is, the data collection about exposures
- 4 and other covariates should be done before the
- 5 outcome of pregnancy is known -- so that's what we
- 6 call prospective -- and that we should have a
- 7 valid reference population or comparator group to
- 8 compare it to.
- 9 So these are some of the main pillars of
- 10 this pregnancy registry, the request that we have
- 11 been issuing for several years. But things
- 12 changed in 2007 under FDAAA, which is the
- 13 legislation that provided FDA authority to
- 14 require studies if we have this prior knowledge
- 15 based on pharmacological chemical class or animal
- 16 data or clinical trial data about a potential
- 17 safety issue of a serious nature if a drug is used
- 18 during pregnancy.
- The other trigger might be that the
- 20 product is indicated for use in pregnancy as
- 21 vaccines or drugs for chronic conditions. And
- 22 another possibility or reason or trigger for

- 1 requiring studies might be that there is a high
- 2 likelihood of use in females that are of
- 3 reproductive age such that inadvertent exposure
- 4 during pregnancy may be expected. So in those
- 5 conditions, FDA does have the authority to require
- 6 studies to be conducted by sponsors.
- 7 Well, what has been our experience to
- 8 date with pregnancy registries? I think we have
- 9 had many pregnancy registries that have been
- 10 implemented. There have been some successes.
- 11 There have been some failures. So part of the
- 12 focus of today's discussion will be really to
- 13 collectively look over what our experience has
- 14 been in terms of what has been successful, what
- 15 have we gotten out of registries, how can they be
- 16 improved. So the next talk after me actually will
- 17 be an FDA presentation by Dr. Leyla Sahin and also
- 18 Hoda Hammad, who would be talking about our
- 19 experience from an exploratory analysis of
- 20 experience of registries from the FDA context,
- 21 sort of from our perspective.
- 22 We have not been really only restricted

- 1 to pregnancy registry. We have had some
- 2 initiatives also to try to sort of expand our
- 3 ability to address issues of pregnancy exposures
- 4 and safety. And one of those programs is what we
- 5 call Medication Exposure in Pregnancy Risk
- 6 Evaluation Program, which is an attempt to link
- 7 exposure data during pregnancy with outcomes,
- 8 which means linking it to the birth certificate
- 9 and other records. And so there would be actually
- 10 a presentation about this experience also. I
- 11 think it's the second day of our program.
- 12 And then there have been a number of
- 13 other federal efforts as well. And I think there
- 14 will be some talk that has been given about the
- 15 other federal efforts, including the DOD. And
- 16 also we will be looking at what opportunities
- 17 there are using or leveraging such databases.
- 18 There are also other approaches that will be
- 19 discussed, which will be a focus, really, for the
- 20 second day of the workshop, which is really
- 21 talking about alternative methods beyond pregnancy
- 22 registries, which is really an important activity.

- 1 I think there are a lot of data and opportunities
- 2 that can be taken advantage of from really
- 3 thinking about how we can make them better, how
- 4 can we leverage those databases, the methodologies
- 5 to really inform safety during pregnancy.
- 6 So, as I say, the main focus is really
- 7 on pregnancy registry but allotting a whole half-
- 8 day, really, on alternative methodologies beyond
- 9 pregnancy registries. So those are the two areas.
- 10 So we're trying to gather as much input and
- 11 suggestions from a wide variety of folks here,
- 12 including regulators, researchers, pharmaceutical
- 13 industry, the public health agencies, health care
- 14 providers and the public. So you really represent
- 15 a wide spectrum of stakeholders today. And we're
- 16 really eager to hear about your views and about
- 17 the experiences about implementing pregnancy
- 18 exposure registries with respect to really
- 19 understanding the safety profile and medications
- 20 and other products within pregnancy.
- 21 And then the second is really, as I say,
- 22 alternative complementary approaches. I mean, we

- 1 are not saying that we are abandoning the whole
- 2 effort of doing pregnancy registries but how can
- 3 we really complement that effort with other
- 4 methodologies and other databases?
- 5 So the meeting objectives are really to
- 6 understand the current status of pregnancy
- 7 exposure registries and identify successes and
- 8 challenges and also identify strategies to improve
- 9 the design and conduct of pregnancy registries so
- 10 that, you know, we get the data that it will be
- 11 important that would inform labeling, at least
- 12 from a regulatory perspective but also provide
- 13 information to patients and prescribers about
- 14 rational use of medications during pregnancy.
- We also want to get some ideas and input
- 16 about best practices for outreach and
- 17 communication about implementation of pregnancy
- 18 registries. And that's an area that we're very
- 19 concerned about. The fact that you have a
- 20 pregnancy registry out there or maybe it's
- 21 included in the label may not be enough. So what
- 22 are the other ways of really doing some metrics so

16 that enrollment and retention and also success of conducting the registries become a reality? Then the last is alternative post-3 marketing approaches for assessing medical product 4 5 safety. So today, really, a lot of the focus 6 would be on pregnancy exposure registries and 7 8 post-approval data, which will be really starting us off with a discussion about pregnancy registries. That will be the FDA presentation I 10 11 talked about. And then the topic 1 presentation, followed by a panel discussion about pregnancy 12 13 exposure registries' perspectives/challenges from the real world on data collection and analysis. 14 And the speakers and the panel questions are in your 15 16 package for that. This will be followed by an open public 17 comment. And then later in the afternoon, we will 18 19 have a specific discussion about enrollment, 20 retention, and communication regarding pregnancy registries. 21 22

17 Tomorrow will be topic 3 and topic 4. So 1 we'll be focusing entirely in the morning about alternative approaches, which will be followed 3 again by an open public comment. And then the 4 last session will be really how to move forward because, after all, the discussions and the input 6 and the recommendations will be the next steps that we need to embark on specifically about moving forward in the field so that we have, 10 actually, a system or set of databases and 11 approaches and methods that will be really 12 advancing the science in this field. I think the 13 passion is there among everybody who is working in this field, but I think we need to think beyond 14 15 sort of just the passion and then say, "What are 16 the ways that we can collaborate together? 17 are the ways that we can improve the systems? What 18 are the ways that we can really inform patients 19 and also prescribers about the safe and effective 20 use of medications during pregnancy?" 21 Well, one thing that I need to emphasize is that at this meeting, we're not going to be

- 1 talking about specific products per se. So there
- 2 will not be any product-specific discussions. It
- 3 will be really about talking about how do we get
- 4 the methods and data that are needed to inform
- 5 this field and how can we improve the systems that
- 6 we have beyond what we have been doing for the
- 7 last 10 or 20 years.
- 8 So I would caution that there should not
- 9 be any discussion about specific products or
- 10 product-specific issues at this meeting. And I
- 11 think that it would really make it very helpful to
- 12 us that all of you actually participate. We are
- 13 very eager to hear not just from the panelists
- 14 here but also from the public who are present
- 15 here. There is a lot of interest. There is a lot
- 16 of passion in this area. So step up to the mike
- 17 during the open public period. And, you know, we
- 18 would like to hear your ideas. And we want to
- 19 have an open, collaborative discussion. And at
- 20 the end of the day, you know, FDA is going to take
- 21 all of these ideas that have been generated and
- 22 try to come up with sort of better strategies for

		19
1	addressing this field.	
2	So, without further ado, I am going to	
3	introduce the next speaker. Oh, Lynne, you are	
4	going to do some remarks? Okay. So Lynne Yao is going to	
5	come to the podium and give some remarks. And she	
6	is actually the director of the Pediatric and	
7	Maternal Health Staff at FDA. She is within CDER.	
8	So thank you for stepping up.	
9	DR. YAO: Thanks, Dr. Iyasu.	
10	OPENING REMARKS	
11	DR. YAO: So I am pinch-hitting for	
12	Sandy Kweder, who is my boss. And, unfortunately,	
13	she is, we have just been told stuck with a flat	
14	tire. So we'll all keep our fingers crossed that	
15	Sandy can actually make it to work.	
16	I really don't have any prepared	
17	remarks. And I am not going to try and explain	
18	what Sandy was going to say. But I do want to	
19	make sure that we had a chance to introduce our	
20	panelists and allow our panelists to introduce	
21	themselves to each other.	
22	So why don't we go ahead and start where	

- 1 we would like to start? How about on this edge of
- 2 the horseshoe? If you could just speak into the
- 3 mike? You can just hit that button. You have to
- 4 turn it on and then turn it off. If you could
- 5 just tell us who you are and where you are from,
- 6 just a few comments about where you are from?
- 7 DR. DANA: Yes. Hello. Good morning. I
- 8 am Adrian Dana. And I work for Merck. And I have
- 9 been involved in product safety at Merck for the
- 10 last ten years. I am a pediatrician by training
- 11 and was in practice for many years before that.
- 12 Thank you so much for having us here today. I
- 13 think this is an important topic.
- 14 DR. ABOU-ALI: Good morning. My name is
- 15 Adel Abou-Ali. I work for Sanofi Pasteur in
- 16 Canada. I have been with Sanofi Pasteur for about
- 17 six months right now. Before that, I worked for
- 18 the FDA for about three months. And thanks for
- 19 having us here.
- DR. CRAGAN: I am Jan Cragan from the
- 21 National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental
- 22 Disabilities at CDC. We conduct birth defect

21 surveillance and research projects, including outcomes related to medication use in pregnancy. DR. HANSEN: Good morning. My name is 3 Craig Hansen. I am an epidemiologist. I am from Center for Health Research at Kaiser Permanente Georgia and also from the School of Pharmacy and 6 Medical Sciences at the University of South Australia. Thank you. DR. HOLMES: Good morning. I am Lewis 9 I am here as the Director of the North Holmes. 10 American AED Pregnancy Registry. 11 DR. ALBANO: Hello. I am Jessica 12 Albano. I am the Senior Director of Epidemiology 13 at INC Research. We conduct post-approval 15 studies, including pregnancy registries. COL COSTER: I am Trinka Coster from the 16 17 Department of Army. I run the Pharmacovigilance Center for the Army, where we monitor medication 18 19 use in prescribing practice for the Department of Defense and also have established a mother-child 20 21 database. 22 DR. ANDRADE: Hi. My name is Susan

- 1 Andrade, an investigator at the Meyers Primary
- 2 Care Institute and the HMO Research Network. And
- 3 I have been involved with the Medication Exposure
- 4 in Pregnancy Program for quite a number of years
- 5 now. Thank you.
- 6 DR. CHAMBERS: I'm Tina Chambers. And I
- 7 am at the University of California San Diego in
- 8 the Department of Pediatrics. And I am an
- 9 epidemiologist and work with the MotherToBaby OTIS
- 10 Pregnancy Registries and the VAMPSS system.
- 11 DR. SCOTT: Hi. I am Pamela Scott. I
- 12 am the Director of Research and Development for
- 13 the Office of Women's Health. I am an
- 14 epidemiologist and a statistician by training. I
- 15 am the former lead for FDA's Medication Exposure
- 16 in Risk Evaluation Program. Currently I am in the
- 17 Office of Women's Health, where we maintain and
- 18 manage the FDA pregnancy registry webpage and
- 19 other pregnancy-related outreach activities.
- DR. IYASU: Yes. My name is Solomon
- 21 Iyasu. I am the Director of the Office of
- 22 Pharmacovigiliance and Epidemiology in the Center

- 1 for Drugs.
- DR. TASSINARI: Good morning. I am
- 3 Melissa Tassinari. I am a senior clinical adviser
- 4 in CDER, Office of New Drugs, the Pediatric and
- 5 Maternal Health Staff.
- 6 MS. MOYER: Good morning. I am Vicki
- 7 Moyer. I am the senior project manager in the
- 8 Pediatric and Maternal Health Staff.
- 9 DR. NGUYEN: Good morning. I am Michael
- 10 Nguyen. I am a pediatrician by training and the
- 11 Acting Director for the Division of Epidemiology
- 12 in CBER.
- DR. SAHIN: Good morning. I am Leyla
- 14 Sahin. I am a medical officer with the Pediatric
- 15 and Maternal Health Staff in the Office of New
- 16 Drugs in CDER. I practiced ob-gyn for 12 years
- 17 before coming to the agency 6 years ago. Thank
- 18 you.
- 19 DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: Sonia Hernandez-
- 20 Diaz, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at
- 21 Harvard School of Public Health. And my research
- 22 focuses on the safety of medication during

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- 1 pregnancy.
- DR. BERLINER: I am Elise Berliner from
- 3 the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. I
- 4 am the Director of the Technology Assessment
- 5 Program. I work with the Medicare coverage group.
- 6 And because of their interest in coverage with
- 7 evidence development and registries, a bunch of
- 8 years ago, they asked us what we could do to help
- 9 advance the methods and science of registries. So
- 10 we have now just published the third edition of
- 11 the AHRO handbook on the users' quide on
- 12 registries. And the third edition actually has a
- 13 chapter now on pregnancy registries. And we have
- 14 also started the registry of patient registries.
- DR. GREENE: I'm Mike Greene. I'm an
- 16 obstetrician-gynecologist at Massachusetts General
- 17 Hospital. I practice maternal/fetal medicine. I
- 18 am Director of Obstetrics there.
- 19 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Diana Johnson. And I
- 20 am a study manager for the OTIS pregnancy studies.
- 21 DR. MITCHELL: I'm Allen Mitchell,
- 22 Director of the Slone Epidemiology Center at

- 1 Boston University and the PI on the Birth Defects
- 2 Study and also part of the VAMPSS system.
- 3 DR. YAO: In addition, we have a few
- 4 participants over the telephone who couldn't
- 5 actually make it to our lovely White Oak campus
- 6 this morning. And I would have Dr. Ava Marie
- 7 Conlin. I think you're on the phone. Can you
- 8 hear us? And could you say hello this morning?
- 9 DR. CONLIN: I am on the phone. Thank
- 10 you so much for having me. It's quite early here
- 11 in San Diego, California. My name is Ana Marie
- 12 Conlin. I am a preventive medicine physician. And
- 13 I am at the Naval Health Research Center, where we
- 14 led the Department of Defense Birth and Infant
- 15 Health Registry. I am also principal investigator
- 16 for a smallpox vaccine in pregnancy registry and
- 17 an anthrax vaccine in pregnancy registry.
- 18 DR. YAO: Great. And also on the
- 19 telephone, we have Dr. Peggy Honein. Dr. Honein,
- 20 can you hear us? And can you introduce yourself?
- DR. HONEIN: Yes. This is Dr. Peggy
- 22 Honein from the Centers for Disease Control Birth

- 1 Defects Branch. I'm an epidemiologist.
- DR. YAO: Great. And lastly we have Dr.
- 3 Alison Naleway, who won't be able to join us this
- 4 morning, but we are hoping that she will be able
- 5 to join us this afternoon.
- 6 So thank you all, panelists, for
- 7 introducing yourselves. We are really excited
- 8 about the next day and a half. And we think, we
- 9 hope, and we expect, that we'll get much needed
- 10 advice to help lead the way in terms of the next
- 11 chapter in pregnancy exposure registries.
- 12 And, with that, I would like to
- 13 introduce our first speaker of the morning, Dr.
- 14 Leyla Sahin; as she has introduced herself, a
- 15 medical officer and reviewer and on our staff at
- 16 the Pediatric and Maternal Health Staff in CDER.
- 17 Come on up, Leyla.
- 18 PREGNANCY REGISTRIES AND OTHER
- 19 POST-APPROVAL STUDIES CURRENT STATUS AND FDA
- 20 OBSERVATIONS
- 21 DR. SAHIN: Vicki, I might need some
- 22 help over here. Oh, here we are. Okay. All

- 1 right. Good morning, everybody. Today's talk
- 2 will include some background information, some
- 3 information on the regulatory history of post-
- 4 market data collection in pregnant women. We'll
- 5 provide an update on the current status of
- 6 pregnancy registries. We'll also present some
- 7 results from an exploratory review of pregnancy
- 8 registries that we recently conducted. Hoda
- 9 Hammad, an ORISE fellow in the Office of
- 10 Surveillance and Epidemiology, will start by
- 11 presenting the methodology of the review. And
- 12 then I will present a summary of
- 13 preliminary results. And then I'll also mention
- 14 some of our observations about the results and
- 15 then close with some summary comments.
- 16 Because pregnant women are usually
- 17 excluded from clinical trials of investigational
- 18 products, at the time of approval of new drugs and
- 19 biologics, there are often no human data to inform
- 20 safety during pregnancy. Data collection in
- 21 pregnant women is usually performed post-approval.
- 22 And this is the focus of this public meeting. We

- 1 recognize the importance of collecting
- 2 pharmacokinetic and efficacy data in pregnant
- 3 women when appropriate, but these topics will not
- 4 be discussed. Collecting lactation data is also
- 5 important, but this will not be discussed either.
- 6 Collecting safety data to inform use of drugs and
- 7 biologics in pregnancy is an important public
- 8 health issue, not only for FDA and regulated
- 9 industry but also for researchers; other federal
- 10 agencies; health care providers; professional
- 11 organizations; and, of course, patients.
- 12 Here's a timeline of the regulatory
- 13 history of post-market data collection in pregnant
- 14 women. In 2002, in an effort to standardize
- 15 industry's approach to post-market data collection
- 16 in pregnant women, the agency published the
- 17 pregnancy exposure registry guidance, which
- 18 includes recommendations regarding the conduct and
- 19 design of pregnancy registries. In 2007, passage
- 20 of the FDA Amendments Act gave the agency enhanced
- 21 authority to require safety labeling changes and
- 22 post-marketing studies to evaluate a safety issue.

- 1 In 2008, the proposed and lactation labeling rule
- 2 published, which when finalized will change the
- 3 format and content of pregnancy and lactation
- 4 labeling and eliminate the pregnancy letter
- 5 categories. The final rule will also improve data
- 6 collection in pregnant women as information on a
- 7 pregnancy registry, if one exists, will be
- 8 included in a prominent position in the pregnancy
- 9 section of labeling.
- 10 So where are we in 2014? The pregnancy
- 11 registry guidance is now over ten years old. And
- 12 the agency is planning to make revisions. Input
- 13 received at this public meeting along with public
- 14 comments received will be considered in revising
- 15 the guidance.
- 16 The current status of pregnancy
- 17 exposure registries is that they are the most
- 18 common type of post-approval study in pregnant
- 19 women required or requested by the FDA as a post-
- 20 marketing requirement or commitment issued at the
- 21 time of approval or after approval if there is a
- 22 safety issue that has been identified. However,

- 1 the agency has had a concern that pregnancy
- 2 exposure registries often fail to provide useful
- 3 information, usually due to low enrollment. Often
- 4 these studies are open for several years with
- 5 little accrual of patients.
- 6 As described in the pregnancy registry
- 7 guidance, factors that may affect the successful
- 8 implementation of a pregnancy registry include the
- 9 prevalence of the disease in females of
- 10 reproductive potential; usage of the drug after it
- 11 has been approved for marketing; awareness about
- 12 the registry on the part of health care providers
- 13 and patients; and collaboration among those who
- 14 conduct a registry in terms of expertise and
- 15 involving experts in birth defects research, such
- 16 as the CDC and others; collaboration in terms of
- 17 resources and leveraging existing infrastructure
- 18 and systems may also help with the successful
- 19 implementation of a pregnancy registry.
- In preparation for this public meeting,
- 21 we conducted an exploratory review to evaluate pregnancy
- 22 exposure registries and their ability to assess

- 1 safety of medical products in pregnancy and to
- 2 describe the characteristics of pregnancy exposure
- 3 registries that have provided clinically
- 4 meaningful data and those that have not so that we
- 5 could have a better understanding of where there
- 6 is room for improvement and learn from the
- 7 successes.
- 8 The study team members included
- 9 epidemiologists and medical officers across CDER
- 10 and CBER and across offices and divisions.
- 11 I will now turn it over to Hoda Hammad,
- 12 an ORISE fellow in OSE, who will describe the
- 13 methodology.
- DR. HAMMAD: Thank you, Dr. Sahin. Good
- 15 morning, everyone. My name is Hoda Hammad. And I
- 16 am an ORISE fellow working with Dr. Sahin and the
- 17 FDA study team on this project. I'll be
- 18 describing the study methods we used for our
- 19 exploratory analysis of selected pregnancy
- 20 exposure registries.
- In order to describe and evaluate
- 22 current pregnancy registries and their ability to

- 1 assess safety of medical products when
- 2 administered to pregnant women, we chose a
- 3 selected sample based on the list of pregnancy
- 4 registries on the FDA Office of Women's website.
- 5 We considered the sample to be broadly
- 6 representative, although not necessarily
- 7 comprehensive, and that it includes a wide variety
- 8 of pregnancy exposure registries. We extracted
- 9 data from the website starting in January 2014 and
- 10 evaluated 59 medical products in all. We did not
- 11 do a systematic review of the disease-based
- 12 registries for logistical reasons as some of these
- 13 registries contained hundreds of medical products,
- 14 but we do have medical products that were analyzed
- 15 from a variety of disease-based registries.
- 16 Here you can see a screenshot of the
- 17 Office of Women's Health website where we
- 18 extracted the pregnancy registry data.
- 19 While it is difficult to ascertain with
- 20 certainty whether particular study results or
- 21 communication efforts have the desired effect of
- 22 informing clinical practice, we looked at these

- 1 four outcomes or milestones and considered them to
- 2 be potentially associated with registry
- 3 effectiveness for the purpose of this analysis.
- 4 The first thing we looked for was if
- 5 there was a labeling change where the registry
- 6 results were included in the product insert. Once
- 7 we collected more information about each medical
- 8 product, we looked to see if there was a stated
- 9 target enrollment and if the stated target
- 10 enrollment was achieved. We also looked to see if
- 11 there were any references to data from the
- 12 registry in clinical practice guidelines or if
- 13 there were any publication of registry results in
- 14 peer-reviewed journals.
- In order to determine if any of the
- 16 pregnancy registries had the outcome measures we
- 17 were looking for, we conducted an extensive search
- 18 of internal FDA databases. This included any
- 19 protocols, reports, final study reports, or
- 20 clinical reviews by FDA staff. We also looked at
- 21 approved product labeling on the Drugs@FDA
- 22 website to determine the history of product

- 1 labeling changes regarding safety of exposure
- 2 during pregnancy. After that, we looked for any
- 3 drug safety communications on the FDA Drug Safety
- 4 Communications website. We also searched through
- 5 electronic bibliographic sources to identify if
- 6 there are any peer-reviewed publications which
- 7 describe pregnancy registry results or if any
- 8 provided recommendations for clinical practice or
- 9 if other study methods were conducted by other
- 10 researchers.
- 11 For data analysis, we used descriptive
- 12 statistics to describe key features and
- 13 characteristics we are interested in, including
- 14 frequency counts and proportions. We stratified
- 15 the data several different ways, including whether
- 16 the registry resulted in labeling changes that
- 17 were included in approved product labeling,
- 18 whether the registry results were published in a
- 19 peer-reviewed journal or peer-reviewed articles,
- 20 and whether the registry reached target
- 21 enrollments. Extensive quality assurance checks
- 22 were also conducted by the core data analysis team

- 1 to ensure accuracy and completeness of the data
- 2 for the key fields, which were specified for
- 3 analysis. All the analyses were performed using
- 4 SAS version 9.3.

- 6 So some of the registry characteristics
- 7 we chose to focus on included time period of
- 8 initiation of the registry, if it was started
- 9 before or after the FDA guidance was published in
- 10 2002 or if it was started before or after FDAAA
- 11 took effect in 2007. We also looked at if the
- 12 indication for use of the medical product
- 13 evaluated in the registry was a rare disease; if
- 14 the registry included one medical product or
- 15 multiple medical products; if it was implemented
- 16 as a post-marketing requirement, a post-marketing
- 17 commitment, or neither; if it was required under
- 18 a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy, REMS;
- 19 or whether the information about enrolling in the
- 20 registry was included in the approved labeling;
- 21 and if the registry includes patients from the
- 22 United States only or from other countries.

- 1 Now I will turn the podium back to Dr.
- 2 Sahin, who will describe some of the results of
- 3 our analysis. Thank you.
- DR. SAHIN: Thank you, Hoda.
- 5 Fifty-nine products from 38 pregnancy
- 6 registries were evaluated, consisting mostly of
- 7 drugs, followed by biologics and then vaccines.
- 8 The proportion of registries that were a
- 9 PMR or PMC was pretty similar to the proportion of
- 10 registries that were not a regulatory obligation.
- 11 Seventy-six percent of products have registry
- 12 enrollment information included in approved
- 13 labeling. Fifty-three percent of products have
- 14 registries that are U.S.-based only.
- The duration of the registry was less
- 16 than 5 years in 41 percent of the products, 5 to
- 17 10 years in 39 percent, and greater than 10 years
- 18 in 20 percent.
- 19 In terms of pregnancy registry data that
- 20 contributed to a labeling change, there were seven
- 21 products. And these included Truvada,
- 22 tenofovir/emtricitabine, based on data from the

- 1 Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry; bupropion based
- 2 on data from the Bupropion Pregnancy Registry;
- 3 Singulair, montelukast, based on data from the
- 4 pregnancy registry of the same name; Varivax,
- 5 Proquad, and Zostavax vaccines based on data from
- 6 the Pregnancy Registry for Varicella Zoster Virus-
- 7 Containing Vaccines; and Mycophenolate based on
- 8 data from the National Transplant Pregnancy
- 9 Registry.
- 10 Here is an example of approved labeling
- 11 informed by pregnancy registry data. This is from
- 12 December of 2013. As we wait for the final
- 13 Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Rule to go
- 14 through clearance and publish as a final rule, we
- 15 have been encouraging companies to submit labeling
- 16 in the new format. And here you can see the three
- 17 new sections which consist of the risk summary,
- 18 clinical considerations, and data. Data from the
- 19 international Bupropion Pregnancy Registry are
- 20 presented under the data section.
- 21 Here is another example of approved
- 22 labeling informed by pregnancy registry data. And

- 1 this is from 2012. This is also in the new
- 2 format. As you can see, the pregnancy registry
- 3 information is presented first. And the data from
- 4 the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry are
- 5 presented at the bottom of the slide.
- 6 For the seven products with registry
- 7 data added to approved labeling, results were also
- 8 published in a peer-reviewed journal for six.
- 9 Overall, for the total 59 products, interim or
- 10 final registry results were published in a peer-
- 11 reviewed journal for 22.
- 12 Pregnancy registry data for the
- 13 following seven products contributed to clinical
- 14 practice guidelines: Humira, adalimumab, based on
- 15 data from the Organization of Teratology
- 16 Information Specialists, OTIS, Autoimmune Diseases
- 17 Study; Gardasil, Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent
- 18 Vaccine, based on data from its pregnancy
- 19 registry; Viread, tenofovir, and Truvada based on
- 20 data from the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry;
- 21 Varivax, Proquad, and Zostavax Vaccine based on
- 22 data from the Pregnancy Registry for Varicella

- 1 Zoster Virus-Containing Vaccines.
- In terms of target enrollment, 22 of 59
- 3 products had a target enrollment stated in the
- 4 protocol. And of these, three achieved a target
- 5 enrollment.
- 6 In terms of registry status, 71 percent
- 7 of products are still part of an ongoing registry.
- 8 Seventeen percent are closed for feasibility
- 9 reasons, most commonly due to low enrollment. And
- 10 12 percent are closed and considered completed.
- 11 Information about loss to follow-up of
- 12 the registry's pregnancy outcome data was
- 13 available for 32 of the 59 products. After
- 14 excluding registries with low enrollment(less
- 15 than 20 patients), the loss to follow-up rate was
- 16 calculated for the remaining 21 products, with a
- 17 median loss to follow-up rate of 23.4 percent,
- 18 with a range of 1.6 to 52.7 percent and an
- 19 interquartile range of 3 percent to 36 percent.
- 20 Some alternative approaches that were
- 21 identified during the review that either
- 22 contributed to labeling, were conducted or funded

40

by industry, or published in the literature include case control studies, cohort studies, claims database studies, case series and reports, European national birth register data, passive 4 surveillance, enhanced pharmacovigilance, and 5 inadvertent exposures during product development. 6 7 Some of the limitations of this exploratory review are listed on this slide. It did not include a systematic review of the six disease-based registries listed on the Office of 10 Women's Health webpage, although some products 11 12 from some of these registries were included in the 13 review. 14 It is not a comprehensive review of all pregnancy registries. It did not assess pregnancy 15 16 registry data quality or methodology or other 17 factors that may contribute to the successful 18 conduct of a registry, such as resources, 19 expertise, etcetera. It also did not assess 20 factors that affect the decision to add pregnancy 21 registry data to labeling. 22 So what does all of this mean?

41

exploratory review suggests that pregnancy registries have contributed safety data for use in labeling and clinical guidelines and also published in the medical literature. However, there is room for improvement. And there is a need to develop strategies to improve the conduct of pregnancy registries. And we look forward to 7 8 hearing from the panel about this. 9 We are unable to draw conclusions using this exploratory study on characteristics that 10 result in a successful registry. Study methods 11 and sources of data other than pregnancy 12 13 registries also contributed to informing risk. 14 In summary, pregnancy exposure 15 registries by themselves may not be sufficient to collect data that inform product labeling. And we 16 17 need to explore complementary study methods, which 18 will be discussed tomorrow. Our goal is to 19 improve health outcomes for pregnant women. And 20 data collection in pregnant women is a shared 21 responsibility among all stakeholders. 22 Thank you for your attention. And I

42 would be happy to take questions. MS. MOYER: Does anyone on the panel have questions for Leyla or Hoda or Solomon? 3 DR. SAHIN: Yes? Go ahead, Michael. 4 CLARIFYING QUESTIONS FOR THE 5 PRESENTERS 7 FROM THE PANEL I would like to just make DR. GREENE: an observation about the criteria that you used for the impact of the registries. One of them was 10 whether the registry met their criterion for 11 enrollment for the size of the registry. 12 cases, some of the registries' activities are to 13 publicize the fact that these drugs should not be 15 used during pregnancy. And the fact that fewer and fewer women have been exposed to the drugs 17 actually may be a mark of the success of the 18 registry in that they don't meet their criteria 19 for enrollment because the word has gotten out that the drug shouldn't be used during pregnancy. 20 21 DR. SAHIN: Thank you. Thank you for your comment. Yes? I agree with your comment,

43 Dr. Greene. Thank you. DR. TASSINARI: I think the challenge is going to be, though, how do we capture that 3 because, you know, I think it is one of the points that we have to have suspected, but I don't know that we have documented it. DR. GREENE: It's a little bit like 7 knowing when the dog didn't bark. 9 MS. MOYERS: Any questions on the phone? DR. TASSINARI: No lights are on. Very 10 11 good. TOPIC 1: PREGNANCY REGISTRIES -12 13 PERSPECTIVES/CHALLENGES RELATING TO DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSES 15 MODERATOR INTRODUCTION TO TOPIC 1 16 DR. TASSINARI: Well, I guess, then, 17 what we shall do is move into our first topic. We have a series of presentations this morning that 18 19 we hope will provide us some information to look a little more closely at where we are today with the 20 pregnancy exposure registries and how the 21 different perspectives for data collection have 22

- 1 served us. I think Leyla has given you a little
- 2 bit of a preview of where this is going, but we
- 3 have specifically asked for some presentations to
- 4 try and round out our perspectives on the current
- 5 status of our data collection methods,
- 6 particularly with pregnancy exposure registries.
- 7 So, with that, we would like to start
- 8 with our first presentation. Dr. Sonia Hernandez-
- 9 Diaz is going to speak to us about study design
- 10 and methodology. Sonia?
- 11 STUDY DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY
- 12 DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: Hi. Good morning.
- 13 Thank you for inviting me to be here today.
- 14 As a disclosure, I have consulted for
- 15 some pregnancy registries as an adviser. And I am
- 16 the epidemiologist for the Anti-Epileptic
- 17 Pregnancy Registry with Dr. Lew Holmes.
- 18 What I am going to do is to first give
- 19 you an introduction to study designs, just a brief
- 20 roadmap of some of the designs we are going to see
- 21 in these next two days. And then I am going to
- 22 focus on some specific methodological aspects for

- 1 pregnancy registries, including validity and
- 2 efficiency, or power, aspects.
- 3 So, as an introduction, following an
- 4 instructor that I learned from, Dr. Allen
- 5 Mitchell, we can look at study designs for safety
- 6 during pregnancy in two groups. One is in
- 7 premarketing preapproval. We have some
- 8 toxicological studies that are useful for us, but
- 9 for teratogenicity and other effects in the fetus
- 10 and in children as well they are usually poor
- 11 predictors. We also have animal studies, but
- 12 because of the variation of teratogenicity among
- 13 different species sometimes are poor predictors
- 14 for humans as well. And we have some clinical
- 15 trials that typically exclude pregnant women. And
- 16 that can take us to a whole different interesting
- 17 discussion about the ethics of that.
- 18 So for pregnancy information, we are
- 19 left with the post-approval studies. And there
- 20 are some clinical trials. Some large trials might
- 21 include, mainly inadvertently, some pregnancy women.
- 22 And they can provide some information, but they

- 1 typically provide information on a handful of
- 2 pregnant women. So they are not enough. So we
- 3 can have them post-approval, some case reports or
- 4 case series, sometimes under some surveillance
- 5 systems. But they can both provide true signals
- 6 but also often provide false alarms or no clues
- 7 about something going on.
- 8 We have ecological studies that can look
- 9 at geographical differences or trends over time.
- 10 And these trends are typically explained by other
- 11 things going on at the same time. So they are not
- 12 ideal either.
- So we are left with non-experimental,
- 14 epidemiologic, studies for our research. And
- 15 there we can see both cohort studies and case
- 16 control studies. Within the cohort studies, some
- 17 of them have been designed specifically to study
- 18 birth defects, like the Collaborative Perinatal
- 19 Project. But this huge cohort even, the
- 20 Collaborative Perinatal Project, with over 52,000
- 21 women, when you want to look at a specific
- 22 medication and specific defects, they have a small

47

sample size, or insufficient sample size. So most commonly what we do now is to have specific cohorts exposed to specific medications of interest. And those are the pregnancy registries that we are going to discuss this morning; for example, the OTIS pregnancy registries. 6 Then we have sources of four studies 7 that were not designed specifically to do research or to study birth defects. There you probably have seen data coming from automated claims 10 databases, such as Medicaid or HMO networks; 11 computerized medical records, like the CPRD in the 12 13 U.K. or here Kaiser Permanente; or pooling projects that combine these resources. And we are 15 going to hear about MEPREP tomorrow. For case control studies, we have some 16 17 that are specifically designed to study one defect, but, more commonly, we have been using 18 19 data from case control surveillance systems, like the Slone Epidemiology Center Birth Defect Study 20 21 or the CDC-based NBDPS Study. 22 But I am going to focus on pregnancy

- 1 registries. And the definition of pregnancy
- 2 registries is observational prospective cohort of
- 3 women receiving a medication of interest as part
- 4 of their routine clinical care who are enrolled
- 5 during gestation before the outcome can be known.
- 6 And then they are followed during pregnancy or
- 7 even after pregnancy to obtain information on some
- 8 outcomes. And then to evaluate whether that
- 9 frequency is as expected or higher than expected,
- 10 we compare them to a valid reference group.
- 11 As Dr. Iyasu has mentioned, the FDA has
- 12 some guidelines for when these registries should
- 13 be conducted. Right now it's when pregnant women
- 14 are likely to be exposed or even women of
- 15 childbearing age are likely to be exposed or when
- 16 we believe there may be a potential risk; for
- 17 example, vaccine. And there are some
- 18 recommendations as well regarding when to enroll.
- 19 And FDA has recommended that we want to enroll
- 20 women after exposure but before the pregnancy
- 21 outcome is known. However, if women enroll later,
- 22 they are also typically enrolled in the

- 1 registries. But it is recommended that we look at
- 2 them separately, at least in a sensitivity or
- 3 secondary analysis.
- 4 As a result, there are many pregnancy
- 5 registries. The website has been also mentioned
- 6 already. And I am going to use one specific
- 7 registry for my example because, as I mentioned, I
- 8 work with Dr. Lew Holmes, the principal
- 9 investigator of the North American Anti-Epileptic
- 10 Drug Pregnancy Registry. And I am going to
- 11 briefly go through the methods. Dr. Holmes is
- 12 going to talk about it more in a little bit.
- 13 The registry was established at the
- 14 Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, 1997. It
- 15 enrolls pregnant women exposed or using
- 16 anticonvulsants/anti-epileptic drugs, as well as a
- 17 reference group of friends and family members that
- 18 are pregnant but not exposed to anticonvulsants.
- 19 Women call, enroll, and then the registry obtains
- 20 the consent. And then outcomes are validated with
- 21 medical records.
- 22 Information is obtained through three

- 1 interviews: one at the enrollment, one at seven
- 2 months gestation, and one around two months
- 3 postpartum. And the interviews ask questions on
- 4 anticonvulsants as well as some demographic, the
- 5 indication, epilepsy or others, vitamin use,
- 6 smoking, et cetera. And for every anticonvulsant
- 7 reported, detailed information is obtained on
- 8 those and on timing of use.
- 9 The registry considers two groups. The
- 10 pure prospective refers to women who enroll before
- 11 they had a prenatal test. And the so-called
- 12 traditional prospective refers to participants who
- 13 have enrolled after having had an informative
- 14 test, like amniocentesis, chorionic villus sample,
- 15 et cetera.
- 16 So I am going to go and focus on the
- 17 methodological points. Dr. Holmes will talk more
- 18 about the selection of comparison groups. I am
- 19 going to discuss the issues pertaining to the
- 20 enrollment in the registries.
- In a typical registry, you can worry
- 22 about women having pregnancy losses or ending

- 1 pregnancy at different times. If you were
- 2 assessing, for example, prematurity. And those
- 3 programs are important and affect not only
- 4 pregnancy registries but any study evaluating
- 5 birth defects. If you are missing terminations or
- 6 miscarriages, then we are concerned about the
- 7 potential implications, but where I am going to
- 8 focus is on what is called in epidemiology left
- 9 truncation, meaning that it's the time of
- 10 enrollment where we can also have women enrolling
- 11 at different times. And that's what these lines
- 12 represent. The course represents just women that
- 13 may be exposed to different medications or exposed
- 14 and unexposed, being from the reference group. So
- 15 this is data from the registry, just a random
- 16 sample.
- 17 And here we have women enrolling around
- 18 the second or third month of pregnancy typically,
- 19 but there are some that are enrolling a little bit
- 20 later. You have to remember that women have to
- 21 recognize they are pregnant, go through their
- 22 neurologist, and then be referred to the registry

- 1 or sometimes they find information on the website.
- 2 So, as a result, we have women enrolling at
- 3 different times.
- 4 What can be the implications of that? So
- 5 the answer is that it depends on what you want to
- 6 study. We will all agree that if we were studying
- 7 infertility or problems with contraception, we
- 8 would have to enroll women before pregnancy.
- 9 Otherwise, if we were to enroll pregnant women, we
- 10 could not study effects on fertility.
- 11 So the same thing for pregnancy losses
- 12 or miscarriages. If that's the aim of the study,
- 13 we cannot enroll women at 20 weeks of pregnancy
- 14 because by definition, they didn't have
- 15 miscarriage.
- 16 And what about when we are interested in
- 17 the health of the offspring, often major
- 18 malformations? If that's the case, if the outcome
- 19 of interest is birth defects, then because we
- 20 currently believe that the ecologically relevant
- 21 period is the first trimester, we have to make
- 22 sure that we enroll women ideally before the first

- 1 trimester. What would happen if we don't do that?
- 2 Keep inKeeo in mind that when you are doing a registry, what would
- 3 you expect to find if subjects are enrolled late
- 4 in pregnancy, after prenatal screening and you
- 5 have subjects to enroll and she had already a
- 6 pregnancy test and there is a problem, a potential
- 7 problem, with the fetus? Well, if there is a
- 8 diagnosis and you include the women in the
- 9 registry, you may be overestimating the risks
- 10 because perhaps women after having a diagnosis
- 11 will tend to look for information on enrolling in
- 12 the registry.
- 13 However, you have a call from a woman
- 14 and she had a diagnosis and you exclude these
- 15 women that call with a diagnosis. You will be
- 16 selecting a cohort in your registry without
- 17 problems. So by enrolling after prenatal
- 18 screening, at least for some defects, you may have
- 19 to live with this situation.
- 20 And what about this other related
- 21 problem? You have groups of exposed, and then you
- 22 have a reference group. What would you expect to

- 1 find if exposed subjects are enrolled during the
- 2 first trimester or before the prenatal screening
- 3 but the unexposed group is enrolled after, later
- 4 in pregnancy? And these graphs try to represent
- 5 that situation. In red here, we have the exposed
- 6 women, exposed to your medication of interest. And
- 7 then you have the reference group of unexposed.
- 8 If ideally all of them were enrolled in the
- 9 registry at conception, then some of them will
- 10 have, some pregnancies will have, an infant with a
- 11 birth defect that we can sometimes diagnose early
- 12 on. Sometimes we will not diagnose until
- 13 delivery.
- 14 But keep in mind now that in the unexposed
- 15 group, women were to enroll later. Then we could
- 16 argue that those women who had diagnosis and
- 17 perhaps even a termination and you ask them to
- 18 volunteer for a registry that is not about a
- 19 medication they are taking, they may not be in the
- 20 mood to enroll in the pregnancy registry if they
- 21 had a termination. If that is the case, then, as
- 22 a result, you will be selecting women

- 1 preferentially without a birth defect. This is
- 2 the theory. Now let me show you some real data
- 3 from the North American Anti-Epileptic Drug
- 4 Pregnancy Registry.
- 5 This graph here represents the
- 6 enrollment time in gestational age at enrollment
- 7 for women who call the registry and were on
- 8 anticonvulsants/anti-epileptic medications, here
- 9 the dark lines.
- Just as an example, I was also providing
- 11 just specifically that the distribution of
- 12 enrollment time for two of the anticonvulsants,
- 13 lamotrigine and valproic acid, just to give you an
- 14 example. And, as you can see, there are no
- 15 differences when we look at the specific drugs.
- 16 However, in the unexposed groups of friends and
- 17 family members, they tend to enroll a little bit
- 18 later, which also makes sense. For you to invite
- 19 a family member or a friend to enroll in the
- 20 registry where you already enrolled, you have to
- 21 know that she is pregnant and know easily. Unless
- 22 this person is very close to you, that might take

- 1 some weeks. So that's not an unexpected
- 2 situation.
- Then, just for this presentation, we
- 4 look at data for spontaneous abortion, even when
- 5 that is not one of the main outcomes for the
- 6 registry, but sometimes companies are required to
- 7 present data on spontaneous abortion.
- 8 So we found that overall in all
- 9 anticonvulsants, 353 out of 7,000 exposed had
- 10 miscarriages and among the nonusers a much lower
- 11 risk: 6/581. If you use good, simple,
- 12 unconditional logistic regression without
- 13 considering time at enrollment, that would be a
- 14 fivefold increased risk. If we take into account
- 15 when women were enrolled and compare women that
- 16 were enrolled at the same time at the trimester
- 17 level, the relative risk will go down to 2.7; if
- 18 we go to the Greek level, a twofold increased
- 19 risk. If we were to use a summary incidence rates
- 20 ratio, as you know, the risk of miscarriage
- 21 changes over time. So if we use this person time,
- 22 we will have a similar result of twofold versus

57 fivefold. If we were to restrict these women to prescreening and raise only prescreen for birth defects, the results will not change, as you would So what happens with major malformations? 5 An unconditional not considering time at enrollment, a relative risk for anticonvulsants 7 overall will give a threefold increase risk. we condition on the time and enrollment, the results will not change. However, if we take into 10 account for malformations who enrolled before the 11 screening, the relative risks do go down to 12 twofold with wide confidence intervals. 13 still supporting that there may be a difference 15 for defects overall if you don't pay attention to 16 the prescreening and post-screen. 17 So, in summary, in this registry and I 18 think in most registries, you will have enrollment 19 that spanned throughout the entire pregnancy. 20 it may be different for the exposed and the 21 reference groups. And in our case, it wasn't different for the specific medications.

- 1 If you are going to analyze spontaneous
- 2 abortions or any other early event, your results
- 3 may be sensitive to gestational age at enrollment.
- 4 To analyze major malformations, your results may
- 5 be sensitive to whether the women had prenatal
- 6 screens before enrollment. Therefore, to minimize
- 7 the left truncation, we will recommend to enroll
- 8 women, of course, as soon as possible in
- 9 pregnancy.
- 10 If you were studying outcomes such as
- 11 spontaneous abortions, where the incidence is
- 12 changing over time, you will have to consider
- 13 that your exposed and reference groups have
- 14 comparable time at enrollment. When the events
- 15 may influence enrollment, like some specific birth
- 16 defects, through the prenatal screening, the
- 17 primary analysis must include only subjects
- 18 enrolled before this event.
- 19 And now I'm going to move on to a few
- 20 comments on power. Again, if the main outcome of
- 21 interest is birth defects, then we are dealing
- 22 with an outcome that overall has a prevalence at

- 1 birth of around two to three percent. If we want
- 2 to focus on specific malformations, then we are
- 3 talking about prevalences of 1 every 1,000 for the
- 4 most common ones, like some cardiac or oral
- 5 clefts.
- If we do a power calculation, just to
- 7 have an idea, and we try to focus on specific
- 8 birth defects, for a relative risk of 20-fold,
- 9 here we are talking about something close to
- 10 Thalidomide for a huge increased risk. If we were
- 11 to enroll 150 exposed in a registry and, say,
- 12 double the number of unexposed, for a total number
- 13 of subjects in our cohort of 450, then we will
- 14 have sufficient power. For a 12-fold increased
- 15 risk, again, like a very strong risk but not quite
- 16 as 20-fold, we will double that number. For
- 17 something closer to reality for a strong, a
- 18 fivefold, increased risk in the risk of this
- 19 specific malformation, we are talking about 1,500
- 20 or more exposed in our registry.
- 21 And this power calculation is a
- 22 mathematical calculation. And, as you can see, if

- 1 you expect 1 out of every 1,000 births affected
- 2 and we said that we had 300 in the exposed, this
- 3 calculation allows for you to have a .3 of a
- 4 person with a birth defect. So it's not reality
- 5 but just to give you an example.
- 6 And, to give you a more real example, I
- 7 am going to present data again from the North
- 8 America Pregnancy Registry to give you an example
- 9 of our experience with lamotrigine. And this
- 10 table represents the sample size enrolled on
- 11 lamotrigine in the registry divided into 100, 100
- 12 more. Then we have 200. And so far now the
- 13 registry has a sample size for lamotrigine of over
- 14 1,800. So when the registry started collecting
- 15 information on lamotrigine in 1997 or a little bit
- 16 after when lamotrigine was being commonly used,
- 17 for the first 100 women enrolled in lamotrigine,
- 18 there were 2 with oral clefts. That's 20 percent.
- 19 If you compare that with the expected 1 per 1,000,
- 20 it's huge. And if you were conducting a registry
- 21 and you had this huge risk, what could you do? It
- 22 can be real; right? So you wait a little bit

- 1 more. You have 200 in oral cleft. That's 15
- 2 every 100, rather than 1 every 1,000.
- 3 But then you continue. And some years
- 4 you have none. And at the end, when you have a
- 5 larger sample size, now the cumulative risk is 3.9
- 6 per 1,000. It's still elevated but not quite as a
- 7 200-fold increased risk. And this graph
- 8 represents what you would see in terms of here in
- 9 the red lines the risk or the number of cases
- 10 divided by the number of pregnancies enrolled on
- 11 lamotrigine, the first 100, and then the second
- 12 100 enrolled. And now it is when we have over
- 13 1,700.
- 14 As you can see, at the beginning, with 2
- 15 cases in the first 100, the risk was 2 per 100,
- 16 rather than 1 per 1,000, so a huge increased risk
- 17 but with very wide confidence intervals. As data
- 18 is accumulated, the risk went down. And the
- 19 confidence intervals now are much narrower.
- 20 So I think that's a lesson learned and it is
- 21 not to publish too early. Of course, at that
- 22 time, we didn't know if it was going to go up or

- 1 down. But it's a lesson learned in terms of how
- 2 small numbers can play games.
- 3 So, in conclusion, to end my
- 4 presentation, let me review briefly the main
- 5 advantages and disadvantages of pregnancy
- 6 registries. They are prospective drug exposure
- 7 studies. Therefore, there is no concern with
- 8 recall bias. The information is typically
- 9 collected before the outcome.
- 10 By concentrating on selected
- 11 medications, you can increase efficiency versus
- 12 doing pregnancy cohorts overall and particularly
- 13 when you are studying uncommon drugs in relation
- 14 to relatively common events. They are
- 15 longitudinal. Therefore, you can present not only
- 16 relative risk but also risk differences. You can
- 17 interview moms and, therefore, get not only
- 18 prescriptions but also real intake of the pills.
- 19 You can study multiple exposures if you want to
- 20 enroll multiple drugs in your registry and
- 21 multiple outcomes, but those advantages come with
- 22 some limitations. Some registries may not be

- 1 representative of the population in the sense that
- 2 you may have volunteers or women exposed to
- 3 specific medications; therefore, having a specific
- 4 indication. So that population may not be
- 5 representative or comparable to the general
- 6 population.
- 7 Some registries lack a control group and
- 8 may rely on an external comparison group that may
- 9 or may not be comparable to them. Even when I
- 10 said they are efficient because they focus on
- 11 medication, still they cost time and, therefore,
- 12 money. They have, most of them, a short follow-
- 13 up. And if you are interested in late
- 14 development, they may not provide that
- 15 information. They have losses to follow-up. And
- 16 you have to pay attention to the potential
- 17 selective under-ascertainment. And they have
- 18 limited powers for specific birth defects, as we
- 19 show.
- 20 So those were my slides. Thank you very
- 21 much.
- DR. TASSINARI: Thank you.

64 1 (Applause.) DR. TASSINARI: We have a few moments. We're running a little bit ahead. If anybody has a clarifying question, we can take those. 4 5 DR. BERLINER: Can you talk a little bit more about the enrollment? So it sounds like not all doctors are inviting patients to enroll and that some patients are finding the registry on their own. So could you talk a little bit more about how that is actually happening? Like what 10 11 percent of doctors are actually asking patients to What percent of patients are accepting 12 enroll? 13 enrollment? How many patients are finding it on their own? 14 15 DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: Yes. Dr. Holmes is 16 the PI of the study. So he may want to go over 17 I'll leave it up to him. But the registry 18 is advertising in the labels. There are posters 19 and information cards sent to neurologists, epidemiologists, and other clinicians that we 20 21 sometimes contact through our presence in meetings. And I don't have the number right here. 22

- 1 I can look it up for you, the exact proportion of how
- 2 many women who are calling because they were
- 3 searching the web -- and that's certainly very
- 4 common -- and find the registry and call versus
- 5 those that are encouraged by their prescriber,
- 6 clinician to enroll, which I know that happens,
- 7 too, but I don't have the specific proportion of
- 8 that.
- 9 And, again, maybe Dr. Holmes wants to
- 10 comment on that. But the registry has spent
- 11 efforts in this marketing of the registry to
- 12 get to women through different methods.
- 13 DR. TASSINARI: I am glad you raised it.
- 14 And we are going to be bringing that up again this
- 15 afternoon after lunch because we specifically see
- 16 that as an issue to have some further discussion.
- 17 Yes?
- DR. GREENE: Sonia, given the example
- 19 that you just presented, what advice would you
- 20 give or guidance would you give about when is the
- 21 time to publicize a newly recognized apparent
- 22 association?

- DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: Yes. That's a very
- 2 good question. I don't know if I have the answer.
- 3 I have been wondering myself. In part, I think it
- 4 may be a topic to discuss when we discuss
- 5 communication because, on one hand, you want to I
- 6 think report what you have for others to replicate
- 7 and for women to have information. And even when
- 8 you may have a huge confidence interval, still
- 9 that may be more information than nothing.
- 10 However, in this case, depending on how you
- 11 communicate and how the information is understood,
- 12 that's why I think it is a communication issue.
- 13 You can create alarms unnecessarily.
- 14 So I would say that if there is a way to
- 15 communicate without anybody running away with a
- 16 relative risk and saying, "20-fold increased
- 17 risk," I would do it. I just still think that
- 18 somehow it has to be public, at least for peers to
- 19 go and try to replicate in their other resources.
- 20 But, you know, it's hard to prevent them. There
- 21 needs to be on the following day with a 20-fold
- 22 increased risk. So it's a little bit dangerous.

67 And if we find a way to communicate 1 these kinds of preliminary numbers with a lot of uncertainty and lack of information around it, that would be great. 5 DR. TASSINARI: I'd like to come back to that question when we have the larger panel 6 discussion because I think there's much to be had there. Great. If there are no other clarifying 9 questions, I would like to invite Dr. Lewis Holmes 10 for his presentation on comparison groups. 11 12 DR. HOLMES: Thank you very much for inviting me. 13 COMPARISON GROUP 14 DR. HOLMES: As you can see, Sonia and I 15 work both on the same pregnancy registry. We have developed our slides separately and then compared 17 18 them after mine had been submitted. And you will 19 see that we have got some similar ones, but we're using them to make different points. I am really 20 21 going to focus on the issue of the comparison 22 group that we have recruited and I think is a good

- 1 model for the FDA to consider as it supervises
- 2 pregnancy registries.
- I think the point to make in describing
- 4 what a pregnancy registry is, is that everyone needs to
- 5 remember that it is not a clinical trial. We have
- 6 a lot of requests for terminology and whatnot in a
- 7 lot of our agreements that show that a lot of
- 8 folks still can't get their heads around what a
- 9 pregnancy registry is, but it's not a clinical
- 10 trial. There are many variables in a pregnancy
- 11 registry. And this is a list of several of those.
- 12 We're focusing today, my comments, on
- 13 the last two items here: the inclusion and
- 14 exclusion criteria, which are a crucial part of
- 15 your comparison group; and then the actual
- 16 comparison group itself.
- 17 As Sonia has pointed out, there are
- 18 several steps in our process of enrolling a woman.
- 19 We enroll among women who are pregnant throughout
- 20 the United States and Canada. And the key issue
- 21 here is at the end of the interview, the research
- 22 assistant who is talking to the woman and using a

- 1 computer-assisted telephone interview tells her
- 2 about our desire to have her help us recruit
- 3 individuals who are also pregnant who are not
- 4 taking these medications. So it is a verbal
- 5 invitation at the end of the interview. And that
- 6 is the essential beginning of the recruitment
- 7 process.
- 8 So you have as you advise individuals
- 9 about pregnancy registries the two models. To me
- 10 there are a lot of problems with the historical
- 11 comparison group. I am going to focus on the
- 12 internal comparison group. This is a system that
- 13 Caitlin Reilly Smith, who is our project manager,
- 14 developed early on several years ago. And now 10
- 15 percent of our enrollees each month -- we enroll
- 16 about 50 women each month, and about 10 percent of
- 17 them have continued to be women who are in the
- 18 comparison group. And, as Sonia mentioned, they
- 19 are friends and family members of the enrolled
- 20 woman.
- 21 First, there is the issue of the number.
- 22 And then there will be the issue of the specific

- 1 qualities of the malformation itself. One of my
- 2 complaints to people is of the frequency of birth
- 3 defects at birth is not three to five percent, as
- 4 a lot of people are taught, or two to four
- 5 percent, as Sonia showed in her slide. It really
- 6 depends on your definition of a malformation, how
- 7 you got the information, what your exclusion
- 8 criteria are. I'll show you later the details of
- 9 our exclusion criteria, but the gist of it is
- 10 let's start with two studies we have done where we
- 11 examined the children ourselves. And you can see
- 12 we carried out a cohort study. Unfortunately,
- 13 there is a typo in the year, but it was 2001 that
- 14 it was published.
- These were infants born to women taking
- 16 anticonvulsant drugs at any of five hospitals in
- 17 the Boston area. We examined the children
- 18 ourselves with a protocol that makes you pay
- 19 attention to details and be consistent and a
- 20 rather boring thing to do. And the examiner was
- 21 masked as to which children was born to a woman on
- 22 the drugs versus a woman who was not on the

71

medication. You can see the rate was 1.8 percent. Using a different approach, a malformation surveillance program, which we 3 conducted at Brigham and Women's Hospital for 40 4 years, here is some data that has been published. 5 You can see that using the pediatricians' 7 findings, not our own exams, the rate was 2.24 8 percent. 9 If you subtract chromosome abnormalities and dominant/recessive disorders, it gets down to 10 11 roughly two percent. And you can see one publication from several years ago. And the more 12 complete data set is being analyzed right now. 13 Those are two of our studies 14 Okay. 15 showing roughly a two percent rate. These are They don't all give details on the 16 other sources. 17 inclusion and exclusion criteria, but you can see 18 that there are four different major sources. 19 are currently active. For example, the important Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Birth Defects 20 21 Program, MACDP, you can see there is a rate of 2.1 22 percent at birth. It was in the paper published

- 1 in 2007. The other one that's currently underway
- 2 is Eurocat, which is a European registry-based
- 3 system. You can see they have 2.3 percent; 2 of
- 4 their older studies, similar outcomes.
- 5 My point is if you are talking about
- 6 structural abnormalities with surgical, medical,
- 7 or biological importance, the rate at birth is
- 8 roughly about two percent. And then you would
- 9 subtract the chromosome abnormalities and the
- 10 recognized genetic conditions. And you would
- 11 actually get slightly below that. So that is sort
- 12 of step number one. If you have at the FDA a
- 13 company submitting a proposal and it says the rate
- 14 in the general population at birth is two to four
- 15 percent, you should say, "Where did you get that
- 16 four percent?" Usually they have no idea of where
- 17 they got it, but they should have an internal
- 18 comparison group that would be the basis for that
- 19 rate.
- These are the exclusions that we have
- 21 used for all our studies for these 40 years. And
- 22 they're published in the paper that is listed

- 1 there at the bottom. Anybody who examines babies
- 2 knows that lots of babies have a lot of little
- 3 diddly things that the mother may notice and may
- 4 want you to discuss, but they are of no great
- 5 significance biologically. These are extremely
- 6 common. The study that is cited there from Birth
- 7 Defects Research A showed that the frequency of
- 8 these minor malformations is 20 times greater than
- 9 the frequency of actual malformations.
- Now let's get into the dynamics of
- 11 specific findings. This is not where we are
- 12 focusing on the rate, but you are actually saying
- 13 you are looking at the reports that come in from
- 14 the pediatricians, you are talking to the mother.
- 15 She is saying the child has polydactyly. Well,
- 16 everybody who does pediatrics and genetics knows
- 17 that there's polydactyly and then there's
- 18 polydactyly. And so you really need to be
- 19 specific.
- Think of how many pregnancy registries
- 21 where you have seen as the outcomes the
- 22 publication just says, "Polydactyly." Well, I

- 1 listed four here. And you can see number one,
- 2 postaxial polydactyly, type b, extremely common.
- 3 One in 100 African American infants has that, 1 in
- 4 1,000 Caucasian infants, extremely common, is not
- 5 known to be associated with any exposure during
- 6 pregnancy. And in our system, it would be
- 7 excluded as an hereditary finding.
- 8 Then you see the other three types. The
- 9 one that is probably most notable is to talk about
- 10 the preaxial polydactyly, "preaxial" meaning, of
- 11 course, the thumb side, as opposed to postaxial,
- 12 the fifth finger side. My point is you can't just
- 13 list polydactyly. There needs to be someone who
- 14 knows birth defects, who has seen them before, who
- 15 is not sitting there Googling the finding to make
- 16 the comment on the quality or significance of that
- 17 information.
- 18 Prematurity-related findings. These
- 19 have become in the time since we started in 1997
- 20 an extremely common issue to wrestle with and
- 21 develop your criteria for including and excluding
- 22 a finding. Fortunately, a lot of prematurely born

- 1 infants are now surviving. Imaging is powerful.
- 2 These children have imaging studies over and over
- 3 and over during the time they are in the hospital
- 4 before they go home. It is very common for an
- 5 infant who is 28 weeks gestation to be found to
- 6 have, as this slide shows, a patent ductus as well
- 7 as a patent foramen ovale.
- 8 These are normal physiological findings.
- 9 They are not a birth defect. And, yet, when
- 10 people rely on ICD-9 codes, these are going to be
- 11 listed by the poor, hardworking coder as a birth
- 12 defect. One is a PDA. And the other is
- 13 classified as a type of atrial septal defect. My
- 14 point is you should be making a qualitative
- 15 judgment on this story and using exclusion
- 16 criteria that would consider the prematurity
- 17 issue.
- 18 Probably the more contentious issue that
- 19 we wrestle with all the time and people debate
- 20 when we present our findings is, what do you do
- 21 about findings during pregnancy by prenatal
- 22 ultrasound? That technology has become extremely

- 1 common, but there is no systematic screening done
- 2 among the women who enroll in our registry and,
- 3 for that matter, among women in general. It's lot
- 4 of variation from site to site in terms of the
- 5 quality of the equipment, when the ultrasound
- 6 screening is done, who is reading it, and so
- 7 forth.
- 8 So we have always maintained that if the
- 9 pediatrician doesn't find something at birth, it
- 10 doesn't count. Others argue with that, which is
- 11 their prerogative. And if they have an internal
- 12 comparison group, they can certainly include them
- 13 in both the exposed and the unexposed. And it
- 14 will all balance out.
- We found when we have followed up on the
- 16 cases we have actually been told about a
- 17 significant number of them go away and turn out
- 18 not to be significant. So that would be an issue
- 19 to bear in mind.
- 20 If you were high bound and determined to
- 21 include things found by ultrasound, such as
- 22 hydronephrosis, here is what our analysis showed

- 1 the effect would be. This is an analysis that
- 2 Marie-Noel Westgate and I did of 1,000 consecutive
- 3 births at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where we
- 4 went through the medical record, Marie-Noel did,
- 5 identified all of the diddlies that were recorded
- 6 by the pediatricians, the birthmarks, the minor
- 7 anomalies, and so forth, as well as the findings
- 8 reported by the mother. If you insisted on
- 9 including the ultrasound-only findings, primarily
- 10 hydronephrosis, you would essentially add to your
- 11 baseline rate two percent. So, in other words, if
- 12 the baseline rate were two percent without
- 13 ultrasound, you add the ultrasound only. Suddenly
- 14 your baseline is four percent. And, as I said, if
- 15 that's what you want to do and you do that in both
- 16 your exposed and your unexposed comparison group,
- 17 it all balances out and you have no problem. But
- 18 if you are trying to use an historical record as a
- 19 basis for your comparison group, how do you know
- 20 which of those were detected during pregnancy?
- 21 One of the issues that is a fact of life
- 22 for a pregnancy registry is how long are you going

- 1 to be funded? When we have started, we were
- 2 supported only by companies. And that is still
- 3 the case. And when we have findings, this is an
- 4 issue related to Mike's guestion about, when do
- 5 you publish? If you are not sure how long you are
- 6 going to be funded, you might as well if you have
- 7 a significant finding have the uncertainty a part
- 8 of your decision-making in terms of okay Let's
- 9 go ahead and publish this because we're not sure
- 10 we're going to be around when the sample size is
- 11 twice as big.
- 12 You can see from this other power
- 13 calculation table, which Sonia also did for us,
- 14 that yes, we have now enrolled almost 600
- 15 unexposed in the comparison group, but you can see that
- 16 to have 80 percent power, just looking at changes
- 17 in the overall 2 percent frequency of birth
- 18 defects, we still need to go further to have 875.
- 19 And you can see that if you try to get to changes
- 20 in the frequency of cleft lip and palate, which,
- 21 of course, the lamotrigine exposure example puts
- 22 on the table, you really need thousands of

- 1 enrollees.
- 2 And so one of my take-home messages for
- 3 you is pregnancy registries need to be designed to
- 4 continue until you are able to speak to the
- 5 frequency of specific malformations, not all
- 6 malformations. And the only way you are going to
- 7 do that is if you have funding that continues long
- 8 enough to have thousands of enrollees. We have
- 9 now enrolled over 9,000 women, for example.
- 10 This is our comparison group. At the
- 11 time, there were 544 recruited. You can see these
- 12 are the malformations that are listed. If you are
- 13 one who likes the historical controls, I challenge
- 14 you to find this listed in any of the lists of
- 15 abnormalities in those tabulations. Some of these
- 16 are very common findings in the general population.
- 17 You can see one of the points here that I haven't
- 18 talked about but is a major issue, septal defects
- 19 are found in great frequency in all the imaging
- 20 that newborns have these days. And you have to
- 21 decide what size parameters you are going to use.
- 22 We exclude the muscular VSDs because they are

- 1 extremely common and most of them go away. And we
- 2 only include atrial septal defects if they have a
- 3 certain size measurement. And, obviously, that is
- 4 something that every registry has to decide
- 5 separately.
- 6 Now, who are the women who refer them,
- 7 and who are the women who enroll as the comparison
- 8 group? This is a slide Sonia made for me. You
- 9 can see that she has listed in the middle the
- 10 women who are taking the seizure medication who
- 11 refer their friends. And so here are their
- 12 friends on the left. And the women who referred
- 13 them are in the middle. And then here is the
- 14 lamotrigine comparison group on the right side.
- 15 A pregnancy registry can make no
- 16 pretense of enrolling a wide spectrum of society.
- 17 Look here. Post-college education, significant
- 18 number of these people. The folks who sign up for
- 19 a pregnancy registry are not a random sample of
- 20 society, no way to get around that. That is the
- 21 reality.
- Likewise, that means that they are not

- 1 going to be people with significant exposures to
- 2 things that we know they shouldn't be doing. So
- 3 for cigarette smoking, very small rate of smoking
- 4 a pack or more a day. The same is true for
- 5 alcohol use.
- 6 But if you bought at the FDA the
- 7 manufacturer's preference for saying four percent
- 8 is a normal rate of occurrence of birth defects,
- 9 look what you would see. For the carbamazepine-
- 10 exposed pregnancies, which is considered a
- 11 teratogenic exposure, although of modest severity,
- 12 that would just ride right under that four
- 13 percent, would not be detected. Obviously
- 14 valproate would stand out, but valproate stands
- 15 out in every analysis you do in anticonvulsant
- 16 drugs.
- 17 And here Sonia has shown this. And so
- 18 you can see that our challenge for the women who
- 19 are being enrolled who are friends and family
- 20 members is to get them to enroll earlier. Right
- 21 now we haven't been stressing that, but we hope
- 22 among the advocates for this registry, the

- 1 obstetricians and the neurologists, who are a
- 2 predominant source of referrals, that we can
- 3 include in their message to the woman, "Please do
- 4 it soon, rather than waiting until after you have
- 5 had any prenatal screening."
- 6 So, in summary, I think if you are going
- 7 to have a pregnancy registry, you really need to
- 8 spend some time talking about what you are going
- 9 to include and exclude before you get started. You
- 10 need to have on your team someone who knows what
- 11 these abnormalities are. We have a pediatrician
- 12 sitting here. And there are plenty of
- 13 pediatricians and neonatologists that could be
- 14 very important contributors to a pregnancy
- 15 registry, instead of, as I mentioned, the system
- 16 our research assistants often use. They will
- 17 Google something because they have no idea what it
- 18 is. And you don't want that to be the basis for
- 19 deciding whether something counts or not.
- 20 You need I think the unexposed
- 21 comparison group, where you have the same staff,
- 22 the same interviews, the same process. You are

- 1 encouraging the woman to sign the form so we could
- 2 get the copies of the records when the woman says,
- 3 "We saw the orthopedist last week," that you can
- 4 get her to help you get the results from the
- 5 orthopedist's exam, so forth. And then
- 6 ultimately, of course, you need to have someone as
- 7 skilled as Sonia who can do the analyses where you
- 8 subdivide by the women who enroll before they have
- 9 had prenatal screening versus the women who enroll
- 10 after that.
- 11 So, in summary, these are the folks who
- 12 do all of the work for us and would just emphasize
- 13 the importance of the FDA considering the
- 14 possibility of encouraging more vigorously the
- 15 unexposed comparison group as a component of any
- 16 registry going forward.
- 17 Thank you.
- 18 (Applause.)
- 19 DR. TASSINARI: Time for some clarifying
- 20 questions. Any from the panel?
- DR. SAHIN: Dr. Holmes, could you talk
- 22 about the governance structure of the North

- 1 American Anti-Epileptic Drug Registry, please?
- DR. HOLMES: Sure. We have been very
- 3 fortunate in having a scientific advisory
- 4 committee that has remained very much constant
- 5 since we began in 1997. And so what we have done,
- 6 initially meeting twice a year, now once a year,
- 7 with these folks -- and Jan, to my right, Jan
- 8 Cragan from CDC, is a member. Two neurologists;
- 9 an obstetrician; epidemiologist; and a woman from
- 10 the epilepsy program at NIH constitute the six
- 11 people. We meet and go over our findings. We are
- 12 meeting, actually, this coming Monday. We go
- 13 through the state of the registry, what is
- 14 happening, what we found. We go through the
- 15 marketing. We get the answer to Elise's question
- 16 about how many women signed up this year on the
- 17 internet versus how many were referred by the
- 18 obstetrician versus referred by the neurologists
- 19 and so forth.
- 20 And then we, particularly in the
- 21 beginning, presented questions of when do we
- 22 publish this finding. And initially we referred

- 1 to medications by number so that when we discussed
- 2 them with the scientific advisers, they just knew
- 3 it as drug number 3, drug number 5, or whatever.
- 4 And we made the decision to release it. And then
- 5 they learned that the first drug we released was
- 6 Phenobarbital. And we asked them to guess what we
- 7 were releasing. And, of course, they were all
- 8 over the place but had no idea that it was
- 9 Phenobarbital. And then the second drug whose
- 10 findings we released was drug number 5. And that
- 11 turned out to be valproate. So we have gone
- 12 through that process early on.
- 13 Then we had a moment of having to decide
- 14 what we do with the new drugs where the risk for
- 15 malformations is more subtle. And that is where
- 16 the lamotrigine issue came up. And we had the
- 17 decision to make about whether to release the
- 18 findings when the first 700 had been enrolled and
- 19 we had this dramatic increase in the frequency of
- 20 oral clefts. And the group made the decision that
- 21 we should go ahead and publish that, and we did.
- 22 And anybody who is familiar with this literature

- 1 knows that it has been debated a lot ever since
- 2 that came out and you saw in Sonia's slide that
- 3 the rate has dropped steadily. And we predict
- 4 that it's ultimately once you get up to three or
- 5 four thousand enrollees, you will get down to a
- 6 point that is probably going to be higher than the
- 7 general population rate but not nearly as scary as
- 8 that initial figure was.
- 9 So it's been us talking to them, showing
- 10 them our findings, what do you think, this is what
- 11 we think we should do. The good news is it has
- 12 been a steady source of advice, very little
- 13 turnover in the group. And that has worked. It
- 14 was particularly important in the early years,
- 15 when we were debating about when to release
- 16 something. It is not nearly as much of an issue
- 17 now. I mean, Sonia showed you a very
- 18 sophisticated study that she and some of her
- 19 colleagues at the School of Public Health have
- 20 done on enrollment. This is the kind of finding
- 21 that is very sophisticated and very interesting,
- 22 but it's not something that the scientific

- 1 advisory committee is going to agonize about. It's
- 2 just going to be fascinating to see it documented.
- 3 But early on, it was, do we release? Do we run the
- 4 risk of scaring people? Do we wait?
- 5 And so, you know, for a pregnancy
- 6 registry with a limited funding, you don't pay
- 7 these people. We don't pay the women who enroll.
- 8 And so you're depending on the goodwill of
- 9 colleagues who are interested in a topic and are
- 10 willing to come to Boston for a day each -- well,
- 11 it used to be twice a year, now once a year, to go
- 12 over the findings. And we are grateful to them
- 13 for having done that for so long because that has
- 14 really made it work.
- 15 You can imagine another model where you
- 16 would be paying folks thousands of dollars and so
- 17 forth, but that just is not a realistic part of a
- 18 pregnancy registry budget. But that is how it has
- 19 worked. We meet separately and then we end that
- 20 discussion and decide what we want to discuss with
- 21 the representatives of the sponsors. And then the
- 22 sponsors are invited in, their representatives,

- 1 usually one or occasionally two for each company.
- 2 And so we and the representatives for the sponsors
- 3 go over what we think is ready for prime time to
- 4 talk about.
- 5 And when we publish something, we send
- 6 around the manuscript to the sponsors a month
- 7 before we submit it so they have a chance to give
- 8 us their comments, questions, whatever with the
- 9 understanding that we will consider whatever they
- 10 say, but we necessarily won't change anything
- 11 based on what they say.
- 12 And that has been another thing that has
- 13 evolved since 1997. Initially a lot of the
- 14 sponsors were very opposed to the idea of separate
- 15 meetings, where we only met with the scientific
- 16 advisers, and the people writing the checks were
- 17 not in the room. But gradually over time, they
- 18 became more comfortable with that.
- 19 And now our biggest question is, will
- 20 the support continue? And we don't have any way
- 21 to know whether it will or not, but you can see
- 22 that if you are beginning to talk about specific

- 1 malformations, you have got to continue. I mean,
- 2 a registry stops after 500 enrollees. You're not
- 3 even to first base. And, you know, that's the big
- 4 unanswered question. Will the companies feel the
- 5 importance of continuing so we can begin to talk
- 6 about heart defects and oral clefts and spina
- 7 bifida and et cetera because I think that's where
- 8 these registries should go if the exposure is
- 9 common enough and the enrollment is at high enough
- 10 rate?
- 11 DR. DANA: Hello. It's Adrian Dana. I
- 12 had a clarifying question about the communication.
- 13 And, you know, you say you decide to communicate.
- 14 You know, I think that the communicating negative
- 15 results in this setting is just as important to
- 16 exposed women as communicating, you know, positive
- 17 results of a defect that you are concerned about.
- 18 And so, you know, what we have done in the past is
- 19 we just communicate on a periodic basis. You
- 20 know, if we had something that needed to be
- 21 communicated more emergently, we would. And so I
- 22 wondered, do you communicate on a yearly basis? Do

- 1 you put together some kind of a report or do you
- 2 only communicate when you have a concern?
- 3 DR. HOLMES: One of the references in my
- 4 slides was Sonia was the first author of the paper
- 5 that appeared in Neurology in 2012. And that was
- 6 the 11 drugs which had been taken as monotherapy
- 7 by at least 50 enrolled women. And so among those
- 8 11, you have 2 or 3 good news stories, reassurance
- 9 that this drug, that drug was not associated with
- 10 a significant increase. So we have done both. But
- 11 we have not had a systematic -- we haven't had a
- 12 routine.
- 13 The Australian Anti-Epileptic Drug
- 14 Pregnancy Registry is one that does what you were
- 15 asking about. They every year publish wherever
- 16 they are, what their results are. So the groups
- 17 have done it different ways.
- DR. TASSINARI: We will take one more
- 19 question, and then we will head to break.
- DR. NGUYEN: Dr. Holmes, do you think
- 21 that your friends and family strategy for a
- 22 comparator group is generalizable to other

91 products, like vaccines? DR. HOLMES: I think it is the sort of thing that people need to look at and think about. For us, it has worked. And I think the value of an internal comparison group is really powerful. 5 And so it would be interesting to hear the people who have worked on vaccines to comment on that. 8 But you need to get away from the idea that -- using historical comparison groups and get 9 your own comparison group so you've got your own 10 things that happen to real people, real time. 11 that's my plus side, but I would be interested to 12 13 know what they think about using it. DR. TASSINARI: Well, thank you. 14 15 have reached our break time. Okay. Go ahead. 16 MS. MOYERS: Just one housekeeping 17 announcement for the invited panelists who let us 18 know they would like to participate in the buffet 19 If you could just please pay at the kiosk? 20 If you have any questions, Paul Tran is at the registration desk. That is for the invited 21 panelists. Thank you. 22

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              DR. TASSINARI: We will resume at 10:00
 1
    o'clock.
                    (Off the record.)
 3
                    (On the record.)
              DR. TASSINARI: Well, I think we will
 5
   begin with our next presentation. We have two
 6
   more presentations this morning. And then we have
 7
    set aside some time to address a few questions
    that we have for the panelists related to the
    information that we have been listening to this
10
11
   morning.
              So, with that, I'd like to ask Dr.
12
   Albano, how is from INC Research, to present on
13
    multi-product registries. Thank you.
15
                   MULTI-PRODUCT REGISTRIES
16
              DR. ALBANO: Good morning. I am pleased
17
    to have the opportunity to speak to you all today
18
    and to share some of our experience with multi-
19
   product registries.
20
              I wanted to begin by just reviewing a
    few of the important points that have already been
21
   brought up this morning: first, that most
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- 1 information on the safety or risk of drugs related
- 2 to pregnancy is collected after the drug has been
- 3 approved and is used in pregnant women in the
- 4 real-world setting. Pregnancy registries are
- 5 generally implemented when there is either a
- 6 safety concern, an indication for use during
- 7 pregnancy, or a high likelihood of use in women of
- 8 reproductive age. The purpose of pregnancy
- 9 exposure registries is to provide human data on
- 10 the safety risk profile of pharmaceutical products
- 11 during pregnancy. In order to fulfill the goal of
- 12 informing the decisions of patients and health
- 13 care providers, it is imperative to initiate the
- 14 registry as soon as possible using the most
- 15 effective design strategy.
- 16 The objectives of this presentation are
- 17 to differentiate single versus multi-product or
- 18 disease-based registries; to demonstrate the
- 19 appropriate use of each with examples; to discuss
- 20 advantages, challenges, and special
- 21 considerations; and to delineate some of the
- 22 perceived barriers to implementation. The first

- 1 distinction to be made is between a product and a
- 2 disease registry. In a product registry, the
- 3 eligible population is identified based on
- 4 exposure to a particular drug, biologic, or
- 5 medical device, although the latter is of less
- 6 relevance with regard to pregnancy registries. In
- 7 a disease registry, the eligible population is
- 8 identified by a common condition or diagnosis.
- 9 Individuals may be treated or untreated. And
- 10 among those treated, their therapy may include one
- 11 or several different drug products. So while the
- 12 product and disease registries have some distinct
- 13 methodological differences, both have the
- 14 potential to result in either a single or a multi-
- 15 product registry. We will be discussing them
- 16 together in the overall framework of multi-product
- 17 registries.
- 18 As the term implies, a single product
- 19 registry monitors a single drug or biologic
- 20 product. There may be multiple formulations,
- 21 varying doses, or different routes of
- 22 administration as well as both brand and unbranded

- 1 versions. Single product registries are most
- 2 appropriate for newly approved products, the first
- 3 product in a new drug class, when there is a new
- 4 indication for a marketed product, when there is a
- 5 high likelihood for use in pregnant women of
- 6 reproductive age, when the product is approved for
- 7 use in a unique population, when the product has a
- 8 known pregnancy or fetal risk, and when there is
- 9 excess risk for a product compared to other
- 10 treatment options.
- 11 As an example of a registry for a
- 12 product with a known safety risk, the Ribavirin
- 13 Pregnancy Registry monitors fetal exposures to
- 14 brand and generic versions of products with a
- 15 ribavirin component that are marketed in the
- 16 United States. In contrast, the Adenovirus Vaccine
- 17 Pregnancy Registry was designed to monitor
- 18 outcomes of fetal exposure to adenovirus vaccine
- 19 in the U.S. military, a unique population with a
- 20 large number of reproductive age women.
- In a simple scenario, a multi-product
- 22 registry monitors multiple different products for

- 1 the same indication from a single pharmaceutical
- 2 company. This type of registry is appropriate
- 3 when the products are within a single drug class,
- 4 have a similar risk profile, or are likely to be
- 5 used in the same patient population. This type of
- 6 registry may also be appropriate when concomitant
- 7 exposures are of concern or when a combined
- 8 registry is operationally and logistically
- 9 feasible.
- 10 Each of these registries monitors
- 11 pregnancy's exposures to multiple drugs used to
- 12 treat the same condition or disease. The
- 13 Sumatriptan, Naratriptan, and Treximet Pregnancy
- 14 Registry includes three drugs indicated for the
- 15 treatment of migraines. The MotHER Pregnancy
- 16 Registry has expanded to include three HER2+
- 17 breast cancer treatments.
- In the complex scenario, multi-product
- 19 or disease-based registries monitor all of the
- 20 marketed products used to treat a particular
- 21 disease in a given region. This type of registry
- 22 is appropriate when the products are manufactured

- 1 in combination, there are complex multi-drug
- 2 treatment regimens, there is a high likelihood of
- 3 polytherapy, there are frequent and new product
- 4 approvals, internal comparisons are desirable, or
- 5 when confounding disease or population
- 6 characteristics may exist.
- 7 Two examples of long-term registries are
- 8 the North American Anti-Epileptic Drug Pregnancy
- 9 Registry and the Antiviral Pregnancy Registry. You
- 10 have already heard quite a bit about the North
- 11 American Registry, which monitors approximately 38
- 12 drug products used individually as monotherapy or
- 13 as complementary polytherapy. The APR monitors
- 14 approximately 30 single drug and 8 combination
- 15 drug products. Twenty-five are indicated for HIV.
- 16 Two are indicated for both HIV and hepatitis B.
- 17 And three are indicated for hepatitis B alone.
- I'm going to go into a few of the
- 19 results from the Antiretroviral Pregnancy
- 20 Registry. The registry began as a single drug
- 21 registry in 1989 and has expanded over the past
- 22 nearly 25 years to become a multi-product, multi-

- 1 sponsor registry. Through July of 2013, there
- 2 have been almost 18,500 prospective cases enrolled
- 3 from 67 countries. Seventy-eight percent of the
- 4 reports in the registry are from the U.S. and its
- 5 territories, and 9 and a half percent of
- 6 enrollments have been lost to follow-up. Among
- 7 the 38 drugs being monitored, there are currently
- 8 23 participating manufacturers.
- 9 Through July of 2013, there have been
- 10 more than 16,300 prospective reports with outcome.
- 11 Approximately half, or 48 percent, of pregnancies
- 12 have exposure in the first trimester. Thirty-nine
- 13 percent were initially exposed in the second
- 14 trimester. And 13 percent were exposed beginning
- 15 in the third trimester.
- 16 Among the 16,589 outcomes, there were
- 17 15,451 live births and 445 defect cases. The
- 18 overall prevalence of birth defects was 2.9
- 19 percent. The 95 percent confidence interval
- 20 ranges from 2.6 to 3.2 percent. The APR uses a
- 21 comparison group primarily of the MACDP, which
- 22 from 1989 to 2003 has a birth defect prevalence of

- 1 2.72 percent.
- 2 Among first trimester exposures, the
- 3 prevalence of birth defects was 2.9 with a 95
- 4 percent confidence interval from 2.5 to 3.3
- 5 percent. This is compared internally by later
- 6 trimesters, in the second and third trimester, but
- 7 the risk of defects is not significant. The risk
- 8 is 1.02.
- 9 In addition to evaluating drugs in
- 10 aggregate and by class of antiretroviral therapy,
- 11 they are analyzed individually when sufficient
- 12 numbers of exposures have accumulated to warrant a
- 13 separate analysis. The APR uses a threshold of
- 14 200 first trimester exposed cases. To date, there
- 15 has been no concern among the individual drugs
- 16 analyzed with the exception of two drugs,
- 17 nelfinavir and didanosine, which have a modest but
- 18 statistically significant elevated risk overall
- 19 compared to the MACDP. However, there is no
- 20 discernible pattern among the specific defects
- 21 that had been reported.
- 22 Our Advisory Committee reviews in

- 1 aggregate and individual cases on a semiannual
- 2 basis and as part of our published annual and
- 3 semiannual reports provides a consensus statement
- 4 that is there, a cumulative and comprehensive
- 5 review of the data. I will summarize it by saying
- 6 that the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry finds
- 7 no apparent increase in the frequency of specific
- 8 defects with first trimester exposures and no
- 9 pattern to suggest a common cause. However,
- 10 potential limitations of registries should be
- 11 recognized.
- 12 The APR is funded by pharmaceutical
- 13 companies listed here. And the APR always wants
- 14 to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the
- 15 clinicians who submit cases as well as the
- 16 valuable contributions of our Steering Committee.
- 17 And we'll get into the governance structure of the
- 18 Steering Committee a little later on.
- 19 I'm going to talk about some of the
- 20 advantages and challenges of the complex multi-
- 21 drug registries. So, despite their complexity,
- 22 multi-product or disease-based registries have

- 1 distinct advantages over single product
- 2 registries. They are logical in that they avoid
- 3 duplicate efforts in the establishment of the
- 4 registry, but also from a reporting perspective
- 5 for health care providers, pharmaceutical
- 6 companies, and regulators. They are economical,
- 7 pooling resources and budgets from multiple
- 8 stakeholders. Not only are multi-product
- 9 registries more efficient with their use of
- 10 limited budgets and resource but with their
- 11 utilization of experts in the roles of Advisory
- 12 Board members and birth defect evaluators.
- I will touch more on analytical
- 14 considerations later, but multi-product registries
- 15 are methodologically advantageous to the
- 16 standardization of data collection, case
- 17 evaluation, and statistical analysis, not to
- 18 mention enhanced validity and power.
- 19 Multi-product registries reduce
- 20 competition for eligible patients and streamline
- 21 health care provider participation. They also
- 22 offer a more robust consolidated awareness effort.

- 1 The most important advantages, however, are from
- 2 the clinical point of view. Multi-product
- 3 registries serve as a centralized resource for
- 4 patients and physicians. They minimize the
- 5 reporting burden of health care providers,
- 6 increase incentive to participate for providing a
- 7 single comprehensive reporting mechanism. They
- 8 offer a coherent assessment of the available data.
- 9 And they provide a consistent message of the
- 10 current understanding regarding risk.
- Despite the many advantages, there are
- 12 several challenges. I call these the C's of
- 13 multi-product registries. First is complexity.
- 14 They are operationally and analytically complex
- 15 and require a high degree of expertise to
- 16 implement.
- 17 Collaboration. They require agreement
- 18 from companies competing in the same therapeutic
- 19 area to work together, adopt common processes,
- 20 adhere to policies and timelines.
- 21 Communication. All parties must respect
- 22 the established lines of communication, which

103 should be appropriately documented. Competition. Innovator companies, being the first at the table, are frequently responsible for the setup and implementation of 4 such a registry. 5 Confidentiality. It is necessary to 6 have sensitivity to the proprietary aspects of 7 8 drug discovery, marketing, and lifecycle management as well as direct communications between regulatory agencies and pharmaceutical 10 companies that may occur outside of the context of 11 12 the registry but which may have relevance to the 13 registry itself. And commitment. Various stakeholders 14 15 may not have the same level of commitment 16 regarding their participation. Analyses of multi-product registries can 17 be multi-tiered. They can be at the individual 18 19 drug class level, they can compare monotherapy versus polytherapy, or they can look at the 20 21 overall registry experience for all the drugs being monitored. We have had an in-depth review

- 1 already of comparison groups and potential
- 2 confounders. So we'll move past those topics.
- In regard to special considerations, as
- 4 a mentor of mine likes to say, failing to plan is
- 5 planning to fail. And that is certainly the case
- 6 when it comes to registries. They require unique
- 7 approaches in the design, data collection,
- 8 statistical analysis, reporting, and the
- 9 dissemination of data.
- 10 An imperative to the success of any
- 11 complex collaborative registry is to have a well-
- 12 defined governance structure. By "collaborative
- 13 registry," I am referring to one in which multiple
- 14 stakeholders work together to meet one or more
- 15 specific objectives, whether this is by choice or
- 16 by mandate.
- 17 This figure depicts the governance
- 18 structure of the Antiretroviral Pregnancy
- 19 Registry, which is overseen by a steering
- 20 committee comprised of three groups. The
- 21 Scientific Advisory Board is made up of experts in
- 22 the appropriate fields from academia, government,

- 1 and private practice. The advisors provide
- 2 scientific oversight as well as review and
- 3 interpret the data. The sponsor representatives
- 4 from the pharmaceutical industry oversee the
- 5 registry management, budget approvals, and
- 6 regulatory reporting. The Registry Coordinating
- 7 Center is responsible for the managing daily
- 8 operations from enrollment to data collection,
- 9 statistically analysis, report writing,
- 10 interactions with the IRB, and facilitating the
- 11 interaction of both the advisors and the sponsors.
- 12 The primary benefit of such a governance structure
- 13 is the clear separation of scientific, financial,
- 14 and operational activities.
- 15 When planning research, it is vital to
- 16 consider both the business and the scientific
- 17 objectives and to find a balance. Business
- 18 objectives address marketing, treatment options,
- 19 satisfying post-approval regulatory commitments,
- 20 or product differentiation while scientific
- 21 objectives address product effectiveness and
- 22 safety, cost versus benefits, patient/physician

106 satisfaction, utilization patterns, and patient adherence. Without sensitivity to the business objectives, which often drive funding sources, the scientific objectives may not be realized. 4 In order to alleviate some of the 5 uncertainty with regard to preferred methodologies 6 and design strategies, it would be helpful to have 7 8 the following updated regulatory guidance that specifically addresses best practices, gives 9 directives, unacceptable recruitment methods, and 10 encourages consistency across therapeutic areas. 11 12 In conclusion, the implementation of an effective pregnancy registry hinges on identifying 13 the most appropriate design. Expert consultation 14 15 is a critical step in understanding the regulatory landscape and drug or population-specific nuances. 16 Engaging stakeholders to gain broad participation 17 18 and planning early to ensure the greatest utility 19 is realized. 20 Thank you. 21 (Applause.) 22 DR. TASSINARI: Clarifying questions

107 from the panel? DR. IYASU: Well, thank you very much. That was a very nice presentation. It's great how 3 you discussed sort of the governance structure, 4 which is a very important element in terms of 5 success of such registries. Could you speak to 6 the issues of the trade-offs between product-7 specific analysis versus sort of the aggregate because, you know, there are multiple pharmaceutical companies involved here? So how is 10 that achieved, actually, in terms of data sharing 11 about information about product-specific issues? 12 13 DR. ALBANO: The way the APR conducts its analysis, INC Research serving as the 15 coordinating center for the registry, it is 16 responsible for collecting all the data. 17 hold the data. And they analyze the data and 18 distribute it in aggregate to the participating 19 manufacturers and the advisory committee who reviews the data semiannually. So we have a 20 21 threshold that has to be met before we do productspecific analyses. And those are all done as per

- 1 the routine analysis that is already planned out
- 2 for the registry and reported as such. So
- 3 everyone has accessibility to all the products. We
- 4 do, you know, hold that threshold until we get a
- 5 sufficient number of exposures before we conduct
- 6 that.
- 7 DR. TASSINARI: I'd like to introduce
- 8 Dr. Adel Abou-Ali, who is our industry
- 9 representative. And he is going to speak on data
- 10 collection and experiences with vaccines.
- DR. ABOU-ALI: Thank you very much.
- 12 DATA COLLECTION/EXPERIENCE WITH
- 13 VACCINES
- 14 DR. ABOU-ALI: As a start, I would like
- 15 to thank the FDA for inviting a representative
- 16 from the vaccine industry for such an important
- 17 event. This is my first presentation on this
- 18 particular topic after moving from government to
- 19 the industry. And I will present another similar
- 20 topic at the WHO in Geneva next month. And I have
- 21 to admit putting those slides together was really
- 22 challenging, even though in the drug arena, there

- 1 is a lot and plenty of information available on
- 2 drug exposure pregnancy registries, but for the
- 3 vaccine industry, the picture is slightly
- 4 different. So it was kind of challenging to put
- 5 those slides together on the data collection and
- 6 experience with the vaccine.
- 7 Quick background. As Dr. Iyasu and Dr.
- 8 Sahin, Dr. Diaz referred in their backgrounds, the
- 9 importance for pregnancy registry in the vaccine
- 10 industry is very similar to drug
- 11 registry/pregnancy registry. The preclinical data
- 12 and the premarketing safety evaluation do not
- 13 provide enough information about the safety for
- 14 vaccines, very similar to what is happening in the
- 15 drug arena.
- In addition to that, there is a
- 17 theoretical risk of fetal transmission in some
- 18 kind of particular vaccines, specifically for
- 19 those vaccines like MMR and varicella, that might
- 20 cause a risk by transmission to the fetus. Also,
- 21 recent recommendations recommend giving the
- 22 influenza vaccines and Tdap vaccines to all

- 1 pregnant women. So having information about dose
- 2 exposures is of particular importance.
- In order to give a quick picture about
- 4 how it is within the vaccine industry, I found a
- 5 report that was prepared in a similar meeting at
- 6 the EMA, European Medical Agency, about the
- 7 overview of pregnancy exposure registries, very
- 8 helpful to describe how it is in the vaccine
- 9 industry. They referred to the sources of
- 10 pregnancy registries according to who said
- 11 pregnancy into certain classifications. This
- 12 classification includes that pharmaceutical
- 13 companies may be responsible for pregnancy
- 14 exposure registries. It could come from academic
- 15 groups. It could come from research groups. And
- 16 there are other new and alternative sources, such
- 17 as the health care databases, like the CPRD, and
- 18 the population-based surveillance registers, such
- 19 as in Northern countries or Scandinavian
- 20 countries.
- 21 Pregnancy exposure registries can also
- 22 be classified according to the exposure. It could

- 1 be a single drug registry or a drug class registry
- 2 or a disease registry. In the vaccine industry,
- 3 the most common one is the single drug registry.
- 4 In my limited exposure so far in the vaccine
- 5 industry, I didn't see any multiple drug
- 6 registries or drug class registries. It's all
- 7 with a single drug registry.
- 8 It also can be classified according to
- 9 the location and to country-specific and
- 10 international. So far the most common is the
- 11 country-specific registries. But I can see that
- 12 we're moving slowly toward the global registries.
- 13 We just started the new global registry for the
- 14 flu vaccine QIV. It is going to be here in the
- 15 United States as well as in Europe. And I think
- 16 other companies are taking the same approach
- 17 slowly.
- In establishing the registries, the
- 19 vaccine company depends basically on guidance from
- 20 regulatory agencies. Here in the United States,
- 21 one of the guidance for industry is one of the
- 22 important guidances that we are using to establish

- 1 our vaccine registries, in addition to the
- 2 reviewer guidance that came in 2005. Both of them
- 3 provide very useful information about how to
- 4 establish the registry. And I'm going to use the
- 5 elements that were explained in the guidance that
- 6 was published in 2002 from the FDA to try to walk
- 7 you through how we establish our pregnancy
- 8 registries in the vaccine arena.
- 9 The European Medical Agency came out
- 10 with similar guidance in 2005 and described the
- 11 process in a very similar way. So these
- 12 guidelines provided six very important elements
- 13 that we use on a regular basis when we are trying
- 14 to establish our registries, starting from the
- 15 design to equipment, the reporting sources,
- 16 explaining how to collect the data, and how to
- 17 make the follow-up, how to conduct data analysis,
- 18 and how to report the results.
- 19 Starting with the design, as Dr. Holmes
- 20 referred in the beginning, pregnancy registries
- 21 are observational and not interventional. It's
- 22 noninterventional. It's either active

- 1 surveillance or passive surveillance according to
- 2 the description in the FDA guidelines. In the
- 3 drug arena, the most common form is the active
- 4 surveillance or the cohort even monitoring
- 5 registries. In vaccines so far, what I have seen
- 6 in the industry of vaccines, it is mostly passive
- 7 surveillance observational studies. It could be
- 8 prospective or retrospective. And, ideally, it
- 9 should be prospective to avoid some kinds of
- 10 biases. Prospectively means that you start
- 11 enrollment prior to pregnancy or early during that
- 12 pregnancy. And we're going to explain this in
- 13 details.
- So in general vaccine registry, we use
- 15 passive surveillance. And this passive
- 16 surveillance is basically the women on voluntary
- 17 participation. It's dependent on spontaneous
- 18 reporting.
- 19 It's a HIPAA-compliant system for most
- 20 companies, including Sanofi Pasteur. And it
- 21 mainly aims to collect data and information on the
- 22 vaccine exposure and the pregnancy outcome in

- 1 order to monitor for any potential safety signals.
- 2 So it's a mean for signal detection in other ways
- 3 or in other words.
- 4 The enrollment in those registries is
- 5 usually, as explained earlier, prospectively or
- 6 retrospectively. So when we receive the cases or
- 7 when the registry is being defined after the
- 8 exposure of the vaccine but before the conduct of
- 9 any prenatal tests or knowing what is the outcome
- 10 of the pregnancy, we consider this prospective.
- 11 Retrospectively, on the other hand, is when the
- 12 registry is notified after the outcome of the
- 13 pregnancy is already known. And usually this
- 14 happened from the patient, not from the health
- 15 care provider.
- 16 The second element in the quidelines
- 17 that we use in our vaccine registries is the
- 18 recruitment. The guidelines described how
- 19 companies can do recruitment and announcement. And
- 20 I find in vaccine, in particular, the most
- 21 important way of announcement or recruitment is
- 22 through labeling. Usually the package inserts

- 1 contain the phone number or a web address for
- 2 patients and health care providers to how to
- 3 report any cases.
- 4 The second most common way of
- 5 announcement or recruitment for patients is the
- 6 company websites. So far, most of the
- 7 pharmaceutical companies have websites for their
- 8 pregnancy registries. Sanofi Pasteur has
- 9 sanofipasteurpregnancyregistry.com. GSK has a
- 10 very similar one. Merck has a similar one. All
- 11 of them have those websites. On the website,
- 12 usually there is a description of the different
- 13 pregnancy registries that is taking place,
- 14 including both drug and vaccines and the mean of
- 15 communications to report cases for those
- 16 registries.
- 17 Other means include professional
- 18 journals; professional and maternal/infant
- 19 advocacy group newsletters; informational booths
- 20 at professional meetings; and, finally, lectures
- 21 and talks, such as this public meeting. So I'm
- 22 going to show you later on our website and our

- 1 phone number, a toll-free phone number, where you
- 2 can report cases. So patient or health care
- 3 providers can use those means to report cases for
- 4 the pregnancy registry.
- 5 The third element is the reporting
- 6 sources. Usually the most common reporting source
- 7 is the health care provider. Followed by the
- 8 health care provider is the pregnant women
- 9 themselves, who are exposed to the vaccines.
- 10 The reports can be made either by a
- 11 toll-free number, as explained earlier, or from a
- 12 website. Each company has one toll-free number
- 13 that is for all of their vaccine pregnancies. And
- 14 thorough this phone number, you can report any
- 15 cases.
- 16 In addition to those reports that come
- 17 from health care providers and consumers, there
- 18 are other ways that we can collect data on
- 19 exposure to vaccine during pregnancy. Such
- 20 sources or means include company-sponsored
- 21 studies. So, as you see, this is a description of
- 22 the best surveillance practices we conduct at our

- 1 company. On the other hand, there are other
- 2 studies that can be taking place besides this
- 3 specific surveillance. Any cases on those studies
- 4 can result in reports that go into the registry.
- 5 In addition to those company-sponsored
- 6 studies, there is the medical literature and cases
- 7 being reported to health authorities, such as the
- 8 FDA.
- 9 The fourth element is the data
- 10 collection and the follow-up. Usually the
- 11 pregnancy cases, with or without adverse events,
- 12 are being recorded in the company. Any cases that
- 13 are reported to the company are being kept in a
- 14 global pharmacovigilance database and are reviewed
- 15 frequently by product safety officers, which in
- 16 general are clinicians that reviewed those cases.
- 17 The pregnancy outcomes are followed up
- 18 via questionnaire. This questionnaire is sent to
- 19 a reporter, whether it is a health care provider
- 20 or a patient, and collects information about
- 21 different data. And this usually happens several
- 22 times during the pregnancy and up to three times

- 1 following the outcome itself. So if there was a
- 2 child as an outcome, we follow up for up to three
- 3 times if we didn't receive any information that
- 4 said, "We closed the case." Information collected
- 5 in this questionnaire or in this pregnancy form
- 6 would include information about the demographic
- 7 data, include information about the vaccine
- 8 itself, the product, the brand, and administration
- 9 date. It also can include details about the
- 10 pregnancy, like the gestational age, date of last
- 11 menstrual period, and other information.
- When it comes to reporting the pregnancy
- 13 outcomes, it depends on the type of the outcome.
- 14 So if the outcome for certain criteria to be
- 15 considered, severe adverse event, which may
- 16 include the spontaneous abortion, stillbirth,
- 17 congenital anomalies, according to the Title 21 of
- 18 the Code of Federal Regulations, we have to report
- 19 those within 15 days besides having them in our
- 20 global database.
- 21 If the outcome does not fulfill this,
- 22 usually the event being kept in our global

- 1 database and reported to a regulatory agency
- 2 through the periodic safety update reporting
- 3 systems, which is different from one agency to
- 4 another. And those kinds of evidence include all
- 5 other cases of pregnancy, that do not meet any
- 6 definition of seriousness and that also include
- 7 all of the serious adverse events that were
- 8 reported earlier within 15 days.
- 9 The last element of the guidelines that
- 10 we usually follow when we establish our pregnancy
- 11 registries is the data analysis. We usually
- 12 analyze the data being collected prospectively and
- 13 retrospectively separated from each other. For
- 14 the prospectively collected data, we usually
- 15 certify them according to the pregnancy outcomes.
- 16 So we would classify by spontaneous abortion,
- 17 elective termination, fetal death or stillbirth.
- 18 We classify by live birth, also congenital
- 19 anomalies.
- 20 If the information or the data is
- 21 collected retrospectively, we only consider it for
- 22 qualitative evaluation. We do not consider it for

- 1 quantitative evaluation. Each of those cases
- 2 reported either prospectively or retrospectively
- 3 is evaluated for the time of exposure, the time of
- 4 conception, the maternal age, the medical history,
- 5 also for biological plausibility, and any drugs
- 6 that have been taken besides the vaccine during
- 7 the pregnancy phase.
- From the analysis, we can get occurrence
- 9 rates and calculate them. And from those
- 10 occurrence rates, we actually can find out if
- 11 there is some potential signal or not. And if
- 12 there is a potential signal, we can act
- 13 accordingly.
- 14 The challenges and limitations we face
- 15 in the vaccine industry so far are not so
- 16 different from what drug exposure pregnancy
- 17 registry is facing. We face the same limitation
- 18 of completeness of data. Usually we do not have
- 19 enough information from the data collected,
- 20 especially if the reporter is a patient, not a
- 21 health care provider. There is a lot of missing
- 22 data on the branding. And to be more specific,

121 there is also missing medical confirmation, specifically if it was provided from the patient, not from the health care provider. We also face challenges with loss to follow-up. If the health 4 5 care provider has contact with the women after the outcome takes place, then he would have a follow-6 7 up, but if not, then there is no way to have a follow-up on such cases. We also face a challenge with lack of precise denominators since this is basically a passive surveillance system, which is 10 basically dependent on spontaneous reporting. 11 12 do not have usually a precise denominator, which affects the calculation later on. We also face 13 challenges with the control and unexposed group. 15 Walking through an example from Sanofi 16 17 Pasteur pregnancy registries to 18 highlight what I have explained earlier, Sanofi

Pasteur so far has four active pregnancy

registries: one for Menactra, Adacel, Fluzone,

and Fluzone QIV. And Fluzone QIV, it's a global

pregnancy registry that we just started. So it's

19

20

- 1 kind of an educational experience for us to
- 2 explore how to do this thing globally, which will
- 3 include a totally different set of challenges and
- 4 limitations.
- 5 An example of the Adacel, for example,
- 6 to explain the limitations we are facing, in a
- 7 period of six years, from June 2005 until June
- 8 2011, we received 577 pregnancy reports. Ninety-
- 9 two percent of those reports were spontaneous
- 10 reports, which is the 528. And 49 study reports,
- 11 which is about 8 percent of the reports, came from
- 12 other studies. Out of the 528, we had 345 lost to
- 13 follow-up, which is about 67 percent of the
- 14 pregnancy. So this can give you an idea about how
- 15 limited this process is and the challenge we're
- 16 facing in this. This is not in particular to
- 17 Sanofi Pasteur vaccine registries, but it can
- 18 apply to other registries as well for other
- 19 companies.
- In summary, in the vaccine area, the
- 21 pregnancy registry is a mean for signal detection.
- 22 It does not answer the question, but it can help

123 you identify those potential signals that need more investigations and more studies. In other ways, vaccine registry can act as hypothesisgenerating studies by detecting adverse pregnancy outcomes that may warrant further investigation. 5 Having said that, despite the current limitation 6 of vaccine pregnancy registries, it remains an 7 8 important source for information. 9 Thank you. 10 (Applause.) DR. TASSINARI: Questions? Comments? 11 Yes, Mike? 12 13 CLARIFYING QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESENTERS 14 15 FROM THE PANEL 16 DR. GREENE: For the post-marketing 17 surveillance studies that are not required as part 18 of the approval of the drug, what expectation or 19 requirement is there for the registries to report 20 their data to the FDA or does the FDA find out 21 about it by reading about it in the newspaper? 22 DR. NGUYEN: For the ones that are not

- 1 PMCs and PMRs if this is what you're asking,
- 2 occasionally we get courtesy copies of
- 3 information. And in other ways, we do detect it
- 4 through our routine surveillance of the
- 5 literature.
- 6 Additionally, we also have the advantage
- 7 of our partnering very closely with CDC in the
- 8 Immunization Safety Office. And together we often
- 9 monitor the literature that way.
- 10 DR. YAO: I can also speak to the points
- 11 that were brought up that there are other separate
- 12 reporting systems for the requirements to report
- 13 adverse events, et cetera, et cetera. And
- 14 sometimes in that context, we will find out this
- 15 is how they were obtained. But it's not, as you
- 16 point out, a requirement if we didn't ask them or
- 17 tell them to do it.
- I think in most cases, companies when
- 19 they are interested in trying to do something like
- 20 this will actually, you know, come to FDA and talk
- 21 to that, "What would be the way to best do it? How
- 22 would you like to report it?" Then there is some

125 collaboration there often. DR. TASSINARI: I wondered if you could expand a little bit about the challenges you are facing maybe in alanning for moving to the global registry, as you alluded to. 5 DR. ABOU-ALI: Well, as I mentioned, 6 7 this is new experience for us. And we're moving slowly into it, but we are considering some nontraditional ways of doing that. The first is going to be in Mexico, for example. And we're 10 11 thinking of using a web-based system to collect 12 the information and establish a pregnancy 13 registry. 14 So, instead of using a paper-based method sending that questionnaire to the health 15 care provider or to the patient and then collect 16 17 the data back, the health care provider, all the 18 patient can report through an online web-based 19 system application, that that's found online. 20 Other ways is to use Smartphone applications, for 21 And we're thinking seriously about doing

this with the QIV, Fluzone QIV. Most of the

- 1 people right now have Smartphones. And everybody
- 2 is using it for regular activities. So if you
- 3 have an application that you can report the
- 4 adverse events through, this can facilitate the
- 5 process and increase the enrollment rate as well.
- 6 So those are some kinds of alternative
- 7 methods that we're going to be using. Of course,
- 8 there is a lot challenging or challenges to do
- 9 that, but we are trying to overcome those.
- DR. TASSINARI: So, I mean, those sound
- 11 like approaches that one could take, whether you
- 12 chose to be within the United States or global or
- 13 not. I think they're great thoughts in terms of
- 14 meeting some of the challenges we have.
- I guess I am still trying to understand
- 16 what it is that makes it so much more challenging.
- 17 If you could elaborate a little bit more on why?
- 18 Why wouldn't you move to a global setting?
- 19 DR. ABOU-ALI: Why would we move to a
- 20 global setting, rather than --
- 21 DR. TASSINARI: Well, I got why would
- 22 you move to a global setting, but what are you

127 anticipating that makes it more challenging than just setting up a registry within the United States? DR. ABOU-ALI: Well, definitely you will 4 have a larger sample size probably if we're moving 5 globally, not just locally. This is one of the 6 things. You are increasing your sample size. 7 8 we hope that doing a global registry will do that. 9 Other things, lately we have been facing challenges with other regulatory agencies when 10 11 they approve the product. If the trial is being conducted in the United States, for example, and 12 not in South America, they think that the drug 13 might have different effects, especially with 14 15 regard to the safety. So if you apply the same 16 concept on pregnancy registry, the same thing. they would require something locally there. 17 18 So from a resources point of view, it is 19 easier for us to have this pregnancy registry globally, rather than having multiple local ones. 20 21 So that's another thing that we're thinking of. 22 DR. DANA: Again, Adrian Dana from

- 1 Merck. Maybe I can answer some of the challenges
- 2 that we have faced with at least maybe not global
- 3 but multinational registries.
- 4 One of the things that is very difficult
- 5 is the differing privacy regulations. So, for
- 6 instance, we have had registries in Canada. Canada
- 7 is very difficult because we are not allowed to go
- 8 back to the patient or the provider to get the
- 9 follow-up data, which is absolutely critical. We
- 10 have to go back at the time that we, you know,
- 11 expect delivery to have occurred to find out the
- 12 data. So that has been extremely limiting for us.
- 13 So I think one of the major challenges
- 14 is differing privacy regulations among different
- 15 areas. Another challenge, of course, is that, you
- 16 know, up to now, you know, finding this control
- 17 group is like the holy grail, you know. And so up
- 18 to now, we have largely been using, you know,
- 19 basically epidemiologic data from that population.
- 20 So when you start to get into other regions of the
- 21 world, you know, the background rates of various
- 22 adverse events in pregnancy may be differing. And

129 so we have to find a proper comparison group. I think those are two of our major challenges. DR. TASSINARI: I actually think that --3 okay. Michael? Sorry. 5 DR. GREENE: Just as a practical matter, in a scientific advisory committee that I sit on, 6 some of the international reports that come in 7 8 report complications of pregnancy and/or birth defects in their native language, for which there is no direct translation into English. So that 10 11 sometimes I will look at a report and it will be translated into English, but it doesn't mean 12 anything in terms of any of the categories of 13 disease that we understand. So it's harder. 14 15 DR. NGUYEN: I just wanted to follow up 16 the question on your implementation of web-based 17 protocols and Smartphone applications. Have you 18 found in the early experience or in maybe pilot 19 programs that it has helped address the 67 percent 20 loss to follow-up or is it only to improve 21 enrollment? DR. ABOU-ALI: Well, it's only going to 22

- 1 be only to improve it. So probably we're going to
- 2 have some loss. I'm not sure how big it is going
- 3 to be. But there is only one published study that
- 4 came from, if I recall, Malaysia. That is where
- 5 they had a pilot study on a vaccine surveillance
- 6 through mobile devices. The loss rate was about
- 7 70 percent as well. So it's about the 67 percent
- 8 of what we're facing here. But considering that
- 9 this is going to be an easier way for patient and
- 10 physician and current time to report, I think it
- 11 deserved to be explored.
- 12 TOPIC 1 PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A
- 13 DR. TASSINARI: Well, then I think what
- 14 we shall do is move into our discussion session.
- 15 We have three questions. They really are focused,
- 16 as was this first topic this morning, around the
- 17 pregnancy exposure registry. If we could have the
- 18 first question? What we would like to do is
- 19 canvass your thoughts and, you know, of all kinds
- 20 and have a discussion a little bit about these
- 21 exposure registries and specifically what the
- 22 advantages have been from our experiences and what

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- the challenges are. And I think we have begun to
- hear a few of those, in fact.
- The second question, just to anticipate 3
- things, is, how can we fix some of those
- challenges? But if we can focus a few minutes on 5
- what they are and what our experiences have been 6
- on the pregnancy exposure registry itself will 7
- 8 then flow into, I hope, some thoughtful
- 9 suggestions for solutions.
- So I will open this up. I don't know if 10
- anybody would like to do this. 11
- 12 And, Vicki, you have something?
- MS. MOYER: Just a reminder if you 13
- could please state your name before you speak for
- 15 the benefit of the transcriptionist as well as the
- folks who are joining via webcast who can't see us
- 17 all. Thank you.
- 18 DR. CHAMBERS: This is Tina Chambers.
- 19 had a question related to the prospective nature
- of pregnancy registries. And maybe this is 20
- something that Michael Greene or Lew can answer. I 21
- wonder whether you have seen over time or going

- 1 forward that the sort of definition of prospective
- 2 is a moving target as prenatal diagnosis moves
- 3 earlier and earlier in pregnancy and even pre-
- 4 implantation diagnosis is taking place. And do
- 5 you see this having an impact on, you know, what
- 6 actually qualifies as prospective?
- 7 DR. HOLMES: Let me just tell you what
- 8 we are seeing in the North American AED Pregnancy
- 9 Registry. If you go across the United States,
- 10 there are enormous -- and Mike knows more about
- 11 this than I do -- variations in obstetrical care.
- 12 And it's the old East Coast-West Coast. You tend
- 13 to have the newer technologies more likely to be
- 14 occurring there or, say, in the center of the
- 15 country, in the Chicago-Ann Arbor area. And they
- 16 have larger areas of the country that are using
- 17 the old systems. And there's a slower process in
- 18 moving to cell-free fetal DNA and that sort of
- 19 thing.
- 20 But Sonia's analysis emphasizes the fact
- 21 that we have to really be careful in our
- 22 interviewing to be sure when a woman is enrolled

133 as a pure prospective enrollee, that that really is the case. So you are absolutely right. 3 changing. And there are occasionally birth 4 defects now picked up at 10, 11, 12 weeks. 5 since we started in 1997, there has been a 6 dramatic change. 7 Yes. 8 DR. GREENE: So Lew's example of prospectively ascertained hydronephrosis is a good 9 example because it is easy, relatively easy, by 10 ultrasound to determine tissue-fluid interfaces 11 and something like hydronephrosis jumps right off 12 the screen at the sonographer. But that's not 13 until relatively late in pregnancy. So if a woman 14 15 had an ultrasound examination at nine weeks when 16 you can't see fetal kidneys and it was normal but 17 later you discover that there is hydronephrosis 18 during pregnancy and then maybe even later, during 19 the pediatric period, it's dismissed as not really being an issue, was that truly a prospective case 20 21 because she had an ultrasound at nine weeks with respect to hydronephrosis?

134 You are right. It is a moving target, 1 not only in technology as technology evolves but also as the embryo changes and fetus changes in terms of the diagnosability of birth defects. 5 DR. HOLMES: Melissa, I have another question to put on the table which is an issue for 6 us and I would suspect it is for most pregnancy 7 8 registries. And it relates to this issue that was referred to with regard to the privacy issues in Canada. About a third of our enrollees are 10 11 unwilling to sign the forms to obtain copies of 12 the pediatric records on their infants. 13 don't get to talk to very many of them, but when someone does get to talk to her about why she 14 15 doesn't want to do it, unfortunately, the reasons 16 are rather diffuse. And they're usually based on fear that somehow this information is somehow 17 18 going to be to the detriment of their child. And 19 we can't really very effectively debate that with 20 her. 21 So that's a reality of a pregnancy 22 registry. And so when we publish our results, we

- 1 divide the results between those where we have the
- 2 pediatric records to confirm what she has reported
- 3 and those where we don't. And usually they are
- 4 similar so that we are not concerned that we're
- 5 missing a lot of major problems. But if you're
- 6 working from the statistical standpoint, you are
- 7 cutting your sample size by a third because, you
- 8 know, you are already down to the pure prospective
- 9 enrollees. You're down to the ones that let you
- 10 get records. And it just keeps cutting your
- 11 sample size more and more.
- 12 And I think this concern and worry and
- 13 whatnot will continue. I think it's just going to
- 14 remain a reality for pregnancy registries. So I
- 15 think in advising companies on setting them up, it
- 16 will be important to emphasize the need for making
- 17 sure you know the status of a woman's pregnancy at
- 18 the time she enrolls as well as meaningful
- 19 discussion of this issue of trying to get her to
- 20 give written release with her signature on it.
- 21 And our suspicion is some of it is women
- 22 are just worried that somehow the data will be

- 1 used against their baby, but I suspect another
- 2 part of it is, you know, she signed up because she
- 3 was worried. If you contact her after the baby is
- 4 born and she sees the baby is fine, that changes
- 5 her motivation.
- And so one of the issues that we
- 7 struggle with is trying to get her to sign the
- 8 forms before the baby is born. And then you've
- 9 got the clock ticking in terms of how long is that
- 10 signature valid. So it's a very delicate dance.
- We started for the last two or three
- 12 years to encourage the research assistants when
- 13 they talk to her at enrollment to tell her "We are
- 14 going to ask you to sign for the release of these
- 15 materials." And if a woman says at that time, "I
- 16 really don't want to do that," then we don't
- 17 enroll her.
- So we've got a third have said, "Yes,
- 19 I'll give you permission to do that." And then
- 20 when the chips are down, they won't do it. So
- 21 it's a recurring constant, I think.
- 22 DR. TASSINARI: I think, Dr. Conlin, you

137 had a comment? DR. CONLIN: I did. And it might not flow completely well with what is being discussed But we have a unique population, I would 4 say, at the military. And with our active vaccine 5 registries, I think over time, we have really seen a change in enrollment. 7 8 I think when we started with smallpox more than ten years ago, there was a concern about 10 that vaccine. So people were eager to enroll and 11 eager to participate. The preventive medicine side is happy that we decreased the number of 12 13 women that are inadvertently exposed. But then that does decrease your potential pool of 15 enrollees to the registry. 16 And then I think more recently now with 17 the advent of Smartphones and less landlines 18 trying to contact women, it is very easy for them, 19 as someone just mentioned, to enroll because they are worried. But then when you try to follow up 20 with them, they know your number. They're busy. 21 They're not as concerned anymore. And it's 22

and Drug Administration rubile Weeting 05-20-2014

- 1 increasingly easy for them to ignore your calls.
- 2 And, for whatever reason, they don't
- 3 want to unenroll or say, "Please don't contact me
- 4 again," but a lot of time and resources are spent
- 5 trying to contact women that are no longer
- 6 motivated to participate.
- 7 DR. TASSINARI: Thank you. I would
- 8 actually like to swing back to the question that
- 9 started us off here with Tina because if, in fact,
- 10 the definition of the term "prospective" is a
- 11 moving target and we're using that definition as a
- 12 central piece of how we define a pregnancy
- 13 exposure registry, what is that doing for our
- 14 registries? And is this something that we need to
- 15 more precisely define, define differently? How
- 16 could we, you know, move forward if this is the
- 17 case? Where is the line?
- 18 DR. DANA: This is Adrian Dana. I think
- 19 there is one place where we should perhaps make a
- 20 distinction. And that is between drugs that are
- 21 specifically indicated for use in pregnancy, like
- 22 influenza vaccine and other drugs that either just

- 1 because the mother has a condition that needs to
- 2 be treated or there's just a complete inadvertent
- 3 exposure, you know, they didn't know they were
- 4 pregnant and they got exposed.
- 5 So I think that we have an opportunity
- 6 for drugs that are actually indicated in pregnancy
- 7 to truly enroll these women before they are on the
- 8 drug or before they are exposed. So I do think
- 9 that distinction is important because, although we
- 10 may not have maximized that opportunity, we do
- 11 have an opportunity for a true prospective
- 12 enrollment in those particular cases where we can
- 13 enroll before exposure at least. Otherwise, it is
- 14 sort of a slippery slope. And we currently are
- 15 just saying, "Well, before we know, you know, that
- 16 a prospectively enrolled patient is one who is
- 17 enrolled before we know the outcome."
- DR. GREENE: Mike Greene. As a
- 19 practicing obstetrician, there are real issues
- 20 with prospective enrollment for medications that
- 21 you are supposed to be using during pregnancy.
- The immediate question that comes up in

- 1 the patient's mind is "What do you mean you need
- 2 to find out whether this stuff is safe? I thought
- 3 you said you were giving it to me because it is
- 4 good for me and it is going to protect me from"
- 5 you name it: influenza, pertussis, my baby from
- 6 pertussis. So there is a mixed message there. And
- 7 we have to be very careful how that is perceived
- 8 by our patients.
- 9 DR. TASSINARI: Yes, Tina?
- 10 DR. CHAMBERS: Tina Chambers, changing
- 11 topics, but I agree with that totally. That's a
- 12 big communication issue of how you get that across
- 13 to the patient that it's for the greater good. A
- 14 question about challenge in design of pregnancy
- 15 registries is how to know what is an appropriate
- 16 sample size. So Mike brought up the issue
- 17 previously of, you know, maybe the success of a
- 18 pregnancy registry for a high-risk drug is that
- 19 you don't enroll anybody.
- 20 But the thing that we struggle with in
- 21 our work is trying to be clairvoyant about what
- 22 the number of exposed pregnancies is going to be.

- 1 And I think that is a challenge and maybe
- 2 something that could be addressed in terms of
- 3 identifying better ways of kind of monitoring the
- 4 landscape for the number of exposed pregnancies
- 5 that are taking place to determine if a pregnancy
- 6 registry is meeting the mark or not meeting the
- 7 mark and if the sample size that is developed for
- 8 a pregnancy registry is realistic.
- 9 COL COSTER: Trinka Coster here. Yes. I
- 10 think that the kind of work that we do and I know
- 11 that the VA does and the sentinel folks have done
- 12 I think could probably assist with the registries
- 13 in knowing what the exposure, whether it's
- 14 accidental or intentional, is of a pregnant female
- 15 to a particular drug, especially if it's a new
- 16 signal put out or a new alert by FDA put out, you
- 17 can then have a nice marker of data saying what
- 18 was the exposure rate before the FDA alert went
- 19 out and what is the exposure rate after the FDA
- 20 alert out, just on drug utilization, to kind of
- 21 know if you're doing a good job or not.
- 22 And then also what Dr. Greene had

- 1 mentioned is, you know, did we register everybody
- 2 that we could. I think, again, you can look at
- 3 the exposure of your pregnant females in large
- 4 databases and just ask, you know, are we seeing
- 5 what we would expect, you know, one percent
- 6 exposure rate and are we really seeing that and
- 7 that would translate to no. Then we wouldn't
- 8 expect anybody to register based on prior studies
- 9 that, you know, you wouldn't find that.
- 10 So I think there's a use for still
- 11 having the registries be the gold standard. You
- 12 know, is this a problem due to this drug but using
- 13 the observational and large databases to kind of
- 14 assist with what is the exposure out there as well
- 15 as even messy, unvalidated outcomes, maybe
- 16 perhaps, to give a ballpark figure of should I
- 17 publish this or should I not and what are you
- 18 seeing in your observational databases?
- 19 DR. GREENE: Mike Greene. I'll refer to
- 20 one of Allen Mitchell's publications since he
- 21 isn't speaking up. Where he showed very nicely
- 22 that when you asked women about medication

143 exposures, you get an increasing response rate the more specific you get about what medication you're talking about. So if you ask women, you know, "Did you take any medications during pregnancy?" you get a certain response. Then you say, "Did 5 you take anything for colds? Did you take anything for your fever? Did you take anything 7 for headache?" 9 You get more response. "Oh, yeah. took" so and so. 10 11 And then when you get very specific, "Did you take any aspirin? Did you take any 12 Did you take multiple vitamins?" 13 Tylenol? Then "Oh, yeah. I took that stuff, but 14 15 I didn't think of that." So that speaks to how do 16 you know what to expect because there is not a 17 uniform way of collecting the information. 18 And one other point that I'll make is 19 that I increasingly see a lot of women who are 20 taking medications that aren't in the formulary. 21 Okay? And I don't have a clue what's in those things. And they have names that are very warm

144 and fuzzy, but the content is very fuzzy. DR. MITCHELL: It's Allen Mitchell. provoked me. Yes. I just want to reinforce Michael's point -- you know, excuse my voice --4 that when we talk about medications, whether we're talking about an exposure of interest or a 6 potential confounder or risk modifier, we really need to know information about the full complement of exposures, which includes OTCs, herbals, supplements. And God knows what's in those. 10 also need to know about periconceptional folate. I 11 mean, if we are looking at birth defects, it is 12 hard to imagine a study that doesn't have 13 information on periconceptional folate, 14 15 particularly where you have upper SES women 16 preferentially enrolling where the rates of 17 exposure may be higher, because that clearly is a 18 risk modifier, if not a confounder. 19 So, you know, I think how you asked the question is certainly an issue. 20 I think just 21 while I'm thinking about it, in terms of the size

of a registry, there are the issues that Tina and

- 1 others have raised about trying to predict what is
- 2 a useful size, but I also think that it's
- 3 unrealistic to imagine that one could have a
- 4 registry in sufficient time to be useful, I mean,
- 5 less than 30 years, where you would have enough
- 6 exposures to be able to identify risks and safety
- 7 for very rare defects. And, in fact, I would
- 8 argue that for very rare defects, there may be no
- 9 studies that can provide usable information.
- 10 The flip side of that is for very rare
- 11 defects, the public health implications are
- 12 minimal. We worry about defects that occur in 1
- 13 in 1,000 women. If the risk of a defect that
- 14 normally occurs in 1 in 10,000 is tripled, we are
- 15 still talking about 3 per 10,000. It is certainly
- 16 devastating for the affected patient, but in terms
- 17 of a public health issue and a regulatory issue,
- 18 it seems to me that it has less importance.
- 19 So I think that as we think about
- 20 pregnancy registry, -- and I'll talk to this point
- 21 tomorrow -- the most useful aspect is for
- 22 reassuring that we're not dealing with a

- 1 Thalidomide or an Accutane. And then the size
- 2 issues become problematic given costs and time as
- 3 we try to hone down on more specific malformations
- 4 and particularly rarer malformations.
- 5 DR. YAO: I would like to ask the panel
- 6 off of what Dr. Mitchell has just said your
- 7 thoughts, your opinions about, okay, so we're not
- 8 going to be able to do something for 30 years. And
- 9 we're not going to pick up necessarily the ultra
- 10 rare. So what can we do? How can we modify the
- 11 current state to maybe decrease the time, maybe
- 12 decrease the patients?
- I think that Dr. Holmes' presentation is
- 14 very compelling regarding the use of a concurrent
- 15 control group. I think that if we're talking
- 16 about the efficacy side, we ask for control
- 17 studies to try and cut down on the number of
- 18 patients that you need to establish efficacy. Can
- 19 we do that in a way on the safety side post-
- 20 marketing that would help us decrease the time or
- 21 number of patients overall to assess a signal? So
- 22 I would like to hear the panelists' comments about

147 1 that. DR. HOLMES: Let me give you my It's Lewis Holmes from the North 3 American AED Pregnancy Registry. 4 When you are beginning your pregnancy 5 registry, your challenge is effective marketing. 6 And the cost of marketing varies quite a bit 7 8 depending on how aggressive you are. And that was one of our real dilemmas. We were fortunate in 10 that in our surveys in Boston, we knew that about 1 in every 250 women at delivery was taking one of 11 12 these drugs. So it's a relatively common 13 exposure. But, even so, mailing lists of the 14 Society for Maternal/Fetal Medicine is an expense. 15 16 Sending a letter, instead, to all the members of 17 ACOG is a huge expense; same for the neurology 18 groups, the epileptologists versus all 19 neurologists; sending advertisements to primary 20 care physicians, who prescribe Topiramate for 21 migraine, not for epilepsy. I mean, you just face 22 endless theoretical possibilities at how to reach

148 people. And there's a huge delay before you begin to get enrollment. And you don't really 3 know why anything has worked. Ultimately, it 4 became apparent that there is a group of people 5 that we call cheerleaders, who are the folks who 6 are really aware of the registry and really 7 8 actively encourage their patients to sign up. And, 9 obviously, you would have loved to have found the cheerleaders in the beginning. And you could send 10 11 all of your mailings to those people and not the thousands of folks who are going to throw it away. 12 13 So if you're trying to make a registry more efficient and get answers sooner, it's the 14 15 front ending, more money for marketing to me would 16 be -- if I had to do it all over again, I would

20 And that would be my advice to anybody. Don't do 21 it on the shoestring because the chances are it

want to have more money so we could really start

spreading the word faster, beginning the process,

ultimately finding those people who are helpful.

22 will drag out and wear out everybody's patience

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18

149 and tolerance and never get anywhere. DR. TASSINARI: It sounds like we may need to phase out the word "passive" in our 3 description of what these programs are designed to 4 do because I think, as you say, it really all 5 depends on how well you get off to a start. 6 7 Tina? 8 DR. CHAMBERS: Adding to what Lew said 9 in responding to your question, I think that it depends on the drug and the disease, too, and how 10 11 commonly it is going to be used. So maybe the realistic, you know, perspective on a drug that is 12 13 going to take 30 years to accumulate enough exposures to say something is to set the goals of the registry to something that you can do in an 15 16 interim or more reasonable period of time. 17 And I think it is important not to lose 18 sight of the fact that pregnancy registries aren't 19 just about major birth defects. They're about 20 looking at a spectrum of outcomes that we know 21 that known human teratogens are typically associated with. And I think that is one of the 22

- 1 great advantages of pregnancy registries, giving
- 2 an early sort of snapshot view of is there an
- 3 increased risk for reduced birth weight, is there
- 4 an increased risk to the extent that you can look
- 5 at it, spontaneous abortion or preterm delivery?
- 6 And if you are looking at that broader range of
- 7 outcomes, it becomes increasingly important to be
- 8 able to have an internal comparison group.
- 9 DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: I think that's a
- 10 good point. I'm so far being realistic with the
- 11 goal. So if because of the use you can only
- 12 possibly enroll 50 women, then that's what you can
- 13 do. And then the question is, what would be the
- 14 goals of that registry and how to report with a
- 15 confidence around what we can report. But
- 16 following up on your question about controls, such
- 17 as wanting to add to the internal non-exposed
- 18 control group that in the disease-based registry
- 19 or multi-drug registries for similar indications,
- 20 one of their advantages, I think, is that they
- 21 allow us to assess comparative safety, comparative
- 22 effectiveness. That is such a hot topic. So they

- 1 will allow us to compare drugs with the same or
- 2 similar indication. And I think that has the
- 3 advantage of having the internal control group
- 4 with the same methodology, same diagnosis of the
- 5 outcomes, but, you know, that's another thing.
- There are two more advantages to them,
- 7 that, first, you have women with the same
- 8 indication so that they will have a more similar
- 9 background of certain outcomes to the confounding
- 10 because of indication will be lower. And also
- 11 they may respond to the clinically relevant
- 12 questions of which medication to use to treat
- 13 these specific women when we are dealing with
- 14 diseases that treatment is necessary for pregnant
- 15 women. So when possible, I understand it is not
- 16 possible for all registries, but having these
- 17 multi-drug registries I think add these additional
- 18 advantages.
- 19 And I know that they are logistically
- 20 complicated for the reasons mentioned. But I
- 21 think that could be another thing to consider for
- 22 controls.

152 1 DR. BERLINER: I just wanted to comment on some of the things that I heard that seemed a little contradictory. So one thing I heard is 4 that women are enrolling in these registries 5 because they're worried, which sounds like they're 6 misunderstanding that the registry will help them personally versus contribute to knowledge and then the other issue of that people are -- you know, that maybe physicians don't even want to mention 10 11 the registry because it will make the patients 12 worry. And so I sort of wonder what the best 13 practices are, you know, and having gone through pregnancy myself, you know, what the best 15 16 practices are where you have a conversation with 17 your doctor at the time that you are thinking of 18 getting pregnant or you find out you are getting 19 pregnant, you are pregnant, about whatever your 20 medical conditions are and what is known about the 21 risks and benefits of continuing your medication, what the alternatives are, what the potential

- 1 risks to the fetus are. And I think that
- 2 conversation has to happen in every single case.
- 3 And so part of that discussion could be or should
- 4 be what is unknown about the risks and then if
- 5 there is a registry inviting the person to
- 6 participate, not because it will help them but
- 7 because it will help other people.
- And, you know, I know from other
- 9 registries I worked on on, really, widely varying
- 10 topics that, really, people are -- you know, that
- 11 they are altruistic and that they do want to
- 12 participate in that if they really understand. And
- 13 so I am just wondering about other people's
- 14 thoughts on that.
- 15 DR. GREENE: Mike Greene. Some of this
- 16 is anticipating a little bit of what I am going to
- 17 address this afternoon in my talk, including a
- 18 recommendation for a way of possibly improving
- 19 registration of exposures in registries, but one
- 20 method that I would like to mention that Allen did
- 21 very successfully with the Accutane registry was
- 22 to say to women who were receiving prescriptions

- 1 for Accutane, you know, you're not supposed to get
- 2 pregnant when you're taking this stuff, but with
- 3 the prescription, it says, but, you know, if you
- 4 accidentally do, please call 1-(800). And how did
- 5 you do that, Allen?
- 6 DR. MITCHELL: Well, actually it wasn't
- 7 quite that.
- 8 DR. GREENE: Okay.
- 9 DR. MITCHELL: Now you are prompting me
- 10 to have to recall something. So we're in problem
- 11 state.
- 12 What we did was we came up with I think
- 13 what was the first direct-to-consumer
- 14 solicitation, where included in the Accutane
- 15 package was an enrollment form. And the idea was
- 16 for women to enroll in advance of potential
- 17 pregnancy. Ideally, they would, you know, enroll.
- 18 And we made it look as much like a toaster rebate
- 19 coupon as we could, consistent with IRB and other
- 20 regulations. And we paid them \$10 for the effort.
- 21 And the idea was to encourage them to enroll and
- 22 then be followed. And we randomized them to

- 1 different follow-ups. And then we were able to
- 2 identify those who became pregnant. So we had
- 3 them in the system.
- 4 I'm not sure that's applicable to a
- 5 pregnancy registry. I hadn't thought of it in
- 6 that context. I mean, the idea of enrolling all
- 7 women who are potentially at risk for pregnancy
- 8 seems overwhelming for a pregnancy registry and
- 9 then, you know, thinking, well, if they are
- 10 exposed to a given drug, that might work for a
- 11 universal registry. If there were one registry
- 12 into which all women would fall if they were
- 13 exposed to drugs A through Z, it might work. I'm
- 14 not sure it would work in the context of
- 15 recruitment here.
- 16 DR. CRAGAN: This is Jan Cragan. I
- 17 wanted to get back to part of the comments on
- 18 sample size and experience of the North American
- 19 AED Registry when two or three cases of cleft
- 20 showed up in the first couple of hundred or so
- 21 exposures to lamotrigine. There were a lot of
- 22 discussions. And that was not an easy discussion

- 1 about, do we release those findings? What do they
- 2 mean? You know, what is this? And now we have
- 3 seen the rates go down quite a bit. And there is
- 4 an I think currently real interest in, oh, well,
- 5 this registry has produced a lot of information.
- 6 And now it's getting big enough we can look at
- 7 these individual defects and we can say more about
- 8 the risks of these drugs, which is true.
- 9 But I think I also have reservations
- 10 about continuing to do that too much because you
- 11 will see these kinds of spurious things that come
- 12 up that you don't know quite what they mean. And
- 13 when that happens, then you are in the position of
- 14 but we have this information that might indicate
- 15 it is a risk. We can't just keep that to
- 16 ourselves. You know, people have a right to know
- 17 what we know. And this is all we know right now
- 18 and such.
- 19 So I think it is important to keep the
- 20 goals of these registries in mind in the context
- 21 of -- and I know tomorrow is about alternative
- 22 approaches and other kinds of data sources. But

- 1 to keep the role of the registries in the context
- 2 of what other kinds of studies can be done to
- B better address certain topics and that maybe these
- 4 are good for generating questions that can be
- 5 addressed through other means. And that's partly
- 6 GlaxoSmithKline had a registry solely for
- 7 lamotrigine. And when it closed, part of the
- 8 reasoning was that there are other methods and
- 9 other data collections out there that can look at
- 10 this better than the registry can at the moment.
- 11 So I think that is an important thing to keep in
- 12 mind when looking at what is the goal of our
- 13 registry and how large does it need to get.
- 14 DR. TASSINARI: I'd like to get back to
- 15 that just for a minute, but, Dr. Honein, you had a
- 16 comment?
- 17 DR. HONEIN: This is Peggy Honein. And
- 18 I just wanted to bring up the issue of adverse
- 19 outcomes for a pregnancy registry and the
- 20 importance of having it where possible. I think
- 21 there is a real challenge with the registries only
- 22 capturing adverse outcomes on the date of birth

- 1 and really missing many of the birth outcomes and
- 2 essentially all of the development. And I just
- 3 would like to be a part of that conversation about
- 4 how we have --
- 5 DR. TASSINARI: Peggy, you were breaking
- 6 up just a little bit at the end. What was that
- 7 last piece?
- 8 DR. HONEIN: Sorry. The connection.
- 9 Okay. I'm just wanting to think about how
- 10 pregnancy registries can get all adverse pregnancy
- 11 outcomes, which is certainly what the moms want to
- 12 know, just for the --
- 13 DR. HOLMES: Peggy, this is Lewis Holmes
- 14 from the North American AED Pregnancy Registry. We
- 15 have done studies on cognitive development in
- 16 children exposed to anticonvulsant drugs. And
- 17 that is a real challenge. My colleagues in
- 18 developmental psychology recommended that the
- 19 children be at least six and a half years old at
- 20 the time they are evaluated. We found that it is
- 21 a very labor-intensive process. You need to get
- 22 information on the mothers' and fathers' IQs and

- 1 the comparison child's parents as well as the
- 2 child, incredibly expensive.
- 3 And if you are enrolling women during
- 4 pregnancy for a pregnancy registry, you do have at
- 5 the end, at that postpartum interview. You've got
- 6 theoretically a sample size that could be
- 7 recruited six years later. So in that sense, it's
- 8 a valuable potential resource. But it is an issue
- 9 of pick the things, the questions that ought to be
- 10 asked. For example, in anticonvulsants, we would
- 11 say pick the drug that is associated with a higher
- 12 rate of malformations because that is the one that
- 13 is probably going to have a higher rate of being
- 14 associated with developmental issues. Find a
- 15 bucket of money somewhere. Wait six years. And
- 16 do it.
- 17 And that is not a model that is easy to
- 18 move and to have in one office. You would almost
- 19 want to have collaborations between us and, say,
- 20 developmental psychology groups that are better
- 21 set up to do the post six and a half-year-old
- 22 follow-up.

- 1 Our system is very dependent on funding
- 2 that is just very fragile. And it's hard to
- 3 imagine how we could be fortunate enough to have
- 4 resources that are ready to go as soon as these
- 5 children get to six and a half. So I think it's a
- 6 wonderful goal to take the additional perspective
- 7 of how many of these children have problems in
- 8 learning, but I'm just not sure how realistic it
- 9 is given that everybody is worried about just
- 10 being able to pay their rent.
- 11 DR. IYASU: So since we're talking about
- 12 challenges, I wanted to go back to the issue of
- 13 sample size. You know, sample size, I guess
- 14 several people have pointed out that, you know,
- 15 it's determined or it's based on what the question
- 16 is that you're asking. And so we get protocols or
- 17 proposals that would assume that sample size based
- 18 on sort of detection of a twofold increase in
- 19 measurement information that may be spanning
- 20 multiple organ systems. And that, you know,
- 21 sometimes is very difficult to interpret because
- 22 thinking about how teratogens would work, you

- 1 know, you don't think of them as causing multiple
- 2 issues with multiple sort of organ systems. So
- 3 sort of what is the trade-off in terms of powering
- 4 to measure malformations as a group versus
- 5 specific, you know, defects or organ systems
- 6 because that is a challenge that we have in terms
- 7 of not only pregnancy registries but also in the
- 8 interpretation of the data that you may get out of
- 9 these registries. So what does it mean if it's,
- 10 you know, 20 percent increase or 30 percent
- 11 increase over background or whatever reference
- 12 group you are looking at?
- 13 DR. CHAMBERS: So I think that's a
- 14 really great point. And it's even further
- 15 complicated by the common situation where the
- 16 pregnancy registry is focused on a drug or a
- 17 vaccine that isn't used continuously throughout
- 18 the first trimester so you're not just talking
- 19 about sample size of exposure in the first
- 20 trimester. You're talking about sample size of
- 21 exposure at a critical window for embryonic
- 22 development, for an outcome that you're interested

- 1 in looking at. And I think it comes back in
- 2 pregnancy registries where the sample size that is
- 3 feasible or obtainable is smaller, that in terms
- 4 of major malformations, they function as signal
- 5 detection mechanisms and, as Jan says, they
- 6 generate hypotheses that can be tested using other
- 7 methods that really are better powered to look at
- 8 specific birth defects.
- 9 DR. MITCHELL: Yes, two things. To go
- 10 back, Solomon, if I can, to the previous
- 11 discussion, -- and I'll return the favor of
- 12 quoting Michael -- when we talk about what is a
- 13 reasonable goal for a pregnancy registry, Michael
- 14 uses the term "the long shadow of DES." And, to
- 15 quote a previous government official, there are
- 16 the known knowns and the unknown unknowns.
- 17 And I think that those of us who have
- 18 been involved in this area for some years
- 19 recognize that something like DES is not going to
- 20 be identified in any in any reasonable system or
- 21 any reasonable time. I mean, if it takes 18
- 22 years, at a minimum, to manifest the problem, by

- 1 definition, you are going to have wait 18 years
- 2 from exposure.
- 3 So I think, you know, on the qualitative
- 4 side of what you can identify, that's the extreme.
- 5 I think the issues of development, I would echo
- 6 what Lew said, but I would add more to it. And
- 7 that is I don't think it can be solved just with a
- 8 bucket of money because if you are going to follow
- 9 up kids to age six and a half, you have to be very
- 10 aware of intercurrent exposures, which can affect
- 11 development. So it's not simply a matter of going
- 12 back to those kids. You have to stay in touch
- 13 with them and repeatedly interview the parents and
- 14 so forth.
- 15 And so I think we have to be careful
- 16 about what we define as reasonable goals. And I
- 17 would argue that that ought to be driven as much
- 18 as possible by public health concerns. So the
- 19 more common outcomes, the more common disabilities
- 20 are of most concern.
- 21 And then we have to look at what is
- 22 feasible. I mean, are we going to be trying to

- 1 identify risks of autism for every drug that is
- 2 being marketed. That is a real tough challenge.
- 3 And I think we need to be able to accept the fact
- 4 that there are certain things we may not be able
- 5 to know or we may know them so much later than we
- 6 would like.
- 7 And, just as a final point, in terms of
- 8 the size of the registry, I'll echo what other
- 9 people have said. And I don't think it ought to
- 10 be understated. And I'll mention it again
- 11 tomorrow. The value of a pregnancy registry apart
- 12 from the other pregnancy outcomes that -- we're
- 13 focusing on birth defects, but, as Tina points
- 14 out, there are a lot of other pregnancy outcomes,
- 15 adverse outcomes, of concern that a pregnancy
- 16 registry can very effectively identify, I would
- 17 argue.
- In terms of birth defects, we really
- 19 need a sort of frontline system to assure that we
- 20 don't have Accutanes and Thalidomides out there.
- 21 When a drug is brought to market, we really don't
- 22 know in the human condition whether that drug may

- 1 be an Accutane; a Thalidomide; or even a valproic
- 2 acid, which is sort of intermediate. So I don't
- 3 think that we ought to dismiss their value, but I
- 4 think we ought to be very careful about
- 5 identifying what it is we think they can produce.
- 6 DR. TASSINARI: Well, in the course of
- 7 your conversation, some of you may have noticed we
- 8 switched to question 2, which asks, based on some
- 9 of the challenges and advantages that we do know
- 10 about registries, what are your recommendations
- 11 for overcoming some of these challenges that we
- 12 have been talking about in the last few minutes?
- 13 So, Allen, I don't know, you know, based on those
- 14 comments whether you have some thoughts about the
- 15 kinds of things we should be thinking about to
- 16 make sure that the pregnancy registry still is an
- 17 effective or a most effective tool that we have to
- 18 choose from when we are trying to get some of this
- 19 data.
- DR. MITCHELL: Yes. As anyone who knows
- 21 me knows, I am never shy about answering a
- 22 question, but on this one, I think I would defer

- 1 to many more experts in the room who have, really,
- 2 hands-on experience with the registries, because I
- 3 think you're now dealing with sort of the
- 4 qualitative aspects of operating a registry. And
- 5 that's something with which I am not as familiar
- 6 as others.
- 7 DR. HOLMES: This is Lewis Holmes again
- 8 from the North American AED Pregnancy Registry. I
- 9 didn't say in my presentation, but I would predict
- 10 for the FDA and others that if there's not
- 11 sufficient attention paid in pregnancy registry
- 12 design to inclusion and exclusion criteria, you
- 13 are going to be presented with epidemics of
- 14 muscular VSDs, epidemics of hydronephrosis
- 15 detected during pregnancy by ultrasound because
- 16 those designing the study didn't really go through
- 17 the process of either agreeing what is a
- 18 malformation and what is not. And they don't have
- 19 an internal comparison group. And you're going to
- 20 have that happen. And then you're going to be
- 21 left with, what do we do with this now? You're
- 22 basically saying you've got to start all over

167 again and do it right. So my suggestion is that you guys need to put more teeth into the recommendations in terms of saying you've got to do this, you've got 4 to do this, so that you have something well-5 designed or it doesn't get blessed by the FDA. 6 7 This is Jan Cragan. DR. CRAGAN: along that line because I have had a similar feeling for a long time that, you know, there has been guidance put out, we know what the 10 11 methodological issues are, there are some registries that are dealing with many of those 12 that have comparison groups and such, and that 13 it's sort of time to up the bar a little bit and 14 15 that FDA should be able to say, rather than just 16 "You need to do some post-marketing monitoring of 17 pregnancies in order to market this drug, to be 18 able to say, "And you need to do it of this 19 quality" or "in this way" or whatever. 20 And I'll just share this. It has some parallels, but it's not entirely. But one of the 21

things that has happened in the birth defects

- 1 world is the state birth defects programs -- and
- 2 CDC funds some of those but not all by a long
- 3 shot, and they have gotten together and, you know,
- 4 many years ago wrote a guidance, guidelines for
- 5 conducting birth defect surveillance that has been
- 6 very helpful to new programs coming along and
- 7 such. And we have, you know, some programs that
- 8 are just getting started, some that have been
- 9 there for a while, some that do a great job.
- 10 But what they have done over the last
- 11 two or three years is to get together and try to
- 12 move from guidelines to standards. And so the
- 13 programs themselves, it has been with our help,
- 14 our expertise. We have helped with coordination
- 15 and stuff, -- but it's the programs themselves
- 16 putting this together -- have started to come up
- 17 with standards for the quality of the data they
- 18 collect. And now they are working on the utility
- 19 of the data they collect and meant as a self-
- 20 assessment for the programs. It's not a grading
- 21 that gets published and such but as a self-
- 22 assessment to see where they are.

- 1 And so, you know, they have some
- 2 standards for -- you know, if you are going to do
- 3 birth defect surveillance, you at least have to do
- 4 this much. And then they have standards that --
- 5 well, most of our programs probably fall within
- 6 this range. And that is kind of where everybody
- 7 is. And then they have sort of the gold standard
- 8 of, you know, this is what everybody should be
- 9 striving for.
- 10 And, as I said, they've come up with
- 11 that for themselves. And I don't know if that is
- 12 even possible in this range, but if there were
- 13 some similar sort of set of standards about post-
- 14 marketing surveillance for medications in
- 15 pregnancy that FDA could refer to and say, "You
- 16 need to conduct surveillance to market this drug.
- 17 You need to do it at least a certain standard. And
- 18 here are some programs already out there doing
- 19 it, " something like that might be helpful. I
- 20 don't know.
- 21 DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: Did you ask would
- 22 we think about where measures can be best? I

- 1 think we would all agree that they are poorly best
- 2 as the first line of defense against Thalidomides.
- 3 So that we don't have another Thalidomide program.
- 4 So with some 100 women enrolled, you can rule out
- 5 huge increases of major malformations, although I
- 6 think that because they can enroll specifically
- 7 exposures to medications that may be, at least at
- 8 the beginning, rare. They can enroll them even
- 9 before large databases that need some years to
- 10 have women enrolled in them, have the pregnancies,
- 11 and clean the data. So I think there they can
- 12 clearly be the best.
- 13 And I think, as you step away from that,
- 14 that door is specifically fixed or even
- 15 development problems, you not only need a larger
- 16 sample size. But then the validity of every step
- 17 that we discuss from perspective, personal
- 18 perspective, to evaluation of the outcomes, et
- 19 cetera, then you need to have better and better
- 20 methods. So it gets more complicated if you try
- 21 to get to more rare events or long-term events.
- 22 And then you move away from the idea.

171 1 Now, where to put the line, I think it's up to discussing, but I think we all agree where the extremes are. DR. TASSINARI: And it's the middle 4 where we usually play. 5 DR. SAHIN: I have a question for Jan 6 The Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Birth 7 Cragan. 8 Defects Program is one of the most commonly used comparison groups. Could you comment? give us your thoughts on the appropriateness of 10 11 using this as a comparator group. Thank you. 12 So I work in the DR. CRAGAN: Sure. Birth Defects Branch at CDC, and I am currently 13 Medical Director of the Metropolitan Atlanta 14 15 Congenital Defects Program. And that's a convenient, commonly used reference for how 16 17 frequently birth defects occur generally, not just by pregnancy registries but by lots of activities, 18 19 mostly because MACDP collects data on all 20 malformations, genetic conditions, chromosomal 21 anomalies. So it's a very broad ascertainment. And it's been in existence since the late 1960s.

- 1 So it's very longstanding with very stable
- 2 prevalences, et cetera. But I have some real
- 3 issues with it being used as a direct comparator
- 4 for pregnancy registries.
- 5 The methods are very different. MACDP
- 6 is a retrospective ascertainment. We identify
- 7 children and pregnancies with birth defects by
- 8 reviewing medical records at local pediatric and
- 9 birth hospitals, prenatal care sites,
- 10 maternal/fetal medicine departments, and such. We
- 11 go to a few pediatric specialty clinics but not
- 12 all of them. And it is mostly a hospital-based
- 13 system. So for a child to be recognized, they
- 14 have to have either had surgery or required
- 15 hospital care for their condition.
- 16 It's also purely a truly population-
- 17 based ascertainment. So mother has to be a
- 18 resident of the central counties of Atlanta at the
- 19 time of delivery to get included. And we know
- 20 that the population of Atlanta is not
- 21 representative of the population of the general
- 22 U.S. of all pregnant women or certainly not of all

- 1 women who have a certain condition or who may take
- 2 a certain drug. So I think the population
- 3 characteristics may differ.
- 4 MACDP ascertains defects up to six years
- 5 of age. And so, as Lew was pointing out, the
- 6 prevalence can be very different depending on the
- 7 timeframe. And most of the registries that I know
- 8 of either collect information on the newborn or
- 9 within the first year of life.
- 10 And so I think, for all of those
- 11 reasons, you wouldn't expect the prevalences seen
- 12 by MACDP to be similar or to be exactly the same
- 13 as what is ascertained by a registry. What I have
- 14 tried to tell registries is that they shouldn't
- 15 make direct comparisons, saying, you know, "Is our
- 16 prevalence the same as MACDP's?" If they don't
- 17 have an internal comparator, then they can review
- 18 the literature and look at prevalence estimates
- 19 that have been published. And MACDP is one of
- 20 them, but it is not the only one out there.
- 21 What I do think MACDP is helpful for is
- 22 this kind of idea of applying a straight case

- 1 definition to what is a birth defect and what are
- 2 the inclusion and the exclusion criteria. And
- 3 there are registries that use our criteria because
- 4 they're well-documented and they can call us and
- 5 ask if they have questions about particular
- 6 defects. And I think that application of a
- 7 specific case definition is very helpful. And
- 8 it's fine to use MACDP's case definition, but I
- 9 don't think you would expect the prevalence seen
- 10 in MACDP necessarily to be the same as what is
- 11 seen in a registry.
- 12 COL COSTER: Trinka Coster here. One
- 13 comment on how to maybe get more people aware of
- 14 the benefit of registries is do some of the
- 15 marketing that we have done with meaningful use,
- 16 at least in CMS, for following metrics. We have
- 17 also done it with partnership with patients. So,
- 18 for example, you know, opioids. You know,
- 19 everybody is talking about opioids, opioids. How
- 20 many people are on it? How many people are on
- 21 this dose? And essentially everybody is
- 22 developing metrics for that.

175 I could imagine if you decided on a drug 1 class that you were considering as concerning and you pushed that up to get a meaningful use or 3 partnership with patients advertisement that 4 5 everybody develops a metric for did you have the females, yes or no told about the registry. at least you're getting then a metric on how many, 7 8 you know, people complied with, you know, the family physicians, you know, everybody else on talking about this. And it could be a safe drug 10 11 just to get females used to the fact that we have registries, we monitor this stuff, and then you 12 13 kind of get a herd effect of that kind of passing over to other registries that you have. 14 15 But I know that we are all inundated at the health care places with these kinds of 16 17 initiatives. But once -- I mean, they really do 18 take hold. And it really kind of does get 19 everybody stepping in line with doing something 20 like that. DR. ALBANO: This is Jessica Albano. 21 think one thing that would be helpful is to have

- 1 some input for industry, particularly, about what
- 2 is considered appropriate versus potentially
- 3 promotional in regards to awareness activities. I
- 4 think that can sometimes be a big stumbling block,
- 5 not doing enough or really much of anything as far
- 6 as awareness to increase enrollments in a registry
- 7 for fear of promoting use in pregnancy when it's
- 8 not indicated for that.
- 9 DR. CHAMBERS: This is Tina Chambers.
- 10 And, to follow on Jessica's comment, I think that
- 11 really is important, not only understanding what
- 12 you can do, but, going back to Mike's comment
- 13 earlier, maybe some guidance for industry,
- 14 especially for industry-based registries, about
- 15 how to communicate the existence of a pregnancy
- 16 registry in such a way that it isn't perceived as
- 17 negative for the drug.
- 18 DR. TASSINARI: So I think we've heard
- 19 several times about recruitment efforts, awareness
- 20 efforts. I think that is a great term. Are there
- 21 any other means to address this, what appears to
- 22 be a constant issue of struggle to enroll in a

177 registry? I'm also struck, too, by the fact that very often we see pregnancy exposures reported in other systems when we know that there is a registry available. So it continues to raise this 5 question. Is it just awareness or is there something else happening here that we should look 7 at and address? 8 DR. MITCHELL: It's Allen Mitchell. don't know the answer to it. I do know historically practitioners have been very wary of 10 11 getting anywhere near the notion of anything I prescribe might do your baby harm. I think part 12 of that is the litigious nation of our legal 13 system. And, you know, part of it is I think from 14 15 just a clinical standpoint, as Michael said, the 16 clinicians' reluctance to suggest that there is a 17 problem when there isn't. And how you overcome 18 that is tricky. 19 But I do think that educating 20 practitioners about the need to collect data not 21 being a sign of danger, not being a sign of 22 imminent harm, it's not an easy message to

- 1 communicate. And there are others who are much
- 2 more expert at it.
- 3 But I think that so many practitioners
- 4 when you talk to them about -- even today, I think
- 5 it's less a problem, but it's still a problem.
- 6 When you talk to them about drug use in pregnancy,
- 7 they really don't want to raise that subject of
- 8 any kind of potential risk.
- 9 And, you know, a classic example is the
- 10 SSRIs, where you've got a woman in front of you
- 11 who is incredibly anxious and depressed and now
- 12 you're going to raise the risk in her mind about
- 13 the drug you're taking for your anxiety. So, I
- 14 mean, that's sort of the arc typical worry, but I
- 15 think it's a major task.
- 16 DR. GREENE: Mike Greene. Melissa, your
- 17 question is very pertinent. About a year or two
- 18 ago, the National Toxicology Program endeavored
- 19 upon a review of the potential pregnancy effects
- 20 of all chemotherapeutic agents that are used for
- 21 cancer treatment. And one of the biggest problems
- 22 that they encountered was scrounging together all

- 1 of the case reports. And in that situation,
- 2 although the medications are likely to be
- 3 teratogenic, many of them, there's no central
- 4 repository for information about them.
- 5 Fortunately, cancer during pregnancy is relatively
- 6 uncommon. So there aren't a huge number of
- 7 exposures. But there is no central place to find
- 8 information about the consequences of those
- 9 exposures.
- 10 All of the reports in the literature are
- 11 either single case reports or very brief case
- 12 series. The quality of the reporting was very
- 13 variable, at best. In many cases, we couldn't
- 14 figure out what the gestational ages at exposure
- 15 were, what the cumulative doses were, what
- 16 concomitant medications may have been given. So
- 17 these are problems that are very germane, even
- 18 when you're giving out medications that you know
- 19 are likely to be teratogenic, but you don't have a
- 20 heck of a big choice because the patient is very
- 21 sick.
- DR. TASSINARI: Any thoughts on how to

- 1 address our issues of loss to follow-up or absence
- 2 of data?
- 3 DR. MITCHELL: I don't see Tina or Diane
- 4 saying anything, but I think one of the approaches
- 5 I know OTIS uses is basically establishing a
- 6 relationship with the consumer, with the patient.
- 7 I think if you are working through the physician
- 8 as an intermediary, you are dealing with an
- 9 incredibly difficult challenge. And it gets worse
- 10 as time goes on because physicians have a lot of
- 11 other things on their plates to worry about than
- 12 chasing down the outcome of patients. But when
- 13 you have patients who are enrolled in the registry
- 14 directly by the registry and they have what they
- 15 perceive to be a relationship with the registry, a
- 16 personal relationship, I think you can get loss to
- 17 follow-up rates of, what, less than five percent.
- 18 So it can be done.
- 19 DR. TASSINARI: What is a reasonable
- 20 loss to follow-up rate in a typical registry? Is
- 21 it in the 25 percent range? Should we expect, you
- 22 know, 50 percent? What could it or should it be?

181

- DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: Yes. That is a
- 2 good question. I think probably OTIS has the
- 3 record of the lowest because women are calling.
- 4 Right? So the women who are enrolled have shown
- 5 an interest already.
- 6 In the North American Anti-Epileptic
- 7 Pregnancy Registry, it's more about 15 percent but
- 8 the same thing. Women call to enroll. And even
- 9 when prescribers sometimes recommend them to
- 10 enroll, they are the ones who call.
- 11 And also perhaps it also helps to have
- 12 this several calls during pregnancy, say, at seven
- 13 months and then postpartum so that they keep in
- 14 contact.
- 15 And another thing that may help is if
- 16 you wait until delivery to ask mom to complete
- 17 forms and send you the forms, it may not be the
- 18 best timing right after birth. So if you can get
- 19 that done a little bit before, at the same time
- 20 allowing enough time for you to have the records,
- 21 maybe after two or more months later, that might
- 22 help, too.

182

- DR. DANA: This is Adrian Dana. I will
- 2 say that, you know, I think there is a big
- 3 difference between a manufacturer-run registry,
- 4 where there is a manufacturer contacting a
- 5 patient, and a registry where there is a health
- 6 care provider that may, in fact, be their health
- 7 care provider following up.
- I will say that we have had a little bit
- 9 better record and that our loss to follow-up, even
- 10 from a manufacturer's perspective, is only about
- 11 30 percent. And I am not sure what the difference
- 12 is, but we do require that there is a health care
- 13 provider for enrollment so that we can both
- 14 contact the provider and the patient, you know, if
- 15 needed, to try to get that follow-up information.
- 16 So, you know, obviously what you are
- 17 striving for is 100 percent, but I don't think
- 18 that is realistic. And I think that the character
- 19 of the registry, you know, you will get different
- 20 rates of loss to follow-up. And depending upon
- 21 who is running that registry, different rates of
- 22 loss to follow-up are just going to be the case.

183 DR. TASSINARI: Well, then, in the

- 1
- closing minutes, I think I would like to move to
- question 3. And this is really around the topic
- of looking at the decisions that need to be made
- when you have a product that would benefit from a 5
- registry. And what are the criteria for 6
- determining whether we should have a single
- product or a multi-product or a disease-based
- registry? And which design is appropriate when?
- I'm sorry, Michael. Go. 10
- 11 DR. GREENE: Mike Greene. So I am on
- the scientific advisory committee for the 12
- ribavirin registry. And we have had to address 13
- this recently. For many years, we looked just at 14
- 15 ribavirin, but in recent years, there are new
- protease inhibitors that are increasingly used 16
- either with or now instead of ribavirin to treat 17
- 18 hepatitis C. And the question now came to our
- 19 group, you know, should we now start broadening
- registration, not just for ribavirin exposures but 20
- 21 also for protease inhibitors?
- 22 And it gets very complicated fast

184

- 1 because ribavirin is off patent. There are a
- 2 number of companies that produce it and,
- 3 therefore, sponsor the registry. Many of the
- 4 companies now that are producing the protease
- 5 inhibitors have nothing to do with ribavirin. And
- 6 they are virtually at this point all still on
- 7 patent. And it gets very complicated fast as to
- 8 how do you expand a drug registry just as a
- 9 practical matter.
- 10 DR. HOLMES: As I mentioned earlier,
- 11 Lewis Holmes, the North American AED Pregnancy
- 12 Registry. Advertising, initial advertising, is a
- 13 really crucial expense and effort. And the
- 14 advantage of having multiple products and multiple
- 15 companies, part of that process is obvious. You
- 16 know, you have a much better chance to get more
- 17 support, and you have a much better chance to
- 18 spread the word more widely because it's not just
- 19 drug A, drug B, and drug C but, you know, a whole
- 20 group.
- 21 We think of anticonvulsants being in the
- 22 low 30s range, 33, 34. And that's been very

185 helpful. DR. CHAMBERS: So, in my opinion, there are situations like the Anti-Epileptic Drugs and Pregnancy Registry and the antiretrovirals, where 4 it's sort of a slam dunk that a disease-based registry makes a lot of sense. But the scenario that Mike described is probably going to happen more and more often where there is a drug and then there is another one and then there is another one and it happens sequentially. And so, then, how do 10 you go back, then, and revisit the situation of 11 12 should this be a disease or a cluster of diseasebased registries? 13 And maybe the thought there is when you 14 15 have, you know, a critical mass of several 16 products that are coming to market when the post-17 marketing commitment or suggestion is made that a 18 pregnancy registry be set up. Should the 19 conversation be suggested, then, to be had with existing pregnancy registries that somehow could 20 21 be remodeled to address the disease-based 22 approach?

186

DR. HERNANDEZ-DIAZ: Sonia Hernandez-1 I agree. As I said, I think that there are many advantages from a public health point of view 3 to have multi-drug registries when there is a disease treated with several alternatives. improves the validity as well from a math point of 6 view but also logistically when a new drug will come to the market, there will be the network in place to I think -- it will be easier and faster to have information ready for that new medication. 10 11 Having said that, I understand that logistically that represents making different 12 companies collaborate and then with some of them 13 going generic in a pattern, that may be very 14 15 complicated. But I think from a purely public 16 health point of view, they generally will make 17 more sense. 18 DR. ALBANO: This is Jessica Albano. One 19 of the other complications is not having a clear understanding from a generics perspective what the 20 21 obligations are and whether or not they will be required to participate. So certainly for the

187

- 1 brand new products that are already there, but
- 2 then once they go off patent, you know, is there a
- 3 clear precedent for how, you know, that
- 4 therapeutic area moves forward?
- DR. MITCHELL: Yes. I just want to
- 6 reinforce what Jessica said and actually extend it
- 7 a little bit. For a manufacturer whose drug is
- 8 about to go off patent, that issue becomes very
- 9 real because the question is, should they be
- 10 investiing in a pregnancy registry when, in
- 11 fact, the majority of sales, the majority of the
- 12 market within three or four years is going to be
- 13 generic.
- 14 So I would throw at FDA's feet the issue
- 15 of making generics responsible for their drugs in
- 16 some way that is equivalent to the sponsor so long
- 17 as those drugs are being used by pregnant women. I
- 18 think that's really an issue.
- 19 DR. CHAMBERS: Just to add to that, I
- 20 think we're the ones who have the one generic
- 21 pregnancy registry. At least how it was
- 22 communicated to us was that they were strongly

188 recommended that they needed to join the pregnancy registry as a group, which they did. 3 MODERATOR WRAP-UP MORNING SESSION DR. TASSINARI: Well, thank you very much for this morning session. I think it has 5 been very helpful in hearing your experiences and 6 your thoughts, particularly around where we are in this current state. I will ask if there are any final thoughts here in the room. Yes, Mike? DR. GREENE: I would just like to make 10 one other comment, which is that when the basic 11 principles of mammalian teratogenesis were being 12 described in the 1950s and '60s, there was a 13 straightforward correlation in everybody's mind 15 between a drug and a malformation. And if you got 16 a drug that seemed to cause a whole lot of 17 malformations, people sort of dismissed it and 18 said, "Well, you know, maybe that's really 19 confounding by indication, you know. It's the 20 fever that caused all of these different 21 problems." 22 I think that life has become more

189

- 1 complicated as we have learned more about genetics
- 2 and teratology and we now know more about
- 3 homeoboxes, genes, and transcription factors that
- 4 affect the expression of suites of genes that
- 5 could make it more credible that a variety of
- 6 congenital malformations could, in fact, result
- 7 from a single exposure. Life is no longer I think
- 8 as simple as it was in the 1950s and '60s, when J.
- 9 G. Wilson was describing the principles of
- 10 mammalian teratogenesis.
- 11 DR. TASSINARI: And our colleagues on
- 12 the phone, any comments?
- DR. CONLIN: This is Dr. Ava Conlin. No,
- 14 nothing further for me right now. Thank you.
- DR. TASSINARI: Okay.
- 16 MS. MOYER: So we are about to break
- 17 for lunch. And we will have one-hour lunch break,
- 18 which is on your own. If you are a panelist and
- 19 you are participating in the lunch, we have that
- 20 in a separate area for you. If you didn't
- 21 participate, you can certainly also use the room.
- 22 So we will be breaking for one hour. And we will

		190
1	resume at 1:00 o'clock with the open public	
2	comment session. If you have not registered or	
3	let us know that you were here and you had	
4	previously let us know that you were interested in	
5	speaking, please see the registration desk so that	
6	you can check in and we're ready for you. Enjoy	
7	your lunch.	
8	DR. TASSINARI: Thank you very much.	
9	(Whereupon, at 12:01 p.m., the	
10	<pre>public meeting was concluded.)</pre>	
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		191
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D	1
Page	- 1
ı age	

	1 45	,	
<u> </u>	12-fold 59:14	39:15 52:13	3.3 99:4
\$10 154:20	13 98:14	60:18 73:8	3.9 61:5
	130 5:18	161:10	3:20 8:2
<u>1</u> 10510	15 7:22 61:1	200 60:12 61:1 99:14	30 7:16 97:14
1 4:17,19 5:18 16:11 43:12,15	118:19 119:8		145:5 146:8
59:3 60:1,19	181:7	2001 70:13	149:13 161:10
61:2,16 74:3	15,451 98:17	2002 10:16 28:14 35:10 112:6	182:11
130:12	150 59:11		300 60:2
145:12,14 147:11	1503 1:16	2003 98:22	30s 184:22
1-(800 154:4	16,300 98:10	2005 112:2,10 122:7	30th 7:19
` `	16,589 98:16	2007 11:12 28:19	31 1:16 4:13,14
1,000 59:3 60:1,19 61:2,6,16 74:4	18 162:21 163:1	35:11 72:1	32 39:13
77:2 145:13	18,500 98:2	2008 29:1	33 184:22
1,500 59:19	187 5:19	200-fold 61:7	34 184:22
1,700 61:13	19 4:9	2011 122:8	345 122:12
1,800 60:14	1950s 188:13	2012 38:1 90:5	353 56:9
1.02 99:8	189:8	2013 37:12 98:1,9	36 39:19
1.6 39:18	1960s 171:22	2014 1:12 7:19	38 36:5 97:11 98:7
1.8 71:1	1989 97:21 98:22	29:10 32:9	39 36:17
1:00 190:1	1997 49:14 60:15	20-fold 59:8,16	
10 18:7 36:17	74:19 84:5 88:13	66:16,21	<u>4</u>
69:14,16 133:5	133:6	21 39:16 118:17	4 17:1
10,000 145:14,15		22 38:11 39:2	40 71:4 72:21
10:00 92:1	2 60:18 61:14,15	23 98:8	41 36:16
100 60:11,17	72:3 78:17 90:8	23.4 39:17	42 4:16
61:2,11,12,15	165:8	25 97:22 180:21	43 4:17,19
74:3 170:4 182:17	2.1 71:21	250 147:11	44 5:2
108 5:13	2.24 71:7	26 4:11	445 98:17
109 3.13 10903 1:15	2.3 72:3	28 1:12 75:5	450 59:13
	2.5 99:4		48 98:11
11 90:6,8 133:5	2.6 98:20	3	49 122:10
12 23:16 39:10 133:5	2.7 56:17	3 17:1 39:19 60:3 85:3 90:8 145:15	
12:01 190:9	2.72 99:1	183:3	5 5 36:16 85:3,10
123 5:17	2.9 98:18 99:3	3.2 98:20	50 10:8 69:16 90:7
	20 18:7 36:18		30 10.0 09.10 90.7

	Pag	ge z	
150:12 180:22 500 89:2	95 98:19 99:3	7:10 according 110:10,22 111:8	42:13 105:14 126:2 171:18 176:3
52,000 46:20	a.m 1:12	110:10,22 111:8	activity 8:21 13:22
52.7 39:18	abandoning 15:1	119:15	actual 68:15 73:9
528 122:10,12 544 79:11	ability 13:3 30:22 31:22 192:4	accordingly 120:13	actually 9:1 12:16 13:9 17:10 18:12
577 122:8 59 32:10 38:9 39:2,13	able 7:8 26:3,4 79:4 145:6 146:8 150:8 155:1	account 56:14 57:11 accrual 30:5	19:6,15 24:12 25:5 42:17 64:10,11 72:11
6	160:10 164:3,4 167:15,18 abnormalities	accumulate 149:13	73:12 76:16 84:12 107:11 120:10 124:20
6 4:2 23:17	71:9 72:6,9	accumulated	129:3 132:6
6/581 56:11	79:15 82:11	61:18 99:12	138:8 139:6 154:6 187:6
600 78:14	abortion 56:4,7	accuracy 35:1	Adacel 121:20
60s 188:13 189:8 67 5:6 98:3 122:13	118:16 119:16 150:5	Accutane 146:1 153:21 154:1,14	122:5
129:19 130:7	abortions 58:2,11	165:1	adalimumab 38:14
7 7,000 56:9 70 130:7	Abou-Ali 2:19 5:14 20:14,15 108:8,11,14 125:6 126:19 127:4 129:22	Accutanes 164:20 achieved 33:10 39:4 107:11 acid 55:13 165:2	add 40:20 77:10,13 150:17 151:17 163:6 187:19
700 85:18	absence 180:1	acknowledge 100:14	added 38:7
71 39:6	absent 9:15	ACOG 147:17	Adding 149:8
<u>8</u> 4:6 97:14 122:11	absolutely 128:9 133:3	across 31:9,10 106:11 132:9	addition 25:3 99:9 109:16 112:1 116:16 117:5
8:07 1:12	academia 104:22	140:12	additional 151:17
80 78:16	academic 110:14	act 28:20 113:3 120:12 123:3	160:6
875 78:18	accept 164:3	Acting 23:11	Additionally 124:6
9 98:5	accepting 64:12 accessibility 108:3	action 191:11,16 192:6,7	address 13:3 92:8 105:18,21 115:1
9,000 79:9	accident 10:10	active 71:19	129:19 153:17
9.3 35:4	accidental 141:14	112:22 121:19	157:3 176:21 177:7 180:1
9:45 8:1	accidentally 154:4	137:5	183:13 185:21
92 5:9	accommodate	actively 148:8 activities 22:19	addressed 141:2

	Pag	<u>e 3</u>	
157:5	157:18,22	170:2	alcohol 81:5
addresses 106:9	158:10 164:15	age 12:3 48:15	alert 141:16,18,20
addressing 19:1	advertisement	55:6 58:3 93:8	Alison 26:3
Adel 2:19 5:14	175:4	95:6,20 118:10 120:4 163:9	Allen 2:16 24:21
20:15 108:8	advertisements 147:19	173:5	45:4 142:20
adenovirus		agencies 14:13	144:2 153:20
95:16,18	advertising 64:18 184:12	28:10 103:10	154:5 165:13 177:8
adhere 102:20	advice 26:10 65:19	111:20 127:10	alleviate 106:5
adherence 106:2	86:12 148:20	agency 23:17 24:3	
administered 32:2	advise 69:8	28:16,20 29:12	allotting 14:7
administration 1:2	adviser 23:3 44:15	30:1 110:6 112:9 119:1,3	allow 19:20 150:21 151:1
94:22 118:8	advisers 85:2	Agendas 7:1	allowed 128:7
admit 108:21	88:16		
ado 19:2	advising 135:15	agents 178:20	allowing 181:20
adopt 102:19	Advisor 4:21	ages 179:14	allows 60:3
Adrian 2:20 20:8	advisors 105:1,11	aggregate 99:10	alluded 125:5
89:11 127:22	,	100:1 107:8,18	alone 97:17
138:18 182:1	advisory 84:3 87:1 99:22 101:11	aggressive 147:8	already 7:1 49:6
advance 7:9 24:9	104:21 107:19	ago 23:17 24:8 69:14 71:12	53:5 55:20 92:21
154:16	129:6 183:12	137:9 168:4	97:10 104:1 108:1 114:13
advancing 17:12	advocacy 115:19	178:18	135:8 169:18
advantage 14:2	advocates 81:22	agonize 87:1	181:5 187:1
124:6 151:3	AED 21:11 132:8	agreeing 166:17	alternative 13:21
184:14	147:4 155:19	agreement 102:17	14:8,22 16:3
advantageous 101:15	158:14 166:8	agreements 68:7	17:3 39:20 110:16 126:6
	184:11		156:21
advantages 62:5,21 93:20	affect 30:7 40:20	ahead 19:22 42:4 64:3 78:9 85:21	Alternatively 7:11
100:20 101:1	51:3 163:10 189:4	91:15	alternatives
102:1,11 130:22	affected 60:1	AHRQ 24:11	152:22 186:5
150:1,20	145:16	aim 52:12	altruistic 153:11
151:6,18 165:9 186:3	affects 121:13	aims 113:21	am 19:2,11,17
advent 137:17	African 74:3	alarms 46:6 66:13	20:8,10,20
			21:4,9,10,12,13,
adverse 117:11 118:15 119:7	afternoon 8:2 16:19 26:5 65:15	Albano 2:3 5:10 21:12,13	16
123:4 124:13	153:17	92:13,16 107:13	22:7,8,11,12,13,
126:4 128:22	against 136:1	175:21 186:18	15,16,21 23:2,3,6,7,9,10,1
	agamst 130.1		23.2,3,0,7,9,10,1

Page	4

	1 42) - 	1
3,14	34:11,22 35:3	158:16	Appearing 3:13
24:2,4,18,20	36:3 49:3 58:17	anticonvulsants	appears 176:21
25:9,12,13,15	76:22 77:1 81:15	49:18 50:4 55:12	191:4
31:16 44:18,21	99:13 101:17		191:4
47:22 49:6,10	104:8 105:9	56:9 57:7 159:10	Applause 64:1
50:16,18 51:7	107:8,14 108:1	184:21	83:18 106:21
*	*	anticonvulsants/	123:10
60:7 65:13 67:20	112:17 119:11	anti-epileptic	
69:11 92:16	120:8 132:20	49:16 55:8	applicable 155:4
104:13 126:15	analytical 101:13		application 125:19
153:13,16	analytically	Anti-Epileptic 5:7	126:3 174:6
165:21 166:5	102:14	44:16 49:9 55:3	
171:13 182:11	102:14	84:1 90:13 97:8	applications
183:11 191:9,12	analyze 58:1,4	181:6 185:3	125:20 129:17
192:5,6	107:17 119:12	antiretroviral 37:1	apply 122:18
Amendments	amalumad 22.14		127:15
	analyzed 32:14	38:4,20 97:19	
28:20	71:13 99:11,16	99:10 100:6	applying 173:22
America 60:8	and/or 129:8	104:18	appreciated 6:14
127:13	Androdo 2:4 21:22	antiretrovirals	• •
	Andrade 2:4 21:22	185:4	approach 28:15
American 5:7	22:1		71:2 111:16
21:11 49:9 55:3	animal 11:15	Antiviral 97:9	185:22
74:3 84:1	45:11	anxiety 178:13	approaches 1:4
97:8,11 132:8		· ·	6:10 9:9 13:18
147:4 155:18	announcement	anxious 178:11	14:22 16:4
158:14 166:8	7:15 91:17	anybody 64:3	17:3,11 39:20
181:6 184:11	114:19,21 115:5	66:15 73:1 85:22	*
amniocentesis	annual 100:2	131:11 140:19	104:7 126:11
		142:8 148:20	156:22 180:4
50:14	anomalies 77:7		appropriate 28:3
among 17:13	118:17 119:19	anymore 137:22	93:19 95:2
30:13 41:21	171:21	anyone 42:2	96:2,6,22 104:22
45:12 56:10	answer 52:5 66:2	165:20	106:14 140:15
68:19 76:2,3	84:15 122:22		176:2 183:9
81:22 90:7 94:10	128:1 131:21	anything 88:10	
98:6,16	128:1 131:21 177:9	129:13 143:6,7	appropriately
99:2,15,20	177.9	148:4 176:5	103:1
′ ′	answering 165:21	177:11 180:4	appropriateness
128:14	answers 148:14	anywhere 149:1	171:10
amount 6:17		177:11	
Ana 25:11	anthrax 25:17	1//:11	approval 5:11
	anticipate 131:3	apart 164:11	9:14 27:18 29:21
analyses 4:18 35:3	_	apparent 65:21	123:18
43:14 83:7	anticipating 127:1	100:7 148:5	onnevala 07.4
103:17 107:22	153:16	100:7 148:3	approvals 97:4
	anticonvulsant	appeared 90:5	105:5
analysis 12:19 16:15 31:19 33:3	50:6 70:16 81:15		approve 127:11
10.13 31.19 33.3	30.0 70.10 01.13		

approved 9:22 aside 92:8 Australia 21:8 balances 77:17 30:11 33:21 34:17 35:20 36:12 37:10,21 aspect 145:21 Australian 90:13 ballpark 142:16 36:12 37:10,21 38:7 93:3 95:2,6 aspect 145:21 author 90:4 bar 167:14 approximately aspirin 143:12 authoritis 117:7 bark 43:8 approximately assin 143:12 authoritis 117:7 bark 43:8 approximately assin 143:12 authoritis 117:7 bark 43:8 APP 97:13 98:20 assessing 16:4 autism 164:1 base 89:3 Arbor 132:15 assigned 51:2 assigned 51:2 available 72:16 autism 164:1 based 11:15 32:3 are 178:14 are 72:1 9:4 142:14 assigned 51:2 available 7:2,16 autism 164:1 based 11:15 32:3 are 178:14 are 72:1 9:4 142:14 assigned 51:2 available 7:2,16 available 7:2,16 are 14:9 106:11 128:15 132:16 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 available 7:2,16 assistant 9:20 available 7:2,16 assistant 9:20 baseine 77:11,12,1		1 48	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
34:17 35:20 36:12 37:10,21 38:79 33:39 5:2,6 approximately 7:16 97:11,14 98:11 APR 97:13 98:20 99:13 100:12,13 107:13 Arbor 132:15 arc 178:14 15:18 18:16 70:17 102:19 122:20 132:15 162:18 187:4 15:18 18:16 70:17 102:19 122:20 132:15 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 109:15 17:4 171:7,14 171:7,14 172:18,20 175:13 17	_ _	aside 92:8	Australia 21:8	balances 77:17
36:12 37:10,21 aspects 44:22 45:2 author 90:4 bar 167:14 bar 167:14 38:7 93:3 95:2,6 aspirin 143:12 authorities 117:7 bark 43:8 barriers 93:22 38:17 93:3 95:2,6 aspirin 143:12 authority 11:13 barriers 93:22 base 89:3 49:13 100:12,13 assessing 16:4 autism 164:1 base 89:3 APR 97:13 98:20 99:13 100:12,13 assessing 16:4 automated 47:10 38:16 3107:13 assiste 68:20,22 assite 68:20,22 assite 141:12 automated 47:10 88:11 94:3 4 rea 7:21 9:4 142:14 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 69:17 assistant 69:21 available 7:2,16 165:8,13 172:17 assit 19:18 baseline 77:11,12,14 basic 188:11 basic 181:11 basic 188:11 basic 189:11 13:16 121:10,11 128:19 166:22 180:5		aspect 145:21	Australian 90:13	ballpark 142:16
38:7 93:3 95:2,6 103:7 166:4 authorities 117:7 bark 43:8 approximately 7:16 97:11,14 98:11 assers 30:22 32:1 40:15,19 146:21 authority 11:13 12:5 28:21 barriers 93:22 base 89:3 APR 97:13 98:20 99:13 100:12,13 107:13 assessing 16:4 assessment 24:4 102:8 168:20,22 Autoinmune 36:22 37:1,3,5,7 38:14,18,19,21 Arbor 132:15 arc 178:14 area 7:21 9:4 15:18 18:16 70:17 102:19 122:20 132:15 162:18 187:4 189:20 assistant 68:22 assistant 82:16 136:12 Associate 4:10 5:4 189:20 Ava 2:7 25:6 189:13 assist 13:17:17 145:13 13:9 associate 4:10 5:4 136:12 Associate 4:10 5:4 136:12 associate 4:10 5:4 19:9:17:17.14 13:3 assistant 82:16 associate 4:10 5:4 23:20 113:9 1		aspects 44:22 45:2	author 90:4	bar 167:14
7:16 97:11,14 98:11 40:15,19 146:21 assess 30:22 32:1 40:15,19 146:21 assessing 16:4 Apr 97:13 98:20 99:13 100:12,13 107:13 Arbor 132:15 arc 178:14 102:8 168:20,22 assigned 51:2 assist 141:12 15:18 18:16 70:17 102:19 122:20 132:15 162:18 187:4 189:20 assistants 82:16 162:18 187:4 189:20 Associate 4:10 5:4 189:20 Associate 4:10 5:4 189:20 Associate 4:10 5:4 189:20 areas 14:9 106:11 128:15 132:16 arean 108:22 109:15 112:8 113:3 aren't 143:20 149:18 179:6 argue 54:16 76:10 145:8 163:17 164:17 Army 21:17,18 arrives 9:2 articles 34:19 ascertained 133:9 arcertained 133:9 173:13 ascertainment 171:21 172:6,17 asuin 192:3 ardin 192:3 ardin 192:3 ardin 192:3 ardin 192:3 ardin 19:3 12:5 28:21 auttomated 47:10 auttommune 33:6:22 37:1,3,5,7 38:14,18,19,21 auttomated 47:10 avuntated 47			authorities 117:7	bark 43:8
APR 97:13 98:20 assess 30:22 32:1 40:15,19 146:21 autism 164:1 Autoimmune 36:22 37:1,3,5,7 38:14 102:8 168:20,22 automated 47:10 Ava 2:7 25:6 automated 47:10 Ava 2:7 25:6 134:16 142:8 160:15,17 165:8,13 172:17 165:8 18:16 70:17 102:19 122:20 132:15 162:18 187:4 136:12 Associate 4:10 5:4 23:20 area 14:9 106:11 128:15 132:16 area 108:22 109:15 112:8 113:3 aren't 143:20 149:18 179:6 argue 54:16 76:10 145:8 163:17 164:17 Army 21:17,18 arrives 9:2 articles 34:19 ascertainment 171:21 172:6,17 ascertains 173:4 ardio 192:3 aution 164:1 autoimmune 38:26	approximately	aspirin 143:12	authority 11:13	barriers 93:22
98:11		assess 30:22 32:1	•	
APR 97:13 98:20 assessing 16:4 Autoimmune 36:22 37:1,3,5,7 99:13 100:12,13 107:13 assessment 24:4 38:16 38:14,18,19,21 Arbor 132:15 assigned 51:2 assigned 51:2 Ava 2:7 25:6 189:13 134:16 142:8 area 7:21 9:4 142:14 assist 141:12 189:13 134:16 142:8 160:15,17 15:18 18:16 70:17 102:19 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 assistant 68:22 baseline 77:11,12,14 189:20 Associate 4:10 5:4 avoid 9:20 101:2 basic 188:11 basic ally 111:19 areas 14:9 106:11 23:20 113:9 113:16 128:15 132:16 associated 33:2 aware 148:7 121:10,11 arena 108:22 74:5 90:9 149:22 163:10 174:13 128:19 166:22 19:15 112:8 159:11,14 awareness 30:11 101:22 basis 17:10 72:18 argue 54:16 76:10 atilita 7:10 assure 164:19 170:3,22 basis 17:10 72:18 arrives 9:2 articles 34:19 attempt 13:6 attempt 13:6 </td <td>98:11</td> <td>40:15,19 146:21</td> <td>autism 164:1</td> <td></td>	98:11	40:15,19 146:21	autism 164:1	
38:14 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,13 100:12,15 130:12,15 130:13 134:14,18,19,21 134:14,14,14,14,14,14,14,14,14,14,14,14,14,1		assessing 16:4	Autoimmune	
Arbor 132:15 assigned 51:2 automated 47:10 88:1194:3 134:16 142:8 160:15,17 165:8,13 172:17 185:13 baseline 77:11,12,14 baseline 77:11,12,14 basic 188:11 basic 188:11 basic 188:11 basic 188:11 basic 188:11 basically 111:19 113:16 avoid 9:20 101:2 113:16 121:10,11 128:19 166:22 121:10,11 128:19 166:22 121:10,11 128:19 166:22 180:5 basis 17:10 72:18 27:19 82:18 89:19,22 100:2 112:13 128:19 166:22 121:13 128:19 166:22 121:13 128:19 166:22 121:13 128:19 166:22 121:13 128:19 166:22 121:13		assessment 24:4		, , ,
arc 178:14 assigned 31:2 Ava 2:7 25:6 160:15,17 area 7:21 9:4 142:14 assist 141:12 189:13 160:15,17 15:18 18:16 70:17 102:19 assistant 68:22 available 7:2,16 8:4 39:13 102:8 baseline 70:17 102:19 assistant 68:22 assistants 82:16 Avenue 1:15 basic 188:11 122:20 132:15 136:12 Avenue 1:15 basic 188:11 189:20 Associate 4:10 5:4 avoid 9:20 101:2 basic 188:11 128:15 132:16 associated 33:2 avail 9:20 101:2 basically 111:19 113:16 associated 33:2 avail 9:20 101:2 basically 11:10,11 128:15 132:16 associated 33:2 avail 9:20 101:2 basically 11:10,11 128:15 13:16 associated 33:2 avail 9:20 101:2 basically 11:10,11 128:15 13:16 associated 33:2 avail 9:20 101:2 basis 17:10,72:18 113:3 association 65:22 166:17 away 66:15 76:17 away 19:8 148:12 baby 136:1,3,4,8 148:		102:8 168:20,22	automated 47:10	
are 178:14 assist 141:12 189:13 165:8,13 172:17 are 37:21 9:4 142:14 available 7:2,16 185:13 185:13 70:17 102:19 assistant 68:22 8:4 39:13 102:8 109:1 177:4 77:11,12,14 162:18 187:4 136:12 Avenue 1:15 basic 188:11 189:20 Associate 4:10 5:4 avoid 9:20 101:2 basic 188:11 128:15 132:16 associated 33:2 aware 148:7 121:10,11 arena 108:22 74:5 90:9 149:22 163:10 174:13 128:19 166:22 109:15 112:8 13:3 association 65:22 176:3,6,19 177:5 basis 17:10 72:18 113:3 assume 160:17 assurance 34:21 away 66:15 76:17 77:19 82:18 149:18 179:6 assurance 34:21 assura 148:12 170:13,22 basis 17:10 72:18 arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 baby 136:1,3,4,8 148:5 155:2 arricles 34:19 attempt 13:6 attendance 6:13 attendance 6:13 attendance 6:13 attendance 6:13 backgrounds 187:8 becomes 150:7 asc		assigned 51:2	Ava 2:7 25:6	
area 7:21 9:4 15:18 18:16 assistant 68:22 available 7:2,16 185:13 baseline 77:11,12,14 baseline 77:11,12,14 baseline 77:11,12,14 baseline 77:11,12,14 baseline 77:11,12,14 baseline 77:11,12,14 basic 188:11 basic 188:12 108:12 180:5 180:5 180:5 180:5 180:5 180:5		assist 141:12		,
70:17 102:19 assistant 63:22 8:4 39:13 102:8 baseline 77:11,12,14 122:20 132:15 136:12 Avenue 1:15 basic 188:11 189:20 Associate 4:10 5:4 avoid 9:20 101:2 basically 111:19 areas 14:9 106:11 23:20 113:9 113:16 arena 108:22 74:5 90:9 149:22 163:10 174:13 128:19 166:22 109:15 112:8 159:11,14 awareness 30:11 101:22 149:18 179:6 assure 160:17 assure 162:17 80:1 91:8 148:12 145:8 163:17 Atlanta 71:20 171:7,14 B babics 73:1,2 164:17 Atlanta 71:20 172:18,20 148:5 155:2 become 16:2 74:19 17:17,18 172:18,20 140:5 177:12 146:2 188:22 173:13 attempt 13:6 140:5 177:12 146:2 188:22 173:13		142:14	available 7:2,16	*
122:20 132:15 162:18 187:4 136:12 Associate 4:10 5:4 136:12 Associate 4:10 5:4 23:20 113:9 113:16 128:15 132:16 associated 33:2 aware 148:7 163:10 174:13 128:19 166:22 109:15 112:8 113:3 association 65:22 109:15 112:8 113:3 association 65:22 109:15 113:3 assure 160:17 assurance 34:21 assure 164:19 145:8 163:17 164:17 Army 21:17,18 arrives 9:2 articles 34:19 ascertain 32:19 ascertain 32:19 ascertainment 171:21 172:6,17 ascertains 173:4 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 avoid 9:20 101:2		assistant 68:22		baseline
Associate 4:10 5:4 avoid 9:20 101:2 113:9 113:16 128:15 132:16 associated 33:2 aware 148:7 128:19 166:22 163:10 174:13 128:19 166:22 180:5 133:3 association 65:22 109:15 112:8 133:3 association 65:22 109:15 112:8 133:3 association 65:22 176:3,6,19 177:5 assurance 34:21 assure 164:19 170:13,22 assure 164:19 170:13,22 assure 164:19 170:13,22 assure 164:19 ascertain 32:19 ascertain 32:19 ascertain 41:32 173:13 ascertainment 171:21 172:6,17 ascertains 173:4 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 avoid 9:20 101:2 113:9 asoically 111:19 113:16 121:10,11 128:10:10 128:19 166:22 180:5 basically 111:19 113:16 121:10,11 128:19 166:22 180:5 basis 17:10 72:18 180:5 basis 17:10 72:18 77:19 82:18 89:19,22 100:2 112:13 away 66:15 76:17 80:1 91:8 148:12 170:13,22 bear 76:19 became 88:18 148:5 155:2 become 16:2 74:19 75:22 97:22 146:2 188:22 becomes 150:7 187:8 begin 6:19 89:5 92:6,20 148:3 beginning 61:14 69:6 84:21 88:22 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 audio 192:3 avoid 9:20 101:2 113:9 113:16 121:10,11 123:10,11 123:10,11 123:10,11 123:10 123:10 123:10 123:10 123:10 123:10 123:10 123:10 130:5 basis 17:10,11 128:19 166:22 180:5 180:5 basis 17:10 72:18 77:19 82:18 89:19,22 100:2 112:13 bear 76:19 became 88:18 148:5 155:2 become 16:2 74:19 75:22 97:22 146:2 188:22 becomes 150:7 187:8 begin 6:19 89:5 92:6,20 148:3 beginning 61:14 69:6 84:21 88:22 180:20 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 133:10 130:2				77:11,12,14
areas 14:9 106:11 23:20 113:9 basically 111:19 128:15 132:16 associated 33:2 aware 148:7 121:10,11 arena 108:22 74:5 90:9 149:22 163:10 174:13 128:19 166:22 109:15 112:8 159:11,14 awareness 30:11 180:5 aren't 143:20 assume 160:17 assume 163:17 77:19 82:18 49:18 179:6 assurance 34:21 assurance 34:21 89:19,22 100:2 argue 54:16 76:10 145:8 163:17 80:1 91:8 148:12 112:13 164:17 Atlanta 71:20 171:7,14 B basis 17:10 72:18 Army 21:17,18 172:18,20 babies 73:1,2 became 88:18 arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 baby 136:1,3,4,8 148:5 155:2 articles 34:19 attempt 13:6 140:5 177:12 become 16:2 74:19 ascertained 133:9 attention 41:22 57:15 63:16 151:9 161:11 becomes 150:7 173:13 3certainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22			Avenue 1:15	basic 188:11
accertained 133:9 associated 33:2 aware 148:7 113:10 113:13 123:13 113:13 123:13 113:13 123:13 113:13 113:13 113:13 113:13 113:13 113:13 113:13 113:14 113:13 113:14 113:13	189:20			basically 111:19
arena 108:22 74:5 90:9 149:22 163:10 174:13 128:19 166:22 109:15 112:8 13:3 association 65:22 awareness 30:11 basis 17:10 72:18 aren't 143:20 assume 160:17 assume 160:17 away 66:15 76:17 89:19,22 100:2 145:8 163:17 Atlanta 71:20 assure 164:19 170:13,22 bear 76:19 Army 21:17,18 171:7,14 B became 88:18 arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 babies 73:1,2 become 16:2 74:19 ascertain 32:19 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 becomes 150:7 ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 151:9 161:11 begin 6:19 89:5 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 balance 76:14 beginning 61:14 accertains 173:4 audio 192:3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22				
109:15 112:8				· ·
aren't 143:20 assume 160:17 away 66:15 76:17 basis 17:10 72:18 149:18 179:6 assume 160:17 away 66:15 76:17 89:19,22 100:2 argue 54:16 76:10 145:8 163:17 Atlanta 71:20 bear 76:19 Army 21:17,18 171:7,14 B 148:5 155:2 arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 baby 136:1,3,4,8 75:22 97:22 articles 34:19 attempt 13:6 background 27:2 146:2 188:22 ascertained 133:9 attention 41:22 151:9 161:11 begin 6:19 89:5 ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 audio 192:3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22				
aren't 143:20 assume 160:17 176:3,6,19 177:5 77:19 82:18 149:18 179:6 assurance 34:21 away 66:15 76:17 89:19,22 100:2 145:8 163:17 assure 164:19 hear 76:19 hear 76:19 145:8 163:17 Atlanta 71:20 hear 76:19 hear 76:19 171:7,14 B hear 76:19 hear 76:19 172:18,20 hear 76:19 hear 76:19 hear 76:19 172:18,20 hear 76:19 hear 76:19 hear 76:19 hear 76:19 172:18,20 hear 76:19		ŕ		
149:18 179:6 assurance 34:21 away 66:15 76:17 89:19,22 100:2 149:18 179:6 assurance 34:21 assure 164:19 12:13 145:8 163:17 Atlanta 71:20 bear 76:19 164:17 Atlanta 71:20 became 88:18 171:7,14 172:18,20 babies 73:1,2 arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 baby 136:1,3,4,8 75:22 97:22 ascertain 32:19 attempt 13:6 140:5 177:12 become 16:2 74:19 ascertained 133:9 attention 41:22 109:7 128:21 187:8 173:13 57:15 63:16 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22				
argue 54:16 76:10 assurance 34.21 80:1 91:8 148:12 112:13 145:8 163:17 Atlanta 71:20 bear 76:19 164:17 Atlanta 71:20 babies 73:1,2 171:7,14 B 148:5 155:2 172:18,20 baby 136:1,3,4,8 146:2 188:22 175:22 97:22 attempt 13:6 140:5 177:12 become 16:2 74:19 ascertain 32:19 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 becomes 150:7 ascertained 133:9 173:13 109:7 128:21 187:8 ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22				*
145:8 163:17 assure 164:19 170:13,22 bear 76:19 164:17 Atlanta 71:20 B 148:5 155:2 Army 21:17,18 172:18,20 babies 73:1,2 become 16:2 74:19 arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 baby 136:1,3,4,8 75:22 97:22 ascertain 32:19 attempt 13:6 140:5 177:12 become 16:2 74:19 ascertained 133:9 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 becomes 150:7 173:13 109:7 128:21 187:8 ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	argue 54·16 76·10		· ·	112:13
Army 21:17,18 171:7,14 B 148:5 155:2 arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 baby 136:1,3,4,8 75:22 97:22 ascertain 32:19 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 becomes 150:7 ascertained 133:9 attention 41:22 151:9 161:11 begin 6:19 89:5 ascertains 173:4 attorney 191:13 balance 76:14 beginning 61:14 audio 192:3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	O		170:13,22	bear 76:19
Army 21:17,18 172:18,20 babies 73:1,2 become 16:2 74:19 articles 34:19 attempt 13:6 140:5 177:12 75:22 97:22 ascertain 32:19 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 146:2 188:22 ascertained 133:9 attention 41:22 151:9 161:11 187:8 ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 109:8 beginning 61:14 ascertains 173:4 audio 192:3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	164:17		_	
arrives 9:2 atrial 75:13 80:2 baby 136:1,3,4,8 75:22 97:22 ascertain 32:19 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 become 16:2 74:19 ascertained 133:9 attention 41:22 background 27:2 becomes 150:7 173:13 109:7 128:21 187:8 ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	Army 21:17,18	· ·		
articles 34:19 attempt 13:6 140:5 177:12 146:2 188:22 ascertain 32:19 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 becomes 150:7 ascertained 133:9 173:13 151:9 161:11 187:8 ascertainment 171:21 172:6,17 ascertains 173:4 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 109:8 92:6,20 148:3 beginning 61:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	arrives 9:2	ŕ	ŕ	
ascertain 32:19 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 becomes 150:7 ascertained 133:9 173:13 attention 41:22 57:15 63:16 109:7 128:21 151:9 161:11 187:8 ascertainment 171:21 172:6,17 ascertains 173:4 70:19 166:11 attorney 191:13 background 27:2 187:8 begin 6:19 89:5 187:8 begin 6:19 89:5 beginning 61:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	articles 34:19			
ascertained 133:9 attendance 6:13 background 27:2 becomes 130:7 173:13 attention 41:22 109:7 128:21 187:8 57:15 63:16 57:15 63:16 57:15 63:16 57:15 63:16 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 109:8 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 109:8 beginning 61:14 ascertains 173:4 audio 192:3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	ascertain 32:19	_		
173:13 attention 41:22 57:15 63:16 151:9 161:11 begin 6:19 89:5 ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 109:8 beginning 61:14 ascertains 173:4 audio 192:3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22				
ascertainment 70:19 166:11 backgrounds 92:6,20 148:3 171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 109:8 beginning 61:14 ascertains 173:4 audio 192:3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22				
171:21 172:6,17 attorney 191:13 109:8 beginning 61:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	ascertainment		backgrounds	C
ascertains 173:4 audio 192·3 balance 76:14 69:6 84:21 88:22	171:21 172:6,17		_	ŕ
105:17 98:14 112:20	ascertains 173:4	ŭ		69:6 84:21 88:22
		audio 1/2.3	105:17	98:14 112:20

	Pag	ge 6	
147:5 148:10,18	biologics 27:19	block 176:4	broadly 32:5
170:8	28:7 36:7	Board 101:12	brought 92:22
begun 131:1	birth 13:8	104:21	124:11 140:16
behalf 6:8 8:19	20:21,22	booths 115:19	164:21
believe 48:16	25:1,14,22 30:15	boring 70:20	bucket 159:15
52:20	40:4 46:18		163:8
	47:9,20 51:5	born 70:15,21	budget 87:18
benefit 105:12	52:19 54:11 55:1	74:22 136:4,8	105:5
131:15 174:14	57:3 58:15,21	boss 19:12	
183:5	59:1,8 60:4	Boston 25:1 49:14	budgets 101:7,10
benefits 105:22	63:18 70:2,3	70:17 87:10	buffet 91:18
152:21	71:20,22 72:7,14	147:10	D!
Berliner 2:5 24:2	73:6 74:14		Building 1:16
64:5 152:2	75:9,11 76:9	bottom 38:5 73:1	bunch 24:7
	78:17 81:8	bought 81:6	bupropion
besides 117:2 118:19 120:6	98:18,22 99:3 101:12 119:18	bound 76:20	37:1,2,19
best 15:16 106:9	129:8 133:4	Branch 26:1	burden 102:5
	134:4 144:12	171:13	business 105:16,17
116:22 124:21	149:19 150:3		106:2
152:13,15	157:22 158:1	brand 94:22 95:14	
169:22 170:1,12	162:8 164:13,18	118:8 187:1	busy 137:21
179:13 181:18 192:3	167:22 168:1,5	branding 120:22	button 20:3
	169:3	break 8:1 90:19	
better 14:3 18:22	171:7,13,17	91:15 189:16,17	C
31:5 141:3	172:7,9 174:1	,	Caitlin 69:13
157:3,10 159:20	181:18	breaking 158:5	
162:7 170:19	birthmarks 77:6	189:22	calculate 120:9
182:9 184:16,17	births 60:1 77:3	breaks 8:5	calculated 39:16
beyond 13:21 14:8	98:17	breast 96:17	calculation
17:14 18:6		brief 44:19 179:11	59:6,21,22 60:3
bias 62:8	bit 10:13 43:7 44:2 49:12 51:19	briefly 49:11 62:4	78:13 121:13
biases 113:10	55:17 60:15,22	•	California 22:7
bibliographic 34:5	64:3,5,9 66:22	Brigham 71:4 77:3	25:11
bifida 89:7	97:10 125:3	bring 157:18	campus 1:15 25:5
	126:17 130:20	bringing 6:17	Canada 20:16
biggest 88:19	147:7 153:16	65:14	68:20 128:6
178:21	156:3 158:6	broad 106:17	134:10
biologic 94:4,19	167:14 181:19 182:8 187:7	171:21	cancer 96:17
biological 1:5 6:11		broadening	178:21 179:5
9:10 72:7 120:5	Blackberries 6:21	183:19	canvass 130:19
biologically 73:5	blessed 167:6	broader 150:6	
			Capital 1:20

	Pag	50 7	
capture 43:3	179:13	76:12 104:5	change 29:2 33:5
_		144:20 145:15	36:20 57:4,10
capturing 157:22	categories 29:5 129:13	158:11 172:22	88:10 133:7
carbamazepine		186:22 189:21	137:7
81:9	Caucasian 74:4	certainty 32:20	changed 11:12
cardiacs 59:4	cause 100:9	, and the second	
cards 64:19	109:20 188:16	certificate 13:8	changes 28:21
	caused 188:20	191:1 192:1	34:1,16 56:21
care 14:13 22:2		certify	78:16,19 134:3
28:10 30:12 48:4	causing 161:1	119:15,16,18	136:4
93:13 101:5,21	caution 18:8	191:3 192:2	changing 58:12
102:5 110:17 114:15 115:2	CBER 23:12 31:10	cetera 40:19	133:4 140:10
114:13 113:2	CBRD 110:17	50:6,15 89:7	chapter 24:13
117:19 120:21		124:13 170:19	26:11
121:3,5	CDC 20:22 30:16	172:2	character 182:18
125:16,17	84:8 124:7 168:2	challenge 43:2	
132:11 147:20	171:13	79:13 81:18	characteristics
172:9,15 175:16	CDC-based 47:21	121:8 122:15	31:2 34:13 35:6
182:6,7,12	CDER	128:15 140:14	41:10 97:6 173:3
careful 132:21	4:5,8,10,13,15,2	141:1 147:6	chasing 180:12
140:7 163:15	1 8:19 19:7	157:21 158:17	check 6:22 190:6
165:4	23:4,16 26:16	161:6 164:2	checked 7:6
	31:9	180:9	
carried 70:12	cell 6:21	challenges 15:8	checks 34:21
case 40:2,3		93:20 100:20	88:16
46:3,4,15	cell-free 132:18	102:12 120:14	cheerleaders
47:16,19 52:18	center 1:16 4:5 6:5	121:4,14 122:3	148:6,10
54:21 57:21	20:21 21:5,18	125:3 126:8,14	chemical 11:15
66:10 78:3	22:22 24:22	127:10 128:1,13	
101:16 104:5	25:13 47:20	129:2 131:1,5	chemotherapeutic 178:20
118:4 133:2,20	105:7 107:15	160:12 165:9,11	
138:17 153:2	132:14	challenging	Chicago-Ann
173:22 174:7,8	Centers 25:22	108:22 109:4	132:15
179:1,11 182:22	central 138:12	126:8,16 127:1	child 73:15 118:2
cases 42:13	172:18 179:3,7	Chambers 2:6	134:18 159:2
61:9,15 76:16	centralized 102:3	22:6 131:18	172:13
98:2,17 99:14		140:10 149:8	childbearing
100:1,15 114:6	certain 80:3	161:13 176:9	48:15
115:3,15	110:11 118:14	185:2 187:19	children 45:10
116:2,3,15	143:5 151:9		70:11,17,21 75:2
117:3,6,11,12,16	157:3 164:4	chance 19:19 88:7	158:16,19
119:5 120:1	169:17 173:1,2	184:16,17	160:5,7 172:7
121:8 124:18 139:12 155:19	certainly 65:3	chances 148:21	100.5,1 112.1
137.14 133.17			

	Pag	300	
child's 159:1	clearly 8:12	coder 75:11	143:17
chips 136:20	144:17 170:12	codes 75:10	collection 4:18
choice 104:15	cleft 61:1 78:20 155:19	coffee 7:22 8:3	11:3 16:15
179:20		cognitive 158:15	27:4,20 28:13,15 29:6 41:20
choose 165:18	clefts 59:5 60:18 85:20 89:6	coherent 102:8	43:14,22 44:5
chorionic 50:14	clinical 4:21 11:16	cohort 40:2	101:16 104:7
chose 32:2 35:7	23:3 27:17 32:22	46:15,16,19 48:2	105:8 108:10 109:5 117:10
126:12	33:12,20 34:8	53:16 59:13 70:12 113:4	Collection/
CHRISTINA 2:6	37:18 38:13 41:3 45:14,20 48:4	cohorts 47:3 62:12	Experience 5:13
chromosomal 171:20	68:5,9 102:2		108:12
	177:15	COL 2:8 21:16 141:9 174:12	collections 157:9
chromosome 71:9 72:9	clinically 31:3	colds 143:6	collectively 12:13
chronic 11:21	151:11	collaborate 17:16	collects 117:20
cigarette 81:3	clinician 65:6	186:13	171:19
cited 73:6	clinicians 64:20	collaboration	combination
claims 40:3 47:10	100:15 117:16 177:16	30:13,16 102:17	97:1,14
	clinics 172:11	125:1	combine 47:14
clairvoyant 140:21	clock 136:9	collaborations	combined 96:7
clarifying 4:16 5:17 42:5 64:4		159:19	comes 104:6
67:9 83:19 89:12	close 27:15 55:22 59:9	collaborative 18:19 46:18,20	118:12 139:22 162:1
106:22 123:13	closed 39:8,10	104:11,12	comfortable 88:18
class 11:15 95:3	118:4 157:7	colleagues 86:19	coming 23:17
96:3 99:10 103:19 111:1,6	closely 43:20	87:9 158:17	47:10 84:12
175:2	124:7	189:11	168:6 185:16
classic 178:9	closer 59:17	collect 9:16 41:16	comment 7:4
classification	closing 183:2	112:16 113:21 116:18	16:19 17:4 42:22 65:10 74:16 91:7
110:12	clue 143:21	125:11,16	137:1 152:2
classifications	clues 46:6	168:18,19 173:8	157:16 171:9
110:11	cluster 185:12	177:20	174:13
classified 75:13	CMS 174:16	collected 10:3 11:2 33:7 62:9 93:2	176:10,12 188:11 190:2
110:22 111:8	Coast 132:12	118:4	comments 7:12,18
clean 170:11	Coast-West	119:12,14,21	20:6 27:15 29:14
clear 105:13	132:12	120:19	58:20 68:12 88:8
186:19 187:3	Code 118:18	collecting 28:1,4,6 60:14 107:16	123:11 146:22 147:3 155:17
clearance 37:14		00.14 107.10	177.3 133.17

	Ι αξ	50 /	
165:14 189:12	companies 37:15	104:1 129:1	32:7 40:14 100:4
commitment	56:6 78:2 89:4	150:8 159:1	102:7
29:20 35:17	100:13 101:6	166:19 167:13	comprised 104:20
103:14,15	102:18 103:2,11	171:9	-
185:17	107:10 110:13	comparisons 97:4	computer-assisted 69:1
commitments	111:16 113:20	173:15	09:1
	114:19 115:7		computerized
105:19	122:19 124:18	compelling 146:14	47:12
committee 6:8	135:15	competing 102:18	concentrating
84:4 87:1 99:22	184:2,4,15	competition	62:10
100:16,18	186:13	101:20 103:2	aamaant 127,16
104:20 107:19	company 1:20	complaints 70.2	concept 127:16
129:6 183:12	72:13 88:1 96:2	complaints 70:2	conception 54:9
common 29:18	111:19 115:6	complement 15:3	120:4
59:4 62:14 65:4	116:12	144:8	concern 10:20
73:6 74:2,4,20	117:1,12,13	complementary	30:1 62:7 90:2
75:4 76:1 79:16	company-	14:22 41:17	93:6 96:7 99:15
80:1 89:9 94:8	sponsored	97:13	135:12 137:9
100:9 102:19	116:20 117:5	complete 71:13	163:20 164:15
111:3,10 113:3		139:2 181:16	concerned 8:21
115:4 116:6	comparable 58:14		15:19 51:6 89:17
147:12 161:15	63:5,9	completed 39:10	135:4 137:22
163:19	comparative	completely 137:3	
commonly 39:9	150:21	completeness 35:1	concerning 175:2
47:2,18 60:16	comparator 11:7	120:18	concerns 163:18
149:11 171:8,16	90:22 171:11		concluded 190:10
communicate	172:3 173:17	complex 96:18	
66:11,15 67:1	compare 11:8	97:1 100:20	conclusion 106:12
89:13,19,22 90:2	48:10 56:15	102:14 104:11	conclusions 41:9
176:15 178:1	60:19 103:19	complexity 100:21	62:3
	151:1	102:13	concomitant 96:6
communicated		complicated	179:16
89:21 187:22	compared 67:17	151:20 161:15	concurrent 146:14
communicating	95:9 99:5,19	170:20 183:22	
89:14,16	comparison 5:6	184:7 186:15	condition 57:9
communication	50:18 63:8	189:1	94:8 96:12 139:1
15:17 16:21	67:11,14,21	complications	164:22 172:15
32:21 66:5,12	68:15,16	129:8 186:19	173:1
89:12 102:21,22	69:11,12,18		conditions 9:19
140:12	72:18 76:12	complied 175:8	11:21 12:5 72:10
communications	77:16,19 78:15	component 83:15	152:20 171:20
34:3,4 103:9	79:10 80:7,14	95:15	conduct 15:9
115:15	82:21 83:15	comprehensive	20:22 21:14
115.15	91:5,9,10 98:21	1	·

	<u>- *8</u>	e 10	
28:18 30:14 40:18 41:6 64:21	consent 49:20	182:14	146:15,16 150:18 151:3
108:5 112:17 114:8 116:22	consequences 179:8	contacting 182:4 contain 115:1	controls 79:13 150:16 151:22
169:16 conducted 12:6	consider 58:12 68:1 75:16 88:9	contained 32:13	convenient 171:16
27:8 30:21 33:17	105:16 114:10 119:21,22	Containing 37:7 content 29:3 144:1	conversation 152:16 153:2
34:9,22 39:22 48:13 71:4	151:21 considerations	contentious 75:18	158:3 165:7 185:19
127:12 conducting 16:2	37:18 93:21 101:14 104:3	context 12:20 103:11 124:14	coordinating 105:6 107:15
60:20 168:5 conducts 107:13	considered 29:14	155:6,14 156:20 157:1	coordination
conference 1:16	32:5 33:1 39:10 81:10 118:15	continue 61:3 79:4 88:20 89:1	168:14 copies 83:2 124:2
7:21 confidence 57:13	176:2 considering 56:13	135:13 continued 69:17	134:11
61:17,19 66:8 98:19 99:4	57:6 83:13 125:8 130:8 175:2	continues 79:7	core 34:22 correlation 188:14
150:15 Confidentiality	considers 50:9	177:4 continuing 89:5	cost 63:11 105:22 147:7
103:6	consist 37:17 consistency 106:11	152:21 156:10 continuously	Coster 2:8 21:16
confirm 135:2 confirmation	consistent 70:19 102:9 154:19	161:17	141:9 174:12 costs 146:2
121:1 confounder	consisting 36:6	contraception 52:7	counsel 191:10,13 192:5
144:7,18	consolidated 101:22	contradictory 152:4	count 76:10
confounders 104:2 confounding 97:5	constant 84:4 136:21 176:22	contrast 95:16	counties 172:18 countries 35:22
151:9 188:19 congenital 71:20	constitute 84:10	contribute 40:17 152:8	98:3 110:19,20
118:17 119:18 171:7,15 189:6	consultation 106:14	contributed 36:20 38:13 39:22	country 132:15,16 country-specific
Conlin 2:7	consulted 44:14	41:2,13	111:9,11 counts 34:14 82:19
25:7,9,12 136:22 137:2 189:13	consumer 180:6 consumers 116:17	contributions 100:16	couple 155:20
connection 158:8	Cont 3:2 5:1	contributors 82:14 control 25:22 40:2	coupon 154:19
consecutive 77:2 consensus 100:3	contact 121:5 136:3 137:18 138:3,5 181:14	46:16 47:16,19 63:7 121:14 128:16	course 28:11 51:12 58:8 61:21 74:11 78:21 83:6 85:7

_	Page	2 11	
126:7 128:15	156:4 171:13	112:16,17	85:13 87:20
165:6	cut 146:17	113:21 116:18	89:13
COURT 191:1	cutting 135:7,10	117:9,21 118:7	decided 175:1
courtesy 124:2	cutting 155:7,10	119:11,12,14,20	deciding 82:19
	D	120:18,19,22	C
covariance 11:4	<u>D</u> DABT 3:7 4:20	123:20 125:17 128:9,12,19	decision 40:20
coverage 24:5,6		135:22 141:17	85:4,17,20
CPRD 47:12	daily 105:7	156:22 157:9	decision-making
Cragan 2:9 20:20	Dana 2:20 20:7,8	161:8 165:19	78:8
84:8 155:16	89:11 127:22	168:17,19	decisions 93:12
167:7 171:7,12	138:18 182:1	170:11 171:19	183:4
Craig 2:11 21:4	dance 136:10	177:20 180:2	decrease 137:14
create 66:13	danger 177:21	database 21:21	146:11,12,20
	dangerous 66:22	40:3 117:14	decreased 137:12
credible 189:5	C	118:20 119:1	defect 20:22
criteria 42:9,18	dark 55:9	databases 13:17	47:18,20 54:11
68:14 70:8,9	data 4:18 5:13	14:4 15:4 33:18	55:1 60:4
71:17 74:21	9:12,15,21 10:2	47:11 110:17	75:9,12,13 89:17
75:16 118:14	11:3,16 13:7	142:4,13,18	98:17,22 101:12
166:12 174:2,3 183:6	14:1 15:10 16:8,15 17:10	170:9	145:13 168:5
	18:4 27:4,19,20	date 12:8 99:14	169:3 174:1
criterion 42:11	28:2,4,6,13,15	118:9,10 157:22	defects 20:21 25:1
critical 106:15	29:5 31:4	day 9:6 13:11,20	26:1 30:15
128:9 161:21	32:9,18 33:11	14:8 18:20 26:8	46:18,22 47:9
185:15	34:11,15,22 35:1	66:21 81:4 87:10	51:5 52:19 53:18
crossed 19:14	36:19,22	days 7:16 44:21	57:4,15 58:16,21
crucial 68:14	37:2,3,5,8,11,18,	79:20 118:19	59:8 63:18 70:3 71:20 73:7 74:14
184:13	20,22	119:8	78:18 79:18 80:2
C's 102:12	38:3,7,12,15,18,	dealing 58:21	81:8 89:6 98:18
	20,22 39:12 40:4,16,21	145:22 151:13	99:3,7,20 100:8
cumulative 61:5 100:4 179:15	40:4,16,21	166:3 167:12	129:9 133:5
	43:14,22 44:5	180:8	134:4 144:12
current 4:12 15:6	47:10,19 51:15	death 119:17	145:7,8,11,12
26:19 27:5 29:16	55:2 56:4,7 60:7	debate 75:19	149:19 156:7
31:22 44:4	61:17 71:5,13	134:19	161:5 162:8
102:10 123:6 130:10 146:11	93:9 100:5		164:13,18
188:8	101:16 102:8	debated 86:1	167:22 168:1
	104:7,9 105:3,8	debating 86:15	171:8,13,15,17 172:7 173:4
currently 22:16 52:20 71:19 72:1	107:11,16,17,20	December 37:12	172.7 173.4
98:7 139:14	108:9,12 109:5,11	decide 79:21 80:4	defense 21:20
	107.0,11		

	1 ag	C 12	
25:14 170:2	149:6,10	desk 7:7 91:21	devices 6:21 130:6
defer 165:22	depicts 104:17	190:5	diagnosability
define 138:12,15	deposition	despite 100:21	134:4
163:16	191:5,8,12	102:11 123:6	diagnose 54:11,12
defined 104:12	depressed 178:11	detailed 50:7	diagnosis
114:7	deputy 5:14 9:1	details 6:20	53:8,10,14,15
definitely 127:4	DES 162:14,19	70:8,19 71:16 113:13 118:9	54:16 94:8 132:2,4 151:4
definition 48:1	describe	detect 124:3	Diana 2:15 24:19
52:14 70:6 119:6	31:2,12,21		
132:1 138:10,11 163:1 174:1,7,8	34:7,12 36:2	detected 77:20 81:13 166:15	Diane 180:3
, ,	110:8		Diaz 23:20 44:9
degree 102:15	described 30:6	detecting 123:4	109:8 186:2
delay 148:2	112:10 114:18	detection 114:2 122:21 160:18	didanosine 99:17
delicate 136:10	185:7 188:13	162:5	diddlies 77:5
delineate 93:21	describing 31:18 68:3 189:9	determine	diddly 73:3
delivery 54:13		33:15,22 133:11	Diego 22:7 25:11
128:11 147:11	description 113:2 115:12 116:21	141:5	differ 173:3
150:5 172:19 181:16	149:4	determined 76:20	difference 57:14
	descriptive 34:11	160:15	182:3,11
demographic 50:4 118:6	deserved 130:11	determining 183:7	differences 46:9
demonstrate 93:18	design 5:2 15:9	detriment 134:18	55:15 62:16
denominator	28:19 44:9,11	devastating	94:13
121:12	93:15 104:7	145:16	different 34:15
denominators	106:7,14	develop 41:6 74:21	43:22 45:13,16 51:1,11,13 52:3
121:9	112:15,19	developed 67:17	57:20,22 65:12
Department	140:14 166:12 183:9	69:14 141:7	67:20 71:2,18
21:17,19 22:8	designed 46:17	developing 174:22	90:17 94:11,21
25:14	47:8,17 79:3	development	95:22 109:4
departments	95:17 149:4	22:12 24:7 40:6	115:12 117:21 119:3 120:16
172:10	167:6	63:14 158:2,15	122:3 127:14
dependent 113:17	designing 166:16	161:22 163:5,11	128:14 155:1
121:11 160:1	designs 44:19,20	170:15	172:5 173:6
depending 66:10	45:5	developmental 20:21 158:18	182:19,21 186:12 188:20
87:8 147:8 173:6	desirable 97:4	159:14,20	
182:20	desire 69:2	develops 175:5	differentiate 93:17
depends 52:5 70:6 111:19 118:13	desired 32:21	device 94:5	differentiation 105:20
111.17 110.13		ucvice 74.3	103.20

	Pag	<u> </u>	
differently 138:15	discussing 94:15	61:10	44:8,12,17 45:4
differing	171:2	Division 23:11	48:11 49:8,11
128:5,14,22	discussion 5:18		50:17 63:22
, ,	7:2 9:8 12:12	divisions 31:10	64:2,5,15
difficult 32:19	16:9,12,20	DNA 132:18	65:9,13,18 66:1
128:4,7 160:21	18:9,19 45:17	docket 1:9 7:12,18	67:5,10,12,15
180:9	65:16 67:7 87:20	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	83:19,21 84:2
diffuse 134:16	130:12,14,20	doctor 152:17	89:11 90:3,18,20
dilemmas 147:9	135:19 153:3	doctors 64:7,11	91:2,14
	155:22 162:11	documented 43:6	92:1,5,12,16
direct 103:9	discussions 17:6	87:2 103:1	106:22 107:2,13
129:10 172:3 173:15	18:2 155:22		108:7,8,11,14
		DOD 13:15	109:7,8 112:19
direction 191:8	disease 25:22 30:9	dog 43:8	123:11,16,22
directives 106:10	35:13 94:2,7,12	dollars 87:16	124:10 125:2,6
directly 180:14	96:12,21 97:5	dominant/	126:10,19,21
· ·	111:2 129:14	recessive 71:10	127:4,22
director 4:7,10	149:10 185:12		129:3,5,15,22
5:3,7,11,14 9:1	186:5	done 7:1 11:4	130:13 131:18 132:7 133:8
19:6 21:10,13	disease-based	70:10 76:1,6	134:5 136:22
22:12,21 23:11	32:11,15 40:10	84:5 86:20 87:13	134:3 130:22
24:4,18,22	93:18 96:19	89:18 90:10,17	139:18 140:9,10
171:14	100:22 150:18	107:22 141:11	141:22 142:19
direct-to-	183:8 185:5,21	157:2 158:15	144:2 146:5,6,13
consumer	diseases 38:16	168:10	147:2 149:2,8
154:13	151:14	174:15,17	150:9 152:2
disabilities 20:22	dismiss 165:3	180:18 181:19	153:15 154:6,8,9
163:19		door 170:14	155:16
	dismissed 133:19	dose 110:1 174:21	157:14,15,17
disadvantages 62:5	188:17		158:5,8,13
	disorders 71:10	doses 94:21 179:15	160:11 161:13
discernible 99:20	dissemination	double 59:12,16	162:9 165:6,20
disclosure 44:14	104:9	Dr 8:15,18,22	166:7 167:7
discover 133:17		12:17 19:9,11	169:21
	distinct 94:12	20:7,14,20	171:4,6,12
discovery 103:8	101:1	21:3,9,12,22	175:21 176:9,18
discuss 6:9 47:5	distinction 94:1	22:6,11,20	177:8 178:16
50:19 66:4 73:4	138:20 139:9	23:2,9,13,19	179:22 180:3,19
87:20 93:19	distribute 107:18	24:2,15,21	181:1 182:1
170:17	distribution 55:11	25:3,6,9,18,19,2	183:1,11 184:10
discussed 13:19		1 26:2,13,21	185:2 186:1,18
28:4,5 41:18	divide 135:1	31:14,16 36:1,4	187:5,19
85:1 107:4 137:3	divided 60:11	42:4,8,21	188:4,10
		43:1,2,7,10,16	189:11,13,15

	Page	7	
190:8	28:6 33:21 36:7	137:10,11	127:14 178:19
drag 148:22	42:14,16 49:16	earlier 81:20	efficacy 28:2
dramatic 85:19	55:15 62:13,20	114:5 116:11	146:16,18
133:7	70:16,22 81:16	119:8 121:18	efficiency 45:2
draw 41:9	85:14 90:6 93:1 96:11,14 98:7	132:3 176:13	62:11
	99:9,15,16	184:10	efficient 63:10
drive 106:3	103:21 120:5	early 25:10 54:11	101:9 148:14
driven 163:17	138:20,22 139:6	58:2 61:21 69:14	
dropped 86:3	147:12 151:1	85:12 86:14 87:3	effort 6:17 15:2,3 28:14 101:22
DrPH 2:12 5:3	155:13 156:8	106:18 113:11	154:20 184:13
	158:16 185:3	129:18 150:2	
drug 1:2 4:5 5:8	187:15,17	easier 127:19	efforts 13:13,15
6:5 11:17 30:10	ductus 75:6	130:9 186:9	32:21 65:11 100:14 101:3
34:3 42:20 49:10 55:3 62:6 84:1	due 30:3 39:9	easily 55:21	176:19,20
85:3,5,9,10	142:12	East 132:12	ŕ
90:9,13 93:2	duly 191:5		either 28:5 39:21
94:4,11,19 95:3	·	easy 133:10 137:18 138:1	46:12 93:5 94:14 112:22 116:10
96:3	dunk 185:5	157:18 158:1	120:2 138:22
97:8,12,14,15,20	duplicate 101:3	177:22	166:17 172:14
100:21 103:8,19	duration 36:15		173:8 179:11
106:16 108:22		echo 163:5 164:8	183:17
109:2,10,15	during 1:5 6:11 7:8 8:5,9	ecological 46:8	elaborate 126:17
111:1,3,5,6,7	9:6,10,20 10:11	ecologically 52:20	
113:3 115:14	11:18 12:4 13:7	economical 101:6	elective 119:17
120:16 123:18 127:13 139:8	14:5 15:14 17:20		electronic 34:5
127:13 139:8 140:18	18:17 23:22	edge 20:1	element 107:5
140.18	27:20 34:2 39:21	edition 24:10,12	114:16 116:5
142:12	40:6 42:15,20	educating 177:19	117:9 119:9
149:10,12	45:6 48:5,6 54:1	education 80:17	elements 112:5,12
155:10 159:11	74:5 75:3,21	educational 122:1	elevated 61:6
161:16	77:20 93:6,11 113:11 116:19		99:18
164:1,21,22	117:22 120:6	effect 32:21 35:11	
167:17 169:16	133:18 139:21	77:1 175:13	eligible 94:3,7 101:20
173:2 175:1,10	143:4 159:3	effective 17:19	
176:17 178:6,13	166:15 179:5	93:15 106:13	eliminate 29:4
184:8,19 185:8 186:7 187:7	181:12	147:6 165:17	Elise 2:5 24:2
188:15,16	dynamics 73:10	effectively 134:19	Elise's 84:15
drugs 1:5 4:5		164:16	else 175:9 177:6
6:6,11 9:10	Е	effectiveness 33:3	EMA 110:6
10:19 11:21	eager 14:16 18:13	105:21 150:22	embark 17:8
23:1,4,16 27:18		effects 45:9 52:10	empark 1/:8

	1 age	1	1
embryo 134:3	137:10,19	154:15 182:13	158:2 174:21
embryonic 161:21	139:7,13 140:19	enrollments 34:21	establish 111:22
emergently 89:21	150:12 154:16,17,21	98:6 176:6	112:4,7,14
emphasize 17:21	170:6,8 176:22	enrolls 49:15	119:10 125:12
83:12 135:16	181:8,10	135:18	146:18
emphasizes 132:20	enrolled 48:4,22	ensure 35:1	established 21:20
employed	50:13 53:3	106:18	49:13 102:22
191:10,14	54:1,3,8 55:20	entire 57:19	establishing
employee 191:13	56:15,16 57:11	entirely 17:2	111:18 180:5
• •	58:18 60:10,17	167:21	establishment
encountered 178:22	61:10,12 69:19 78:14 79:9 81:19	epidemics	101:3
	85:18 90:7 98:2	166:13,14	estimates 173:18
encourage 7:17 136:12 148:8	132:22	epidemiologic	et 40:19 50:6,15
150.12 148.8	139:16,17	46:14 128:19	89:7 124:13
encouraged 65:5	170:4,10 180:13	epidemiologist	170:18 172:2
e	181:4	21:4 22:9,14	ethics 45:17
encourages 106:11	enrollee 133:1	26:1 44:16 84:9	Eurocat 72:2
encouraging 37:15	enrollees 69:15	epidemiologists	Europe 111:15
83:1,14	79:1,8 86:5 89:2	31:9 64:20	European 40:4
endeavored	134:10 135:9 137:15	epidemiology 4:8	72:2 110:6 112:9
178:18		5:4,11 21:13	evaluate 1:4 6:10
endless 147:22	enrolling 35:19 51:10,17,19 52:2	22:22 23:11,20 24:22 27:10	9:9 28:22 30:21
Engaging 106:17	53:11,17 68:18	47:20 51:8	31:21 48:8
English 129:10,12	80:16 144:16		evaluated 32:10
enhanced 28:20	152:5 155:6	epilepsy 50:5 84:10 147:21	35:13 36:6 120:3
40:5 101:18	159:3		158:20
Enjoy 190:6	enrollment	epileptologists 147:18	evaluating 51:4
enormous 132:10	16:1,20 30:3	equipment 76:5	99:9
enroll 48:18,19,21	33:9,10 36:12 39:2,3,5,9,14	112:15	evaluation 4:5 6:5 13:6 22:16 35:18
49:19 50:10	42:12,19 50:1,20	equivalent 187:16	101:17 109:12
52:8,9,13,22	51:10 55:6,12	-	119:22 120:1
53:5 54:15,20	56:13 57:7,9,18	Erick 1:19 191:2,19	170:18
55:17,19 58:7	58:3,6,14,15	ŕ	evaluators 101:12
59:11 62:20 64:7,12 65:6	64:6,13 86:20 89:9 105:8	especially 120:20 127:14 141:15	event 58:2,18
68:19 69:15 76:2	89:9 105:8 113:11 114:4	176:14	108:17
80:7 81:20	126:5 129:21	essential 69:6	118:15,22
83:8,9 87:7	136:13 137:7	essentially 77:10	events 58:14 62:14
136:17	139:12,20 148:3	essentially //.10	117:11 119:7

128:22 170:21		Pag	C 10	
everybody 17:13 27:1 73:16 126:1 142:1 160:9 169:6,8 174:19,21 175:5,9,19 everybody's 148:22 188:14 everyone 31:15 68:4 108:3 evide 24:7 119:4 revidence 24:7 119:4 revidence 24:7 119:4 evolved 88:13 evolves 134:2 exact 65:1 exactly 173:12 examined 70:11,17 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 examines 73:1 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 examiner 79:20 exists 29:7 for 10:11 10:11 10:11 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 116:11 12:18 144:6,17 147 166:1 expert 106:14 43:22 13:18 168:6 30:2,22 31:2 22:3,15 26:14 48:16:18:6 30:2,22 31:2 22:3,15 26:14 48:6:14 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 44:6:4 43:21 44:6 42 expert 30:14 40:19 102:15 166:1 101:11 104:21 111:4 113:22 116:11 120:3 131:6 166:1 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 131:3 13:3 14:14:6,17 14:4:6 158:16 10:21 13:10 60:9 92:18 10:6:20 13:10 50:0 13:0 109:6 10:6:20 13:10 50:0 12:3 13:0 13:0 10:20 13:10 10:20 13:11 10:2:15 10:11 10:2:15 10:11 10:2:15 11:4:11:15 1		•	-	116:9 137:13
excited 26.7 12.7,13,13,20 158:16 27:1 73:16 126:1 142:1 160:9 169:6.8 53:14 79:22 82:9 174:19,21 exclude 45:15 103:21 109:6 174:19,21 exclude 27:17 166:2 15:7 167,13 everybody's excluding 39:14 74:21 108:10 130:22 15:7 16:7,13 everyone 31:15 exclusion 68:14 70:7,9 71:17 108:10 130:22 30:2,22 31:2 everyone 31:15 exclusion 68:14 70:7,9 71:17 108:10 130:22 30:2,22 31:2 everyone 31:15 exclusion 68:14 70:7,9 71:17 108:10 130:22 30:2,22 31:2 everyone 31:15 exclusions 72:20 40:19 102:15 94:495:18 9 evolved 88:13 exclusions 72:20 40:19 102:15 94:495:18 9 evolved 88:13 exclusions 72:20 40:19 102:15 94:495:18 9 evalue 144:4 experts 30:15 101:11 104:21 114:8 116:19 exact 65:1 exact 65:1 exist 97:6 101:11 104:21 166:1 114:8 116:19 examination 133:15 existing 30:17 133:15 185:20 explain 19:17 130:17,21 130:17,2		excess 95:9	-	*
142:1 160:9		excited 26:7	, , ,	
169:6.8 53:14.79:22.82:9 103:1103:05 106:01.012:3 174:19,21 excluded 27:17 129:18.155:18 13:57, 14:18 175:5,9,19 74:7 166:2 15:7, 167,13 22:3,15.26:1 148:22.188:14 74:21 108:10.130:22 28:17.29:17 28:17.29:17 28:17.29:13.6:14 43:21.44:6.4 68:4.108:3 70:7,9.71:17 expert 106:14 43:21.44:6.4 68:4.108:3 70:7,9.71:17 expert 106:14 43:21.44:6.4 62:6.74:5.78 119:4 174:2 expertise 30:14 43:21.44:6.4 62:6.74:5.78 119:4 exolved 88:13 exclusions 72:20 40:19.102:15 94:4.95:18.9 168:14 109:2 exact 65:1 exist 97:6 166:1 166:1 101:11.104:21 166:1 102:3,16 exist 97:6 existence 171:22 exam 83:5 existence 171:22 exist 97:6 133:15 existing 30:17 exist 97:6 exist 97:6 133:12.122:6 138:13.139:3 139:		exclude 45:15		oven o gramo 0, 10
174:19,21				-
175:5,9,19 74:7 166:2 15:7 16:7,13 everybody's excluding 39:14 experiences 14:17 22:3,15 26:1 148:22 188:14 74:21 108:10 130:22 30:2,22 31:2 everyone 31:15 exclusion 68:14 70:7,9 71:17 expert 106:14 43:21 44:6 4 68:4 108:3 70:7,9 71:17 expert 106:14 43:21 44:6 4 evidence 24:7 174:2 expert 106:14 43:21 44:6 4 evidence 88:13 exclusions 72:20 40:19 102:15 62:6 74:5 78 evolves 134:2 exclusions 72:20 40:19 102:15 94:4 95:18 9 exact 65:1 exist 97:6 101:11 104:21 111:4 113:22 examistion existing 30:17 113:12 122:6 130:17,21 13 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 144:6,17 147 examiner 70:20 examined 73:10,21 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 exploratory 12:19 27:7 30:21 31:19 40:8 41:1,10 exposures 9:22 example 37:10,21 97:21 expleated 42:16 47:3 48:14,15 100:8 108:5 100:8 1	,			*
everybody's excluding 39:14 experiences 14:17 22:3,15 26:1 148:22 188:14 74:21 108:10 130:22 28:17 29:17 everyone 31:15 exclusion 68:14 ro:7,9 71:17 expert 106:14 30:2,22 31:2 30:2,22 31:2 evidence 24:7 75:15 166:12 178:2 expert 106:14 43:21 44:64 evolved 88:13 exclusions 72:20 40:19 102:15 94:4 95:18 9 evolves 134:2 excuse 144:4 experts 30:15 94:4 95:18 9 exact 55:1 exist 97:6 experts 30:15 100:11 104:21 exam 83:5 176:15 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 examined exists 29:7 113:12 122:6 explained 46:10 133:13 13:3 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explored 41:17 16:11 121:18 16:11 121:18 16:19:21 16 example 37:10,21 expect 26:9 explored 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 11:3 13:3 40 explored 130:11 explored 130:11 explored 130:11 explored 130:11 144:9 145:6 144:9 145:6 144:9 145:6 144:9	*			,
148:22 188:14 74:21 108:10 130:22 28:17 29:17 30:2,22 31:2 30:2,23 31:4 43:2,14:6 40:19 102:15 94:4 95:18 9 109:2 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:3,16 130:17,2 13 133:13 130:3 13	175:5,9,19	74:7	166:2	•
148:22 188:14	everybody's	excluding 39:14	experiences 14:17	*
everyone 31:15 exclusion 68:14 70:7,971:17 expert 106:14 32:8 34:1 41 68:4 108:3 70:7,971:17 expert 106:14 43:21 44:6 4 evidence 24:7 174:2 expertise 30:14 81:11 89:8 9 evolved 88:13 exclusions 72:20 40:19 102:15 94:4 95:18 9 evolves 134:2 excuse 144:4 experts 30:15 110:7,14,21; exact 65:1 exist 97:6 101:11 104:21 110:7,14,21; exam 83:5 2 176:15 exist 97:6 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 examination existing 30:17 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 130:17,21 13 examined exists 29:7 116:11 121:18 explaining 112:16 141:13,18,19 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16	148:22 188:14	C	108:10 130:22	
68:4 108:3 70:7,9 71:17 expert 106:14 43:21 44:64 evidence 24:7 175:15 166:12 178:2 62:6 74:5 78 119:4 174:2 expertise 30:14 81:11 89:8 9 evolved 88:13 exclusions 72:20 73:8 168:14 109:2 exact 65:1 excuse 144:4 experts 30:15 110:7,14,21, exactly 173:12 exist 97:6 existence 171:22 166:1 111:4 113:22 exam 83:5 176:15 existing 30:17 133:12 122:6 138:13 139:3 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 142:3,6,14 70:11,17 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 16:11 9,21 16 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 example 37:10,21 97:21 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 example 79:29 expect 26:9 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 example 37:10,21 expect 26:9 explaining 112:16	ovorvono 21·15	arrahuaian 60.14	131:6 188:6	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
evidence 24:7 119:4 evolved 88:13 evolves 134:2 exact 65:1 exactly 173:12 exam 83:5 examination 133:15 examined 70:11,17 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 97:21 47:6 48:17 49:7 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 75:15 166:12 178:2 experts 30:15 101:11 104:21 110:7,14,21,3 110:7,14,21,3 111:4 113:22 110:7,14,21,3 111:4 113:22 110:11 104:21 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explaining 112:16	· ·		over out 106.14	32:8 34:1 41:14
19:4 174:2 expertise 30:14 40:19 102:15 94:4 95:18 94:4		*	-	43:21 44:6 48:20
evolved 88:13 evolves 134:2 exact 65:1 exactly 173:12 exam 83:5 examination 133:15 examined 70:11,17 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 example 37:10,21 47:6 48:17 49:7 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 79:9 95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 examples 93:19 exclusions 72:20 73:8 40:19 102:15 168:14 101:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 110:11 104:21 111:4 113:22 110:3,16 110:17,14,21, 111:4 113:22 110:3,16 110:17,14,21, 111:4 113:22 110:3,16 110:11 121:15 1120:3,16 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 114:8 116:19 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 188:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 188:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 188:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 188:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 188:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 122:5 112:18 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 138:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 144:6,17 147 166:1 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 144:113,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 141:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 144:41:12:18 explain 19:17 13:12 122:6 explain 19:17 13:12:18 explain 19:17 13:12:12:18 16:19:12 12:19 27:7 30:21 31:19 40:8 41:1,10 62:19 81:19 96:7,11 99:2 10:08 108:5 144:915:18 100:18:14 144:6,17 147 15:11:11 12:18 explain 19:17 12:12 12:22 100:8 108:5 144:9 145:6 149:14:15:15 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:13:15 110:7 14:8 110:7 14:8 110:7,14:21 110:7,14:21 110:7,	evidence 24:7		1/8:2	62:6 74:5 78:21
evolves 134:2 exact 55:1 exactly 173:12 exam 83:5 examination 133:15 examined 70:11,17 examiner 70:20 example 37:10,21 47:6 48:17 49:7 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 79:9 95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 exact 65:1 exist 97:6 exist 97:6 exist 97:6 101:11 104:21 116:11 104:21 116:11 1104:21 110:7,14,21, 111:4 113:22 110:7,14,21, 111:4 113:22 110:3,16 experts 30:15 101:11 104:21 116:11 120:3,16 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 19:17 113:12 122:6 explain 66:10 112:5 114:5 116:11 121:18 explaining 112:16 exploratory 12:19 27:7 30:21 31:19 40:8 41:1,10 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 179:14 189:7 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 179:14 189:7 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 179:14 189:7 explaining 112:16 179:14 189:7 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 179:14 189:7 explaining 112:16 16:19 133:13 139:3 141:13,13,13 142:3,6,14 144:3,13,13 142:3,6,14 144:3,13,13 142:3,6,14 144:3,13,13 142:3,6,14 144:3,13,13 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 130:17,21 13 13:12 122:6 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 16:19 12:18 144:3,6,14 149:13,12,12 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 13:12 122:6 explaining 112:16 16:19 12:18 142:3,6,14 144:3,13,13 139:3 141:13,13,13 142:3,6,14 144:3,6,14 144:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,14 15:11:13,13 13:3:13 19:21 142:3,6,14 144:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,6,14 149:3,14 15:11 11:4 113:22 113:12:12 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 113:12 122:6 138:13:13:13 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14 142:3,6,14	119:4	174:2	_	81:11 89:8 93:9
evolves 134:2 exact 65:1 exactly 173:12 exam 83:5 examination 133:15 examined 70:11,17 examiner 70:20 examines 73:1 example 37:10,21 47:6 48:17 49:7 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 79:9 95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 exact 65:1 exits 97:6 exist 97:6 explain 19:17 130:17,12,13 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 116:11 121:18 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 142:3,6,14 144:4,17:14 179:14 189:7 exposures 9:22 11:3 13:3 40 62:19 81:19 96:7,11 99:2 100:8 108:5 100:8 108:5 110:7,14,21,1 11:4 113:22 114:8 116:19 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 142:5,114:5 112:5 114:5 112:18 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 116:11 121:18 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 116:11 121:18 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 116:11 121:18 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 113:13 139:3 142:3,6,14 144:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 144:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 144:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 144:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 144:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 144:13,18,19 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 139:3 139:3 139:3 139:3 139:3 139:3 139:3 130:17 138:12 122:6 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 116:11 121:18 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 120:3,16 130:17,21 13 138:13 139:3 130:17 138:13 19 120:3,16 130:17 138:13 19 120:3,16 130:17 142:5,11 13:11:11 142:5,11 120:11 120:11 120:11 120:11 120:11 120	evolved 88·13	exclusions 72:20	40:19 102:15	94:4 95:18 98:12
exact 65:1 exist 97:6 experts 30:15 111:4 113:22 exam 83:5 existence 171:22 113:12 122:6 114:8 116:19 examination existing 30:17 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 141:13,18,19 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 12:5 114:5 144:6,17 147 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 exposures 9:22 example 37:10,21 expanded 96:16 exploratory 12:19 exposures 9:22 example 37:10,21 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:1 128:11 122:2 100:8 108:5 60:5,11 27:12 133:8,10 173:11 174:9 exposed 42:16 47:3 48:14,15 144:9 145:6 178:9 expectation 123:18 53:21 54:1,5,6 56:9 57:20 58:13 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189		73:8	168:14	109:2
exact 65:1 exactly 173:12 exist 97:6 101:11 104:21 111:4 113:22 exam 83:5 existence 171:22 166:1 120:3,16 examination existing 30:17 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 141:13,18,19 examiner 70:20 exists 29:7 explained 46:10 142:3,6,14 examines 73:1 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 142:3,6,14 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 112:16 example 37:10,21 expanded 96:16 exploratory 12:19 exposures 9:22 47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 exposures 9:22 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:1 128:11 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 95:11 121:15 122:2 explored 130:11 explored 130:11 exposed 42:16 144:63:14 127:12 133:8,10 expectation 123:18 49:15,18 51:13 155:21 163:1 178:9 expected 12:4 48:9 56:9 57:20 58:13 expression 189	evolves 134:2	ovence 144·4	experts 30:15	110:7,14,21,22
exactly 173:12 existence 171:22 166:1 114:8 116:19 exam 83:5 176:15 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 examination 133:15 existing 30:17 113:12 122:6 138:13 139:3 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 141:13,18,19 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 161:19,21 16 example 37:10,21 expanded 96:16 27:7 30:21 31:19 163:19,21 16 47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 27:7 30:21 31:19 exposures 9:22 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:1 128:11 62:19 81:19 79:11 121:15 122:2 100:8 108:5 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 180:21 explored 130:11 144:9 145:6 179:14 189:7 180:21 47:3 48:14,15 144:9 145:6 179:7,9 183: 170:7 177:2 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	exact 65:1		-	111:4 113:22
exam 83:5 existence 171:22 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 examination existing 30:17 185:20 explained 46:10 13:12 122:6 13:13 139:3 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 14:13,18,19 142:3,6,14 142:3,61 142:14 142:3,61 142:3,61 142:3,61 <td>overtly 172.12</td> <td>exist 97:6</td> <td></td> <td>114:8 116:19</td>	overtly 172.12	exist 97:6		114:8 116:19
exam 83:5 176:15 explain 19:17 130:17,21 13 examination existing 30:17 133:12 122:6 138:13 139:3 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 141:13,18,19 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 16:11 121:18 142:3,6,14 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 explaining 112:16 explaining 12:16 explaining 12:16 explaining 12:16 explaining 12:16 explaining 12:16 explaining 12:16	Ť	existence 171·22		120:3,16
examination 133:15 existing 30:17 185:20 explained 46:10 141:13,18,19 examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 112:5 114:5 142:3,6,14 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 161:19,21 16 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 97:21 exploratory 12:19 exposures 9:22 example 37:10,21 97:21 explore 41:17 exposures 9:22 47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 51:2 55:10,14 53:3,22 57:5 60:1 128:11 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 79:9 60:1 128:11 explored 130:11 110:2 143:1 95:11 121:15 173:11 174:9 exposed 42:16 144:9 145:6 122:5 125:10,21 180:21 47:3 48:14,15 149:14 153:1 127:12 133:8,10 expectation 123:18 53:21 54:1,5,6 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	exam 83:5		_	130:17,21 131:7
examined exists 29:7 explained 46:10 141:13,18,19 ro:11,17 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 112:5 114:5 144:6,17 147 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 161:19,21 16 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 97:21 exploratory 12:19 exposures 9:22 47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 11:3 13:3 40 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:1 128:11 142:5,8 143:16 10:2 12:2 100:8 108:5 71:19 78:21 79:9 53:3,22 57:5 60:1 128:11 explored 130:11 110:2 143:1 122:5 125:10,21 173:11 174:9 explored 130:11 144:9 145:6 122:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 179:7,1 193:2 170:7 177:2 178:9 expectation 123:18 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189 examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	examination		113:12 122:6	138:13 139:3,13
examined 185:20 112:5 114:5 142:3,6,14 ro:11,17 exists 29:7 116:11 121:18 144:6,17 147 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 161:19,21 16 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 exploratory 12:19 27:7 30:21 31:19 exposures 9:22 47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 51:2 55:10,14 53:3,22 57:5 60:1 128:11 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 142:5,8 143:16 explored 130:11 110:2 143:1 122:5 125:10,21 180:21 exposed 42:16 47:3 48:14,15 149:14 153:1 159:10 174:18 expectation 123:18 53:21 54:1,5,6 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189		\mathbf{c}	explained 46:10	141:13,18,19
examined exists 29:7 116:11 121:18 144:6,17 147 examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 161:19,21 16 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 exploratory 12:19 27:7 30:21 31:19 exposures 9:22 example 37:10,21 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 11:3 13:3 40 62:19 81:1 9 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:1 128:11 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 71:19 78:21 79:9 60:1 128:11 explored 130:11 110:2 143:1 122:5 125:10,21 173:11 174:9 exposed 42:16 47:3 48:14,15 149:14 153:1 127:12 133:8,10 expectation 123:18 53:21 54:1,5,6 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189		185:20	-	
examiner 70:20 expand 13:2 125:3 explaining 112:16 161:19,21 16 examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 explaining 112:16 179:14 189:7 example 37:10,21 expanded 96:16 exploratory 12:19 exposures 9:22 47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 79:9 60:1 128:11 explored 130:11 96:7,11 99:2 95:11 121:15 142:5,8 143:16 explored 130:11 10:2 143:1 122:5 125:10,21 180:21 exposed 42:16 149:14 153:1 159:10 174:18 178:9 expectation 123:18 53:21 54:1,5,6 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189		exists 29:7		144:6,17 147:13
examiner 70:20 Expanded 13:2 123:3 exploratory 12:19 exposures 9:22 example 37:10,21 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 explore 41:	7/0:11,17/	ovnand 13:2 125:3		161:19,21 163:2
examines 73:1 expanded 96:16 exploratory 12:19 exposures 9:22 47:6 48:17 49:7 97:21 40:8 41:1,10 62:19 81:1 9 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:1 128:11 122:2 100:8 108:5 71:19 78:21 79:9 60:1 128:11 142:5,8 143:16 173:11 174:9 122:2 100:8 108:5 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 180:21 47:3 48:14,15 144:9 145:6 149:14 153:1 178:9 123:18 53:21 54:1,5,6 179:7,9 183: 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	examiner 70:20	-	explaining 112:16	•
example 37:10,21 expanded 96:16 27:7 30:21 31:19 exposures 9:22 47:6 48:17 49:7 51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 expect 26:9 explore 41:17 96:7,11 99:2 53:3,22 57:5 60:1 128:11 122:2 100:8 108:5 122:5 125:10,21 122:5 125:10,21 123:18 exposed 42:16 144:9 145:6 123:18 49:15,18 51:13 155:21 163:1 170:7 177:2 123:18 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	ovemines 72.1		exploratory 12:19	
47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:5,6,8 65:18 60:1 128:11 142:5,8 143:16 122:5 125:10,21 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 expect 41:17 122:2 100:8 108:5 100:8 108:5 100:8 108:5 110:2 143:1 110:2 143:1 144:9 145:6 144:9 145:6 149:14 153:1 144:9 145:6 149:14 153:1 155:21 163:1 155:21 163:1 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7,9 183:2 179:7,9 183:2 179:7,9 183:2 189:21 180:21 179:7,9 183:2 179:7,9 183:2 179:7,9 183:2 189:21 <t< td=""><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td></t<>		-		-
47:6 48:17 49:7 expect 26:9 62:19 81:19 81:19 96:7,11 99:2 51:2 55:10,14 53:3,22 57:5 60:1 128:11 122:2 100:8 108:5 71:19 78:21 79:9 142:5,8 143:16 173:11 174:9 explore 41:17 10:2 143:1 95:11 121:15 173:11 174:9 exposed 42:16 144:9 145:6 127:12 133:8,10 180:21 47:3 48:14,15 155:21 163:1 159:10 174:18 123:18 53:21 54:1,5,6 179:7,9 183: examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	example 37:10,21	97:21	40:8 41:1,10	
51:2 55:10,14 60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 79:9 95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 examples 93:19 53:3,22 57:5 60:1 128:11 142:5,8 143:16 173:11 174:9 180:21 explored 130:11 explored 130:11 explored 130:11 explored 130:11 10:2 143:1 144:9 145:6 149:14 153:1 155:21 163:1 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7,9 183:2 170:7,9 183:2		expect 26·9	,	62:19 81:1 95:13
60:5,6,8 65:18 71:19 78:21 79:9 95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 expectation 123:18 expected 12:4 48:9 expected 12:4 48:9 60:1 128:11 142:5,8 143:16 173:11 174:9 180:21 exposed 42:16 47:3 48:14,15 49:15,18 51:13 53:21 54:1,5,6 56:9 57:20 58:13 170:7 177:2 179:7,9 183:	51:2 55:10,14	_	-	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
71:19 78:21 79:9 95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 expectation 123:18 expected 12:4 48:9 examples 93:19 142:5,8 143:16 173:11 174:9 180:21 144:9 145:6 144:9 145:6 149:14 153:1 155:21 163:1 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 177:2 170:7 183:1		*	·	
95:11 121:15 122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 expectation 123:18 expected 12:4 48:9	71:19 78:21 79:9		explored 130:11	
122:5 125:10,21 127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 expectation 123:18 expected 12:4 48:9 expected 12:4 48:9 expected 12:4 48:9 foot 10	95:11 121:15	*	exposed 42:16	
127:12 133:8,10 159:10 174:18 178:9 expectation 123:18 expected 12:4 48:9	122:5 125:10,21		-	149:14 153:19
159:10 174:18 178:9 examples 93:19 expectation 123:18 solution 123:18 expectation 123:18 solution 53:21 54:1,5,6 56:9 57:20 58:13 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	127:12 133:8,10		′	155:21 163:10
178:9 examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 footing footi	159:10 174:18	-	, and the second	
examples 93:19 expected 12:4 48:9 59:11,20 60:2 expression 189	178:9	123:18		179:7,9 183:20
60.10	examples 93·10	expected 12:4 48:9		expression 189:4
$\begin{bmatrix} 97.7 & 00.19 & 63.776.1377.16 \end{bmatrix}$	97:7	60:19	63:2 76:13 77:16	extend 187:6
2VD		ovnonce 147.15 17		
184.12 98.13 14 99.14 extensive 33:1	exams 71:7	-		extensive 33:17
34:21		104.13	70.13,17 77.14	34:21

	Pag	C 17	
extent 150:4	166:5	163:22	finding 64:13
external 63:8	family 49:17	features 34:12	74:7,15,22 78:7
extra 7:11	55:17,19 69:19	federal 13:13,15	84:22 86:20 128:16 148:19
extracted 32:8,18	81:19 90:21	28:9 118:18	
,	175:9	feedback 7:19	findings 71:7
extreme 163:4	fascinating 87:2	feel 89:4	73:11 74:18 75:8,20,21
extremely 73:5	fast 183:22 184:7		77:7,9 78:3
74:2,4,20 75:22	faster 148:18	feeling 167:9	79:16 84:11
80:1 128:12	186:9	feet 187:14	85:10,18 86:10
extremes 171:3	fatal 109:17,20	fellow 4:15 27:9	87:12 156:1
F	fathers 158:22	31:12,16	finds 100:6
face 120:14,17	favor 162:11	female 141:14	fine 136:4 174:8
121:3,8,13		females 12:2 30:9	finger 74:12
147:21	FDA 1:2,15 3:3 4:12 6:16 7:14	142:3 175:6,11	fingers 19:14
faced 128:2	8:19 10:15 11:13	fertility 52:10	C
facilitate 126:4	12:5,17,20 16:10	fetal 95:8,13,18	first 8:6,16 9:4 10:14 26:13 33:4
	18:20 19:7 20:18	119:17 132:18	38:3 43:17
facilitating 105:10	22:18 26:19	133:16	44:8,18 52:21,22
facing 120:17	28:8,20 29:19	fetus 45:9 53:7	54:2 60:17
122:6,16 127:9 130:8	31:17 32:4 33:18,20,21 34:3	134:3 153:1	61:11,15 69:21
	35:16,20,21 34:3	fever 143:7 188:20	85:5,18 89:3
FACOG 3:11 4:13	68:1 72:12 81:6	fewer 42:15,16	90:4 92:22 93:22 95:2 98:12
fact 15:19	83:13 108:15	field 17:9,12,14	99:2,14 100:8
42:14,15 77:21	112:6 113:2	18:5 19:1	102:13 103:3
131:2 132:20 138:9 145:7	117:8 123:20		108:17 125:9
149:18 164:3	124:20	fields 35:2 104:22	130:16,18 151:7
175:11 177:1	141:16,18,19 166:10 167:6,15	fifth 74:12	154:13 155:20
182:6 187:11	169:15	Fifty-nine 36:5	161:18,19 170:2
189:6	FDA-2014-N-0157	Fifty-three 36:13	173:9
factors 30:7	1:9	figure 86:8 104:17	five 70:3,16
40:17,20 189:3	FDAAA 11:12	142:16 179:14	180:17
fail 30:2 104:5	35:10	final 29:5 33:19	fivefold 56:14 57:1
failing 104:4	FDA's 22:15	37:12,14 38:10	59:18
failures 12:11	187:14	164:7 188:9	fix 131:4
fall 155:12 169:5	fear 134:17 176:7	finalized 29:2	fixed 170:14
false 46:6	feasibility 39:8	finally 115:20	flat 19:13
familiar 85:22	feasible 96:9 162:3	financial 105:13	flip 145:10
141111141 0J.22	10001010 70.7 102.3	financially 191:14	flow 131:8 137:3
		·	

	1 ag	<u> </u>	
flu 111:14	forms 134:11	function 162:4	Geneva 108:20
Fluzone 121:20,21	136:8 181:17	funded 39:22	geographical 46:9
125:22	formulary 143:20	78:1,6 100:12	Georgia 21:6
focus 12:12 13:19	formulations	funding 64:8 79:7	germane 179:17
14:6 16:6 27:22	94:20	87:6 106:3 160:1	gestation 48:5
35:7 44:22 47:22 50:16 51:8	forth 76:7 77:7	funds 168:2	50:2 75:5
59:2,7 63:10	83:5 84:19 87:17	fuzzy 144:1	gestational 55:6
67:21 69:11	163:14		58:3 118:10
131:5	fortunate 84:3 147:9 160:3	G	179:14
focused 130:15		gain 106:17	gets 71:10 168:21
161:16	Fortunately 74:22 179:5	games 62:2	170:20 180:9
focuses 23:22	forward 17:5,9	Gardasil 38:17	183:22 184:7
focusing 17:2	41:7 83:16 132:1	gather 14:10	getting 152:18 156:6 168:8
68:12 73:12	138:16 187:4	gathered 9:6	175:7 177:11
164:13	fourth 117:9	general 24:16	gist 70:9
folate 144:11,14	fragile 160:2	49:14 63:5 72:14	9
folks 14:11 68:8	framework 94:16	76:3 79:16 86:7	given 13:14 44:1 65:18 96:21
80:18 83:11 84:7 87:16 131:16	frequency 34:14	113:14 117:16 172:21	146:2 155:10
141:11 148:6,12	48:9 70:2 73:7,9		160:9 179:16
follow-up	78:17,20 79:5,19	generalizable 90:22	191:9
39:11,15,17	85:19 100:7	generally 10:21	gives 106:9
63:15 98:6	frequent 97:3	93:5 171:17	giving 109:21
112:17 117:10	frequently 103:3	186:16	140:3 150:1
121:4,8 122:13 128:9 129:20	117:15 171:17	generate 162:6	179:18
159:22	friend 55:19	generated 18:21	glad 65:13
180:1,17,20	friends 49:17	generating 123:4	GlaxoSmithKline
182:9,15,20,22	55:16 69:19	157:4	157:6
follow-ups 155:1	80:11,12 81:19	generic 95:14	global 5:14
FOOD 1:2	90:21	171:20 186:14	111:12,13 117:14
foramen 75:7	front 148:15 178:10	187:13,20	118:20,22
foregoing 191:3,5	frontline 164:19	generics 186:20	121:21 125:4
form 83:1 113:3		187:15	126:12,18,20,22
118:5 154:15	fruition 6:18	genes 189:3,4	127:8 128:2
format 29:3 37:16	fulfill 93:11 118:21	genetic 72:10	globally 122:2 127:6,20
38:2		genetics 73:16	•
former 22:15	full 144:8	189:1	goal 41:18 93:11 150:11 157:12
			150.11 157.12

	1 ag	C 17	
160:6 162:13	65:18 123:16	112:2,5,10	happy 42:1 137:12
goals 4:6 8:17	129:5 131:21	167:10 168:4	hard 66:20 144:13
149:14 150:14	133:8 139:18	176:13	160:2
156:20 163:16	141:22 142:19	guidances	
	153:15 154:8	111:21,22	harder 129:14
God 144:10	178:16 183:11	,	hardworking
gold 142:11 169:7	188:10	guide 24:11	75:11
gone 85:11 152:14	group 5:6 11:7	guidelines 33:12	harm 177:12,22
	24:5 48:10 49:17	38:14 41:3 48:12	ŕ
goodwill 87:8	51:14 53:22	112:12 113:2	Harvard 5:4,8
Google 82:17	54:3,7,15 63:7,8	114:16,18 119:9	23:21
Googling 74:15	67:14,22	168:4,12	haven't 79:17
	68:15,16	guys 167:2	81:21 90:11
gotten 12:15 42:19	69:11,12,18	B-1 - 10/.2	having 20:12,19
168:3	72:18 76:12	Н	25:10 50:13,22
governance 83:22	77:16,19 78:15		53:10 63:3 84:3
100:17	79:10 80:8,14	half 9:7 14:7 26:8 98:5,11 158:19	85:13 87:13
104:12,17	82:21 83:15	160:5 163:9	110:1 118:19
105:12 107:4	85:20 86:13		123:6 127:20
government	90:22 91:5,10	half-year-old	132:5 142:11
104:22 108:18	98:21 115:19	159:21	151:3,16 152:14
162:15	121:14 128:17	Hammad 3:4 4:14	157:20 184:14
anodina 160,20	129:1 146:15	12:18 27:9	186:11,19
grading 168:20	148:5 150:8,18	31:11,14,15	head 90:19
gradually 88:17	151:3 161:4,12	Hampshire 1:15	
grail 128:17	166:19 171:11	-	headache 143:8
graph 55:5 61:7	183:19 184:20	hand 66:5 114:11	heads 68:8
	188:2	117:1	health 4:4 5:5 6:7
graphs 54:4	groups 45:6	handbook 24:11	14:13 19:7 21:5
grateful 87:12	50:9,18 53:21	handful 46:1	22:13,17
great 1:16 25:18	55:16 57:21		23:5,8,15,21
26:2 67:4,8 73:4	58:13 67:11	hands-on 166:2	25:13,15 26:16
79:19 107:3	90:16 91:9	Hansen 2:11	28:8,10 30:12
126:13 150:1	104:1,20 110:15	21:3,4	32:17 40:11
161:14 168:9	147:18 159:20	happen 53:1 91:11	41:19 52:17
176:20	167:13 171:9	153:2 166:20	86:19 93:12
greater 36:17 73:8	GSK 115:9	185:7	101:5,21 102:5
140:13		happened 114:14	110:17 114:14
	guess 43:16 85:6 126:15 160:13	167:22	115:2
greatest 106:18			116:2,7,8,17
Greek 56:18	guidance 10:15,16	happens 10:7 57:5	117:7,19 120:21
Greene 2:10 24:15	28:17 29:11,15	65:6 117:21	121:3,4
42:8 43:1,7	30:7 35:9 65:20	156:13 185:10	125:15,17
44.043.1,/	106:8 111:19		145:11,17
	ı		

	Pag	E 20	
163:18 175:16	hereditary 74:7	175:18	179:6
182:5,6,12	Here's 28:12	Holmes 2:13 5:7	human 9:12,16
186:3,16	hereto 191:14	21:9,10 44:17	27:19 38:17 93:9
Healthcare 24:3	Hernandez 23:19	49:8,11 50:17	149:21 164:22
hear 14:16	44:8 186:1	64:15 65:9 67:10,12,15	humans 45:14
18:13,18 25:8,20 47:15 91:6 131:2	Hernandez-Diaz	83:21 84:2	humatirogene
146:22	2:12 5:3 23:19	90:3,20 91:2	78:21
heard 97:10	44:12 64:15 66:1	112:19 132:7	Humira 38:14
152:3,4 176:18	150:9 169:21	134:5 146:13 147:2,3 158:13	hundred 155:20
hearing 41:8 188:6	181:1 186:1	166:7 184:10,11	hundreds 32:13
191:3	herself 26:14	holy 128:17	hydronephrosis
heart 89:6	Hi 21:22 22:11	hone 75:4	76:22 77:10
heck 179:20	44:12		133:9,12,17,22
	high 12:1 76:20	homeoboxes 189:3	166:14
hello 20:7 21:12 25:8 89:11	89:9 93:7 95:5 97:2 102:15	hone 146:3	hypotheses 162:6
help 24:8 26:10,22	higher 48:9 86:6	Honein 2:14	hypothesis 123:3
30:18 69:2 83:4	144:17	25:19,21,22	
122:22 146:20	159:11,13	157:15,17 158:8	I
152:7 153:6,7	highlight 121:18	hope 26:9 43:19 81:21 127:8	ICD-9 75:10
168:13	high-risk 140:18	131:8	I'd 67:5 92:12
181:15,22	hinges 106:13	hoping 26:4	108:7 157:14
helped 129:19 168:14	C	horseshoe 20:2	idea 59:7 72:16 82:17 85:8 88:14
	HIPAA-compliant 113:19		91:8 122:14
helpful 18:11 106:7 110:8	historical 69:10	hospital 24:17 49:14 71:4 75:3	154:15,21 155:6
148:19 168:6	77:18 79:13 91:9	77:3 172:15	170:22 173:22
169:19 173:21	historically 177:10	hospital-based	ideal 46:12
174:7 175:22	-	172:12	ideally 52:22 54:8
185:1 188:6	history 10:14 27:3 28:13 33:22	hospitals 70:16	113:8 154:17
helps 181:11	120:4	172:9	ideas 15:15
hepatitis 97:16,17	hit 20:3	hot 150:22	18:18,21
183:18	HIV 97:15,16	hour 8:5 189:22	identified 29:22
HER2 + 96:16	HMO 22:2 47:11	housekeeping 6:20	39:21 77:5
herbals 144:9		91:16	94:3,8 162:20
herd 175:13	Hoda 3:4 4:14 12:18 27:8	huge 46:19 59:10	identify 15:7,8
hereby 191:3	31:11,15 36:4	60:20,21 61:16	34:5 123:1 145:6 155:2 163:4
192:2	42:3	66:8 147:17	164:1,16 172:6
	hold 107:17 108:4	148:2 170:5	,

	Page	t <u> </u>	
identifying 106:13	12:10 35:15 93:5	incidence 56:19	143:1
141:3 165:5	implementing	58:11	increasingly 138:1
ignore 138:1	14:17	include 27:2 30:8	143:19 150:7
I'll 27:13 31:17	implications 51:7	40:2,9 45:21	183:16
64:17 70:8	52:4 145:11	53:8 58:17	incredibly 159:2
136:19 142:19		76:12,21 80:2	178:11 180:9
143:18 145:20	implies 94:18	82:3,9 94:10	-, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -
162:11 164:8,10	importance 28:1	96:16 115:17	in-depth 103:22
167:20	72:7 83:13 89:5	116:20	indicate 156:14
	109:9 110:2	118:6,7,9,16	indicated 10:2
I'm 22:6	145:18 157:20	119:4,6 122:3	11:20 96:14
24:15,19,21 26:1	important 9:21	included 15:21	97:15,16,17
58:19 97:18	important 8:21 13:22 15:11	29:8 31:8	138:21 139:6
100:19 112:4	20:13 28:5,7	33:6,18 34:17	138:21 139:6 176:8
115:21 130:2	20:13 28:5,7 51:3 71:19 82:14	35:7,14,20	
144:21 150:10	86:14 89:15	* *	indication 35:12
155:4,13 158:9	86:14 89:15 92:21 102:1	36:12,21 40:12 154:14 172:19	50:5 63:4 93:6
160:8 177:1			95:4 96:1
183:10	107:5 108:16 111:22 112:12	includes 28:18	151:2,8,10
imagine 87:15	114:21 123:8	32:7 35:21 96:14	188:19
144:13 145:3	135:16 139:9	110:12 144:9	indications 150:19
160:3 175:1	149:17 150:7	including 13:15	individual 99:15
imaging 75:1,2	156:19 157:11	14:12 21:1,15	100:1 103:18
79:19	176:11	34:13,15 45:1	156:7
		74:21 77:9	
immediate 139:22	improve 15:8	113:20 115:14	individually 97:12
imminent 177:22	17:17 18:5 29:5	153:17	99:11
Immunization	41:6,19 129:20	inclusion 68:13	individuals 6:15
124:8	130:1	71:17 166:12	69:3,8 94:9
	improved 12:16	174:2	industry 2:18 5:16
impact 42:10	improvement 31:6		14:13 28:9 40:1
132:5	41:5	increase 57:8	105:4
imperative 93:13		62:11 85:19	108:8,16,19
104:10	improves 186:6	90:10 100:7 102:6 126:5	109:3,10 110:4,9
implantation	improving 153:18	160:18	111:2,5,21 113:6
132:4	inadvertent 12:3	160:18	120:15 176:1,13
	40:6 139:2	ŕ	,
implement 102:16	inadvertently	increased 56:14,18	industry-based 176:14
implementation	45:21 137:13	59:10,14,18	
15:17 30:8,19		61:7,16 66:16,22	industry's 28:15
93:22 103:4	INC 5:12 21:14	150:3,4	infant 25:14 54:10
106:12 129:16	92:13 107:14	increases 170:5	75:5
implemented	incentive 102:6	increasing 127:7	infants 70:15

	1 ago		
74:3,4 75:1	183:16,21 184:5	161:22 190:4	132:22
134:12	initial 86:8 184:12	191:15 192:6	interviews 50:1,3
infertility 52:7	initially 84:6,22	interesting 45:16	82:22
influence 58:15	88:13 98:13	86:21 91:6	introduce 8:8,15
influenza 109:22	initiate 93:13	interfaces 133:11	19:3,19,20 25:20
138:22 140:5	initiation 35:8	interim 38:9	26:13 108:7
inform 14:5 15:11	initiatives 13:2	149:16	introduced 26:14
17:18 18:4 27:19	175:17	intermediary	introducing 26:7
28:6 41:16	input 14:10 15:15	180:8	introduction
information 15:13 27:2,3 29:6 30:3	17:6 29:12 176:1	intermediate 165:2	4:2,19 6:2 9:4 43:15 44:19 45:3
33:7 35:19 36:12	insert 33:6	internal 33:18	inundated 175:15
38:3,16 39:11	inserts 114:22	69:12 72:17	
43:19 45:18,22	inside 6:15	76:11 91:5 97:4	investigating 187:10
46:1 48:7 49:22 50:7 52:1 53:11	insisted 77:8	150:8,17 151:3	investigation
60:15 62:8 63:15	instance 128:6	166:19 173:17	123:5
64:19 66:7,9,11	instead 82:15	internally 99:5	investigational
67:3 70:7 74:17	125:14 147:16	international	27:17
92:10 93:1 107:12 109:1,13	183:17	37:19 111:10 129:7	investigations
110:1 112:3	Institute 22:2	internet 84:17	123:2
113:21 117:20	instructions 8:8		investigator 22:1
118:3,4,6,7,11	instructor 45:4	interpret 105:3 160:21	25:15 49:9
119:20 120:19 123:8 124:3	insufficient 47:1	interpretation	invitation 69:5
125:12 134:17	intake 62:18	161:8	invite 55:18 67:10
143:17 144:8,14	intentional 9:18	interquartile	invited 87:22
145:9 156:5,14	141:14	39:19	91:17,21
158:22 160:19 173:8 179:4,8	interaction 105:11	Intervader 103:2	inviting 44:13 64:7
182:15 186:10	interactions	interval 66:8	67:13 108:15 153:5
informational	105:10	98:19 99:4	
115:19	intercurrent	intervals 57:13	involved 20:9 22:3 107:10 162:18
informative 50:13	163:10	61:17,19	involving 30:15
informed 37:11,22	interest 18:15 24:6	interventional	<u> </u>
informing 32:22	47:4 48:3 52:19	112:21	IQs 158:22
41:13 93:12	54:6 58:21 144:6 156:4 181:5	interview 62:17	IRB 105:10 154:19
infrastructure	interested 34:13	68:21 69:1,5 159:5 163:13	isn't 142:21 161:17 176:16
30:17	52:16 63:13 87:9	interviewing	177:17
inhibitors	91:12 124:19	mici viewing	

	1 ag	C 20	
issue 11:17	141:13,15 144:2	July 98:1,9	labels 64:18
28:8,22 29:22	145:2 147:3,12	jumps 133:12	labor-intensive
65:16 66:12	148:14 156:6	June 7:18 122:7	158:21
67:21 68:20	159:7 160:2,5,15	June /:18 122:/	lack 63:7 67:3
69:21,22 74:20	161:9,14 163:11		
75:17,18 76:18	167:14,21	_ <u>K</u>	121:9
78:4 79:18 85:16	168:15,20	Kaiser 21:5 47:13	lactation 28:4
86:16 133:20	171:1,4,21,22	key 34:12 35:2	29:1,3 37:13
134:6,8 135:19	172:1,16 174:8	68:20	lamotrigine 55:13
140:12,16	176:7 177:8,22	kidneys 133:16	60:9,11,13,15,16
144:20 145:17	178:5,15 181:7	Ĭ	,17 61:11 80:14
152:9 157:18	184:18 185:5	kids 163:9,12	85:16 155:21
159:8 160:12	188:19	kinds 67:2 113:9	157:7
176:22	Iyasu 3:6 4:7	119:4 126:6	landlines 137:17
187:8,14,18	8:16,18 19:9	130:19	
issued 29:20	22:20,21 48:11	156:11,22 157:2	landscape 106:16
issues 13:3 18:10	107:2 109:7	165:15 175:16	141:4
50:19 77:21	160:11	kiosk 7:22 91:19	language 129:9
107:7,12 134:9			large 45:20 95:20
136:6 139:19	J	kiosks 8:3	142:3,13 157:13
144:22 146:2	Jan 20:20 84:7	knew 85:2 147:10	170:9
159:14 161:2	155:16 162:5	knowledge 11:14	
163:5 167:11	167:7 171:6	152:8	largely 128:18
172:3 180:1	JANET 2:9		larger 61:5 67:6
issuing 11:11		known 11:5	127:5 132:16
e e	January 32:9	48:5,21 74:5	170:15
items 68:13	Jessica 2:3 5:10	95:8,12 114:13 149:21 152:20	last 16:3 17:5 18:7
it's 13:11 15:20	21:12 175:21	162:16	20:10 68:13 83:3
25:10 43:7 48:13	186:18 187:6		118:10 119:9
51:9 57:13	Jessica's 176:10	knowns 162:16	136:11 158:7
60:4,20 61:6		Kweder 8:22	165:12 168:10
62:1 66:20,22	job 141:21 168:9	19:12	lastly 26:2
68:9 76:3	Johnson 2:15		•
86:4,9,22 87:1	24:19	L	late 9:1 53:3 63:13
89:11 107:3	join 26:3,5 188:1	label 15:21	133:14 171:22
111:6 112:21,22	joining 131:16	labeling 15:11	lately 127:9
113:17,19 114:2	ů	28:21 29:1,4,9	later 11:2 16:19
121:21,22	journal 34:19	33:5,21	48:21 51:20
124:15	38:8,11	34:1,16,17 35:20	54:3,15 55:18
129:14,22 130:7	journals 33:14	36:13,20	70:8 99:5 100:18
132:12 133:19	115:18	37:10,13,15,22	101:14 115:22
135:13	judgment 75:15	38:7 39:22 40:21	121:13
136:10,21 137:22 140:13	J	41:3,16 114:22	133:17,18 159:7
137.22 140.13		11.5,10 114.22	

		E 24	1
164:5 181:21	158:13 166:7	79:12,14 80:9	longer 138:5 189:7
latter 94:5	184:11	100:13	longitudinal 62:15
lay 9:5	Lew's 133:8	listening 92:10	longstanding
lead 22:15 26:10	Leyla 3:11 4:13	lists 79:14 147:14	172:1
learn 9:21 31:6	12:17 23:13 26:14,17 42:3	literature 40:1 41:4 85:22 117:6	long-term 97:7 170:21
learned 45:4 61:20 62:1 85:5 189:1	44:1 life 77:21 173:9	124:5,9 173:18 179:10	lose 149:17
learning 160:8	188:22 189:7	litigious 177:13	loss 39:11,15,17 121:4 129:20
least 15:11 49:2	lifecycle 103:8	little 10:13 30:5	130:2,6
53:18 66:18 90:7	lights 43:10	43:7,20 44:1	180:1,16,20
128:2 139:13 158:19 169:3,17	likelihood 12:2	49:12 51:19	182:9,20,22
170:7 174:16	93:7 95:5 97:2	55:17 60:15,22	losses 50:22 52:11
175:7 187:21	likely 48:14,15	64:3,5,9 66:22 73:2 86:12	63:15
leave 64:17	96:4 132:13	100:18 125:3	lost 98:6 122:12
lectures 115:20	179:2,19	126:17 130:20	lot 14:1 16:6 18:15
led 25:14	Likewise 80:22	152:4 153:16	67:2 68:6,7
	limitation 120:17	158:6 167:14	69:10 70:4 73:2
legal 177:13	123:6	181:19 182:8 187:7	74:22 76:3 86:1 88:13 109:1
legislation 11:13	limitations 40:7		120:21 126:8
less 36:15 39:14	62:22 100:10	live 53:19 98:17 119:18	135:5 138:4
94:5 137:17	120:14 122:4,6		143:19 155:21
145:5,18 178:5	limited 63:18 87:6	LLC 5:12	156:5 164:14
180:17	101:10 111:4	lobby 6:22 7:21	180:10 185:6
lesson 61:20 62:1	122:15	8:3	188:16
let's 10:1 70:10	limiting 128:12	local 127:20 172:8	lots 73:2 171:18
73:10 78:8	line 138:17 167:8	locally 127:6,17	loved 148:9
letter 29:4 147:16	170:2 171:1 175:19	location 111:9	lovely 25:5
level 56:17,18		logical 101:2	low 30:3 39:9,14
103:15,19	lines 51:11 55:9 61:9 102:22	logistic 56:12	184:22
leverage 14:4	link 13:6	logistical 32:12	lower 56:10
leveraging 13:17		logistically 96:8	151:10
30:17	linking 13:8	151:19 186:7,12	lowest 181:3
Lew 44:17 49:8	lip 78:20	long 77:22 78:5	lunch 8:2,5 65:15
131:21 149:8	list 32:3 68:11	79:7 87:13 136:9	91:19 189:17,19
163:6 173:5	74:13	162:14 167:9	190:7
Lewis 2:13 5:7	listed 40:8,10	168:2 187:16	Lynne 3:10 4:10
21:9 67:10 147:3	72:22 74:1 75:11		19:3,4

	1 ag	C 20	
	mammalian	146:20 147:6,7	160:19 161:8
<u> </u>	188:12 189:10	148:15 169:14	164:4,5,22 165:7
MA 3:5	manage 22:18	174:15 185:17	170:7 173:1,3
MACDP 71:21	G	Maryland 1:17	179:16
98:21 99:19	management 5:15	•	181:15,17 182:6
171:19 172:5	103:9 105:5	masked 70:21	186:14
173:4,12,19,21	manager 4:3 6:4	mass 185:15	maybe 9:2 15:20
174:10	23:7 24:20 69:13	Massachusetts	65:9 125:4
	managing 105:7	24:16 49:14	128:1,2 129:18
MACDP's 173:16	0 0		131:20 133:18
174:8	mandate 104:16	materials 136:15	140:17 141:1
mailing 147:14	manifest 162:22	maternal 4:4 6:6	142:15 146:11
mailings 148:11	manufactured	19:7 23:5,8,15	149:11 152:10
main 7:20 11:9	96:22	26:16 120:4	157:3 174:13
14:6 56:5 58:20	manufacturer	maternal/fetal	176:13 181:21
62:4	182:4 187:7	24:17 147:15	185:14 188:18
		172:10	MBDPS 47:21
mainly 45:21	manufacturer-run	maternal/infant	
113:21	182:3	115:18	McNair 1:19
maintain 22:17	manufacturers		191:2,19
maintained 76:8	98:8 107:19	math 186:6	MD
major 52:17 57:5	manufacturer's	mathematical	2:9,10,12,13,16,
58:4 71:18 79:18	81:7 182:10	59:22	20 3:6,9,10,11
128:13 129:2	manuscript 88:6	matter 76:3 129:5	4:7,10,13
135:5 149:19	-	163:11 184:9	5:3,7,14
162:4 170:5	MARGARET	maximized 139:10	mean 14:22 40:22
178:15	2:14		86:17 89:1 114:2
	Marie 2:7 25:6,11	may 1:12 7:7 12:4	115:14 122:21
majority 187:11	Marie-Noel 77:2,4	15:21 30:7,18	126:10 129:12
Malaysia 130:4	, i	40:17 41:15	140:1 144:12
malformation	mark 42:17	42:17 48:16 51:13 53:9,18	145:4 147:21
59:19 70:1,6	141:6,7	54:19 57:14,20	155:6 156:2,12
71:3 166:18	marker 141:17	58:3,4,15 62:22	161:9 162:21
188:15	market 9:14 27:4	63:2,4,8,9,14	163:22 175:17
malformations	164:21 167:17	64:16 66:4,8,9	178:14
52:18 57:5,11	169:16 185:16	73:3 94:9,10,20	meaning 51:9
58:4 59:2 73:9	186:8 187:12	96:6 97:6	74:10
79:5,6,12 85:15	marketed 95:4,15	103:11,12,15	meaningful 31:4
89:1 146:3,4	96:20 164:2	106:4 110:13	135:18 174:15
159:12 161:4		118:15 123:5	175:3
162:4 170:5	marketing 16:4	128:22 139:10	means 13:8 80:22
171:20 188:17	29:20 30:11 65:11 84:15	144:17 145:8	113:10 115:17
189:6	103:8 105:18	149:2 151:11	116:3,20 157:5
	105:8 105:18		110.5,20 157.5

	rag	C 20	
176:21	medicine 24:17	115:10 128:1	162:12,13
meant 168:19	25:12 137:11	message 82:3	177:15 183:10
measure 161:4	147:15 172:10	102:9 140:6	Michael's 144:4
measurement 80:3	meet 42:18 84:11	177:22	microphones 8:10
160:19	87:19 104:14 119:5	messages 79:2	middle 80:9,13
measures 33:16		messy 142:15	171:4
169:22	meeting 1:8 4:6 6:9,18	met 42:11 88:15	migraine 147:21
mechanism 102:7	7:6,15,16,17	107:21	migraines 96:15
mechanisms 162:5	8:9,14,17 15:5	method 125:15	mike 18:16 20:3
	17:22 18:10	153:20	24:15 123:12
median 39:17	27:22 29:13	methodological	132:10 139:18
Medicaid 47:11	30:20 84:6,12	44:22 50:17	140:16 142:19
medical 4:13 5:8	110:5 115:21 126:14 141:6	94:13 167:11	153:15 178:16
9:13 10:5,11	190:10	methodologically	183:11 185:7 188:9
16:4 21:7 23:14 26:15 31:1,9	meetings 64:22	101:15	
32:1,10,13,14	88:15 115:20	methodologies	Mike's 78:4 176:12
33:7 35:12,14,15	Melissa 3:7 4:20	14:4,8 15:4	
41:4 47:12 49:21	23:3 134:5	106:6	milestones 33:1
72:6 77:4 94:5	178:16	methodology 5:2	military 95:19
110:6 112:9 117:6 120:4	member 55:19	27:11 31:13	137:5
121:1 152:20	84:8	40:16 44:10,11 151:4	mind 53:2 54:14
171:14 172:8	members 8:7 31:8	methods 1:4 6:10	76:19 140:1 156:20 157:12
Medicare 24:5	49:17 55:17	9:9 13:21 17:11	178:12 188:14
medication 13:5	69:19 81:20	18:4 24:9 31:18	mine 67:18 104:4
21:2,18 22:3,15	101:12 147:16	34:9 41:11,17	
23:22 46:22 48:3	Menactra 121:20	44:5 49:11 65:12	minimal 145:12
54:6,19 63:11	menstrual 118:11	106:10 126:7	minimize 58:6
71:1 80:10	mention 27:13	157:8 162:7 170:20 172:5	102:4
142:22 143:2	101:18 152:10	metric 175:5,7	minimum 162:22
151:12 152:21 186:10	153:20 164:10	,	minor 73:8 77:6
medications 14:19	mentioned 48:11	metrics 174:16,22	minute 8:1 157:15
15:14 17:20 47:3	49:5,7 69:18	Metropolitan	minutes 131:5
51:13 55:8 57:22	82:15 125:6 137:19 142:1	71:20 171:7,14	165:12 183:2
62:11 63:3 69:4	151:20 184:10	Mexico 125:10	miscarriage 52:15
85:1 139:20	mentor 104:4	Meyers 22:1	56:20
143:4,20 144:5 169:14 170:7	MEPREP 47:15	Michael 2:10 3:9	miscarriages 51:6
179:2,16,18		23:9 42:4 129:4	52:12 56:10
1,7,2,10,10	Merck 20:8,9	131:21	missing 51:5

Г	Pag	C 21	
120:21 121:1	175:12	58:19 104:2	multi-tiered
135:5 158:1		126:18,19,22	103:18
	monitored 98:7	130:14 138:16	
misunderstanding	103:22	159:18 168:12	muscular 79:22
152:7	monitoring 113:4	170:22 183:2	166:14
Mitchell 2:16	141:3 167:16		Mycophenolate
24:21 45:5 144:2	a 4 a 04.10	moves 132:2 187:4	37:7
146:6 154:6,9	monitors 94:19	moving 17:9	16 66 2 152 15
162:9 165:20	95:13,22 96:10	108:18 111:12	myself 66:3 152:15
177:8 180:3	97:11,13	125:4,7 127:5	
187:5	monotherapy 90:6	132:2,18 134:1	N
	97:12 103:19	138:11	Naleway 26:3
Mitchell's 142:20	montelukast 37:3		•
mitigation 35:18		Moyer 3:8 4:3 6:3	Naratriptan 96:13
C .	month 51:18	23:6,7	narrower 61:19
mixed 140:6	69:15,16 88:6	MOYERS 42:2	nation 177:13
MMR 109:19	108:20	43:9 91:16	
mobile 130:6	months 20:17,18	131:13 189:16	national 20:21
	50:2 181:13,21		37:8 40:4 178:18
model 68:1 87:15	ŕ	MPH 2:3,6,7,9,14	native 129:9
159:17	mood 54:20	3:4,6 4:7,14 5:10	nature 11:17
models 69:9	morning 5:19	multi 92:18 94:14	131:19
	8:1,18 17:2	97:22 100:20	
moderator 4:19	20:7,14 21:3,9	lt: d ~ 07.1	Naval 25:13
5:19 8:11 43:15	23:2,6,9,13	multi-drug 97:1	nearly 86:7,16
188:3	25:6,8 26:4,13	150:19 151:17	97:22
modest 81:11	27:1 31:15 43:18	186:4	· · · ·
99:17	44:12 47:5	multinational	necessarily 32:6
modifier 144:7,18	92:7,11,16,22	128:3	88:10 146:9
ŕ	130:16 188:3,5	multiple 35:15	174:10
modify 146:10	•	62:19,20,21	necessary 103:6
mom 181:16	mostly 36:6 113:6		151:14
	171:19 172:12	94:20 95:22	- '
moment 85:13	mother 73:3,14	96:11 101:7	negative 89:14
157:10	77:8 96:15 139:1	104:13 107:9	176:17
moments 64:2	172:17	111:5 127:20	neither 35:17
moms 62:17		143:13 160:20	191:10 192:5
158:11	mother-child	161:1,2 184:14	nelfinavir 99:17
	21:20	multi-product 5:9	
Monday 84:12	mothers 158:22	92:14,15 93:17	neonatologists
money 63:12	MotherToBaby	94:16 95:21	82:13
148:15,17	•	96:18 97:22	network 22:2
159:15 163:8	22:9	100:22	186:8
	motivated 138:6	101:8,14,19	
monitor 21:18	motivation 136:5	102:2,13 103:17	networks 47:11
95:17 96:19		183:8	neurologist 51:22
114:1 124:9	move 17:5 43:17	100.0	

	1 ag	<u> </u>	
neurologists 64:19	North 5:7 21:10	24:16	143:9,14 156:4
82:1 84:8,18	49:9 55:3 60:7	obstetricians 82:1	okay 9:11 19:4
147:19	83:22 97:8,10 132:8 147:3	Obstetrics 24:18	26:22 71:14 78:8
neurology 90:5 147:17	155:18 158:14	obtain 48:7 134:11	91:15 129:4 143:21 146:7
	166:8 181:6	obtainable 162:3	154:8 158:9
newborn 173:8	184:11	obtained 9:17	189:15
newborns 79:20	Northern 110:19	49:22 50:7	old 29:11
newer 132:13	notable 74:9	124:15	132:12,17
newly 65:21 95:2	nothing 66:9 184:5	obtains 49:19	158:19
news 86:11 90:8	189:14	obvious 184:15	older 72:4
newsletters 115:19	notice 73:3	obviously 80:3	OND 4:5,10,13,21
newspaper 123:21	noticed 165:7	81:13 148:9	one-hour 189:17
Nguyen 3:9	notified 114:12	182:16	ones 59:4 67:19
23:9,10 90:20	notion 177:11	occasionally 88:1	123:22 127:20
123:22 129:15	nuances 106:16	124:2 133:4	135:9 181:10 187:20
nice 107:3 141:17		occur 103:11	
nicely 142:21	0	145:12 171:17	ongoing 39:7
NIH 84:10	Oak 1:15 25:5	occurred 128:11	online 125:18,19
nine 133:15,21	ob-gyn 23:16	occurrence 81:8	OPE 4:8,15
Ninety 122:8	objectives 4:6 8:17	120:8,10	open 7:4,18 16:18
none 61:4	15:5 93:16	occurring 132:14	17:4 18:17,19 30:4 131:10
non-experimental	104:15	occurs 145:14	190:1
46:13	105:17,18,21 106:3,4	o'clock 92:2 190:1	Opening 4:9 19:10
non-exposed	obligation 36:10	offer 101:22 102:8	operating 166:4
150:17	obligations 186:21	office 4:5,7,8 6:6	operational
noninterventional	G	22:13,17,21	105:14
112:22	observation 42:9	23:4,15 27:9 32:4,17 40:10	operationally 96:8
nontraditional	observational 48:2 112:21 113:7	124:8 159:18	102:14
125:9	142:13,18	officer 4:13 23:14	operations 105:8
nonusers 56:10	observations 4:12	26:15	opinion 185:2
noon 8:3	26:20 27:14	officers 31:9	opinions 146:7
nor 191:10,14	obstetrical 132:11	117:15	opioids 174:18,19
192:5,6	obstetrician	offices 31:10	•
normal 75:8 81:8	84:9,18 139:19	official 162:15	opportunities 13:16 14:1
133:16	obstetrician-	offspring 52:17	opportunity 92:17
normally 145:14	gynecologist	oh 19:3 26:22	opportunity 72.17
L	l		

	1 ag	C 2)	
139:5,10,11	48:5,21 52:18	oversee 105:4	50:12
opposed 74:11	58:20,22 62:9	overseen 104:19	participate 18:12
88:14	98:10 113:22 114:9,12	oversight 105:2	91:18 102:6
options 95:10	114.9,12	overview 110:7	137:11 138:6
105:18	121:6 139:17	overwhelming	153:6,12 186:22 189:21
oral 59:4 60:18	161:22 180:12	155:8	participating 98:8
61:1 85:20 89:6	191:15 192:6		107:18 189:19
order 31:21 33:15	outcomes 11:2	P	participation 6:13
93:11 106:5 110:3 114:1	13:7 21:2 33:1 41:19 48:8 49:20	p.m 190:9	10:22 101:21
167:17	56:5 58:10 62:21	pack 81:4	103:16 106:17
organ 160:20	72:4 73:21 95:18	package 16:16	113:17
161:2,5	98:16 117:17	114:22 154:15	particular 32:20
Organization	118:13 119:15	paid 154:20	94:4 96:20
38:15	123:5 142:15 149:20 150:7	166:11	108:18 109:18 110:2 114:20
organizations	151:5,9	palate 78:20	122:16 139:12
28:11	157:19,22	Pamela 3:5 22:11	141:15 174:5
ORISE 4:15 27:9	158:1,11 163:19	panel 4:16 5:17,18	particularly 44:6
31:12,16	164:12,14,15 170:18	8:7 16:12,16	62:12 84:20
orthopedist 83:3		41:8 42:2,7 67:6	86:14 144:15
orthopedist's 83:5	outreach 15:16 22:19	83:20 107:1	146:4 176:1 188:7
OSE 4:8,15 31:12		123:15 130:12 146:5	
OTCs 144:9	outside 6:16,22 7:20 103:11	panelist 189:18	parties 102:21 191:11,14
	outstanding	-	partly 157:5
others 30:16 50:5 66:6 76:10 145:1	100:14	panelists 2:2 18:13 19:20 26:6	•
166:6,10 178:1	ovale 75:7	91:17,22 92:9	partnering 124:7
otherwise 7:7 52:9	overall 38:9 56:8	146:22	partnership 174:17 175:4
139:13 191:15	57:8,15 58:22	paper 71:22 72:22	
OTIS 22:9 24:20	62:12 78:17	90:4	party 192:5
38:16 47:6 180:5	94:16 98:18	paper-based	passage 28:19
181:2	99:18 103:21	125:14	passing 175:13
ought 159:9	146:21	Papillomavirus	passion 17:13,15
163:17 164:9	overcome 126:9 177:17	38:17	18:16
165:3,4		parallels 167:21	passive 40:4
ourselves 70:11,18 156:16	overcoming 165:11	parameters 79:21	113:1,6,15 121:10 149:3
	overestimating	parents 159:1	
outcome 11:5 33:16 39:12	53:9	163:13	past 89:18 97:21 104:2
33.10 37.12		participants 25:4	107.2

	1 ag	<u> </u>	
Pasteur 5:15	pediatric 4:4 6:6	39:6,8,10,17,18,	170:17,18
20:15,16 113:20	19:6 23:4,8,14	19 59:1 60:18	182:10 186:20
115:8 121:17,19	26:16 133:19	64:11,12	perspectives 43:22
122:17	134:12 135:2	69:15,16 70:3,5	44:4
patent 75:6,7	172:8,11	71:1,8,11,15,22	
184:1,7 187:2,8	pediatrician 20:10	72:3,8,15,16	perspectives/
, , ,	23:10 76:9 82:11	77:11,12,14	challenges 4:18
patience 148:22		78:16,17 81:7,13	16:14 43:13
patient 24:14 96:5	pediatricians 71:6	98:3,5,11,13,14,	pertaining 50:19
106:1 114:14	73:14 77:6 82:13	19,20 99:1,4,5	pertinent 178:17
116:2 117:20	pediatrics 5:8 22:8	122:9,11,13	•
120:20 121:2	73:16	129:19 130:7	pertussis 140:5,6
125:16,18 128:8	peer 38:10	142:5 161:10	pharmaceutical
130:9 139:16	_	180:17,21,22	14:12 93:10 96:1
140:13 145:16	peer-reviewed	181:7 182:11,17	100:12 101:5
179:20 180:6	33:14 34:6,19	performed 27:21	103:10 105:4
182:5,14	38:8	35:3	107:10 110:12
ŕ	peers 66:18		115:7
patient/physician	_	perhaps 53:10	
105:22	Peggy 2:14	54:17 138:19	Pharmacoepidemi
patients 15:13	25:19,21 157:17	142:16 181:11	ology 5:3,15
17:18 28:11	158:5,13	periconceptional	pharmacokinetic
30:5,13 35:21	people 70:2,4	144:11,14	28:2
39:15	75:10,19 80:18	ŕ	pharmacological
64:7,8,11,12,13	81:1 84:11	Perinatal 46:18,20	11:15
93:12 101:20	87:4,7 88:16	period 9:17 10:7	
102:4 115:2,5	91:3,6,11 126:1	18:17 35:7 52:21	pharmacovigilanc
140:8	137:10	118:11 122:7	e 4:7 21:17 40:5
146:12,18,21	148:1,5,11,19	133:19 149:16	117:14
148:8 152:11	152:9 153:7,10	periodic 89:19	Pharmacovigilian
174:17 175:4	156:16 160:14	119:2	ce 22:22
180:12,13	164:9 174:13,20		
patient's 140:1	175:8 188:17	Permanente 21:5	Pharmacy 21:6
•	people's 153:13	47:13	PharmD 2:19 5:14
pattern 99:20	• •	permission 136:19	phase 120:7 149:3
100:9 186:14	per 18:1 60:19	person 6:13 55:22	•
patterns 106:1	61:6,15,16	56:21 60:4 153:5	PhD 2:3,5,6,11,14
Paul 91:20	107:22 145:15		3:5,7 4:20 5:10
	perceive 180:15	personal 170:17	Phenobarbital
pay 57:15 63:16	•	180:16	85:6,9
70:18 87:6,7	perceived 93:22	personally 152:8	phone 25:7,9 43:9
91:19 160:10	140:7 176:16		115:1 116:1,14
paying 87:16	percent 10:8	perspective 12:21 15:12 101:4	189:12
PDA 75:12	36:11,13,16,17,1	15:12 101:4 149:12 160:6	
I DA /3.12	8	149.12 100.0	phones 6:21

physician 25:12	plus 91:12	94:3,7 95:7,19	post-marketing
130:10 180:7	PMC 36:9	96:5 97:5 128:19	10:3 28:22 35:16
physicians 102:4	PMCs 124:1	137:4	123:16 167:16
147:20 152:10		172:16,20,21	postpartum 50:3
175:9 180:10	PMHS	173:2	159:5 181:13
physiological 75:8	4:5,10,13,21	population-based	post-screen 57:16
PI 25:1 64:16	PMR 36:9	110:18	potential 11:16
	PMRs 124:1	population-	30:10 48:16 51:7
pick 146:9	podium 19:5 36:1	specific 106:16	53:6 63:16 94:14
159:9,11	point 68:3 72:5	position 29:8	100:10 104:1
picked 133:5	74:12 75:14 86:6	156:13	114:1 120:11,12
picture 109:3	102:2 124:16	positive 89:16	123:1 137:14
110:3	127:18 143:18	-	144:7 152:22
piece 138:12 158:7	144:4 145:20	possibilities 147:22	154:16 159:8
pillars 11:9	150:10 161:14		178:8,19
•	164:7 184:6	possibility 11:22	potentially 33:2
pills 62:18	186:3,6,16	83:14	155:7 176:2
pilot 129:18 130:5	pointed 68:17	possible 58:8	power 45:2 58:20
pinch-hitting	160:14	93:14 151:15,16	59:6,14,21
19:11	pointing 173:5	157:20 163:18	78:12,16 101:18
places 175:16		169:12	powered 162:7
[*]	points 43:4 50:17 67:20 79:17	possibly 150:12	powerful 75:1
plan 104:4	92:21 124:10	153:18	91:5
planned 108:1	164:13	post 5:11 7:17	
planning 6:8 29:12		16:3 27:3 29:19	powering 161:3
104:5 105:15	policies 102:20	146:19 159:21	powers 63:18
106:18 125:4	polydactyly	169:13 185:16	practical 129:5
plates 180:11	73:15,17,18,22	post-approval 1:5	184:9
plausibility 120:5	74:2,10,13	4:11 6:12	practice 20:11
	polytherapy	9:11,17 16:8	21:19 24:17
play 62:2 171:5	97:3,13 103:20	21:14 26:19	32:22 33:12 34:8
please 6:20,22	pool 137:14	27:21 29:18	38:14 105:1
7:11 8:9 82:3	pooling 47:13	45:19 46:3 105:19	practiced 23:16
84:1 91:19	101:7		practices 15:16
131:14 138:3 154:4 171:9	poor 45:10,13	postaxial 74:2,11	106:9 116:22
190:5	75:11	Post-college 80:17	152:14,16
		posted 7:14	,
pleased 92:16	poorly 170:1	posters 64:18	practicing 139:19
pleasure 8:19	population 11:7	•	practitioners
plenty 82:12 109:1	63:1,4,6 72:14	post-market 10:7	177:10,20 178:3
	79:16 86:7	28:13,15	pre 132:3

	Page	C 32	
preapproval 45:7	31:1,2,19,22	123:4,7 125:12	152:18,19 154:2
	32:3,8,18 33:16	127:16,19	155:2 172:22
preaxial 74:10	34:2,7 36:5,19	128:22 129:8	187:17
precedent 187:3	37:1,2,4,6,8,11,1	130:17 131:7,20	
precise 121:9,12	3,19,22	132:3,8	preliminary 27:13 67:2
	38:2,4,12,18,20,	133:14,18	
precisely 138:15	22 39:12	134:7,21	premarketing
preclinical 109:11	40:15,20	135:14,17	45:7 109:12
predict 86:3 145:1	41:1,7,12,14	138:12,21	prematurely 74:22
166:9	42:15,20	139:6,21	prematurity 51:2
predictors	43:12,21	140:14,18	75:16
45:11,13	44:6,15,17	141:5,8 143:4	
ŕ	45:1,6,18,21	145:20 147:4,5	Prematurity-
predominant 82:2	47:4,6,22	149:18 150:1	related 74:18
preference 81:7	48:1,6,7,20	152:15 154:17	prenatal 50:11
preferentially 55:1	49:4,10 50:22	155:5,7,8 157:19	53:4,17 54:2
144:16	51:1,4,18	158:10,14 159:4	58:5,16 75:21
	52:8,11,13	161:7,16	82:5 83:9 114:9
preferred 106:6	53:4,6 54:4,20	162:2,13	132:2 172:9
pregnancies 10:9	55:4 57:19 58:9	164:11,12,14,15	preparation 30:20
54:10 61:10	60:8 62:5,12	165:16	
81:10 98:11	67:16	166:8,11,15	prepared 19:16
116:13 140:22	68:2,4,9,10 69:9	169:15 171:18	110:5 192:3
141:4 167:17	73:20 74:6 75:21	172:4 176:7,15	prerogative 76:11
170:10 172:7	77:20,22 79:3	177:2 178:6,19	prescreen 57:3
pregnancy 1:5	80:15,19 82:7,14	179:5 181:7,12	-
4:11,17 5:8 6:12	87:5,18 90:14	184:11	prescreening 57:3,16
9:11,13,20	93:2,4,7,8,11	185:4,18,20	,
10:11,12,15,17	94:6 95:8,13,17	187:10,21 188:1	prescribe 147:20
11:5,10,18,20	96:13,15	pregnancy-related	177:12
12:4,8,9	97:8,9,19 100:6	22:19	prescriber 65:5
13:1,3,5,7,21	104:18 106:13	pregnancy's 96:11	prescribers 15:13
14:5,7,9,17,20	109:2,9 110:7,10,11,13,2	_ ,	17:19 181:9
15:2,6,9,14,17,2	1 112:7,20	pregnant 10:2,22	
0 16:7,9,13,21	1112:7,20	27:4,16,21 28:2,13,16	prescribing 21:19
17:20 21:2,11,15	113.11,12,22	29:6,18 32:2	prescription 154:3
22:4,10,18	115:8,13	41:19,20 45:15	prescriptions
24:1,13,20	116:4,19	46:2 48:13	62:18 153:22
25:16,17	117:11,17,22	49:15,18 51:21	
26:11,18	118:5,10,12	52:9 55:21 68:19	presence 64:21
27:6,7,20	119:5,10,15	69:3 93:3 95:5	present 18:14
28:7,17,19	120:7,16	110:1 116:8	27:6,12 56:7
29:3,4,7,8,10,16	121:17,19,22	139:4 141:14	60:7 62:15 75:20
30:1,6,8,19	122:8,14,21	142:3 151:14	92:13 108:19
		112.0 101.11	

	1 ag	C 00	
presentation 12:17 13:10 16:10 44:8	principal 25:15 49:8	33:6,8,21,22 34:17 35:12,14	168:1,6,7,13,15, 20 169:5,18
56:3 62:4 67:11	49:8 principles 188:12	40:6 41:16 92:19	project 4:3 6:4
92:6 93:16 107:3	189:9	94:1,2,12,15,18,	23:7 31:17
108:17 146:13		20	46:19,20 69:13
166:9	prior 11:14 113:11	95:1,3,4,6,7,9,12	
presentations 7:13	142:8	97:3 101:1	projects 21:1 47:14
43:18 44:3 92:7	privacy 128:5,14	105:20,21	
presented 37:20	134:9	107:7,21 117:15	prominent 29:8
38:3,5 65:19	private 105:1	118:8 127:11	promoting 176:7
84:21 166:13	probably 47:9	183:5,8	promotional 176:3
	74:9 75:18 86:6	products 1:5 6:11	•
presenters 4:16	127:5 130:1	9:10 10:7,11	prompting 154:9
5:17 7:14 42:6	141:12 159:13	14:20 18:1,9	proper 129:1
123:14	169:5 181:2	27:18 31:1	proportion 36:8,9
presenting 27:11	185:7	32:1,10,13,14	65:1,7
pretense 80:16	problem 53:6,7,21	35:15 36:5,11,13,16,21	proportions 34:14
preterm 150:5	77:17 142:12	38:6,9,13	proposal 72:13
pretty 36:9	154:10 162:22	39:3,7,13,16	proposals 160:17
prevalence 30:9	177:17 178:5	40:11 91:1 93:10	
58:22 98:18,22	problematic 146:2	94:11 95:2,14,22	proposed 29:1
99:3 173:6,16,18	problems 52:7	96:3,20,22 97:12,15 108:3	proprietary 103:7
174:9	53:17 69:10	184:14 185:16	Proquad 37:5
prevalences 59:3	135:5 160:7	187:1	38:21
172:2 173:11	170:15 178:21		prospective 11:2,6
prevent 66:20	179:17 188:21	product-specific	48:2 50:10,12
_ -	proceeding 8:6	18:2,10 107:12	62:6 98:2,10
preventive 25:12	process 68:18 69:7	professional 28:10	113:8,9 114:10
137:11	82:22 85:12	115:17,18,20	131:19 132:1,6
preview 44:2	112:11 122:15	Professor 5:4,8	133:1,20 135:8
previous	126:5 132:17	23:20	138:10
162:10,15	148:18 158:21	profile 10:4,19	139:11,20
previously 140:17	166:17 184:15	14:19 93:10 96:4	prospectively
190:4	processes 102:19		113:10 114:5
	•	program 5:4 13:6,11 22:4,16	119:12,14 120:2
primarily 10:17	produce 165:5	24:5 71:3,21	133:9 139:16
77:9 98:21	184:2	84:10 170:3	protease
primary 22:1	produced 156:5	171:8,15 178:18	183:16,21 184:4
58:17 105:12 147:19	producing 184:4	programs 13:4	protect 140:4
	product 9:13 10:5	51:3 129:19	protocol 39:4
prime 88:3	11:20 16:4 20:9	149:4	70:18
			70.10

protocols 33:19	publications 34:6	166:4	
129:17 160:16	142:20	qualities 70:1	<u>R</u>
provide 8:7 15:12	publicize 42:14	quality 24:3 34:21	raise 57:3 177:4
27:5 30:2 43:19	65:21	40:16 74:16 76:5	178:7,12
45:22 46:1,5,6	publish 37:14	167:19 168:17	raised 65:13 145:1
63:14 93:9 102:9	61:21 78:5,9	179:12	random 51:15
105:1 109:13	84:22 85:21 88:5	quantitative 120:1	80:19
112:3 145:9	90:15 134:22	_	randomized
provided 11:13	142:17	question 10:19	154:22
31:3 34:8 112:12	published 10:15	64:4 66:2 67:6	
121:2	24:10 28:16 29:2	78:4 84:15 88:19	range 39:18,19
provider 101:21	34:18 35:9	89:4,12 90:19 122:22 129:16	150:6 169:6,12 180:21 184:22
114:15 116:7,8	38:8,10 40:1	130:18 131:3,19	
117:19 120:21	41:4 70:14	134:6 138:8	ranges 98:20
121:3,5	71:5,22 72:22	134.0 138.8	rare 35:13
125:16,17 128:8	100:2 112:6	144:20 149:9	145:7,8,10
182:6,7,13,14	130:3 168:21	150:13,16	146:10 170:8,21
providers 14:14	173:19	160:15 165:8,22	rarer 146:4
28:10 30:12	purchase 8:4	171:6 177:5	rate 39:15,17
93:13 101:5	pure 50:10 133:1	178:17 181:2	71:1,7,15,21
102:5 115:2	135:8	183:3,18 187:9	72:7,13,19 73:12
116:3,17		questionnaire	77:11,12 81:3,8
provides 100:3	purely 172:16 186:15	117:18 118:5	86:3,7 89:10
providing 55:10		125:15	126:5 130:6
102:6	purpose 9:3 33:3	questions 4:16	141:18,19 142:6
	93:8	5:17 7:2 16:16	143:1 159:12,13
provoked 144:3	pushed 175:3	42:1,3,5 43:9	180:20
psychology 158:18	puts 78:21	50:3 67:10 83:20	rates 56:19
159:20	putting 108:21	84:21 88:8 91:20	120:9,10 128:21
public 1:8 5:4 6:9	168:16	92:8 106:22	144:16 156:3
7:4,12 8:20	100.10	123:11,13	180:17
14:13,14 16:18		130:15 151:12	182:20,21
17:4 18:14,17	Q • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	157:4 159:9	rather 61:2,16
23:21 27:22 28:7	Q&A 5:18 130:12	174:5	70:20 82:4
29:13 30:20	QIV 111:14	quick 109:7 110:3	126:20 127:20
66:18 86:19	121:21 125:22	quite 22:4 25:10	134:16 167:15
115:21	Quadrivalent	59:15 61:6 97:10	ratio 56:20
145:11,17	38:17	147:7 154:7	
163:18 186:3,15 190:1,10	qualifies 132:6	156:3,12	rational 15:14
ŕ	qualitative 75:14	quote 162:15	reach 147:22
publication 33:13	119:22 163:3	•	reached 34:20
71:12 73:22	117.44 103.3	quoting 162:12	

	1 ag	C 88	
91:15	175:17,18	153:18	referrals 82:2
reading 76:6	176:5,11 178:7	recommendations	referred 51:22
123:21	183:3 184:13	17:7 28:18 34:8	80:12
ready 88:3 160:4	187:18 188:18	48:18 109:21	84:17,18,22
186:10 190:6	real-world 93:4	165:10 167:3	109:8 110:9
	reason 11:22	recommended	112:20 134:9
real 16:14 55:2	138:2	48:19 49:1	referring 104:13
60:6,22 62:18 91:11 139:19	reasonable 149:16	158:18 188:1	C
147:9 156:4	162:13,20,21	record 77:4,18	refers 50:10,12
157:21 158:17	163:16 180:19	92:3,4 181:3	refreshments 8:4
164:2 172:2		182:9 191:8	regard 94:6 104:3
187:9	reasoning 157:8		106:6 127:15
	reasons 32:12 39:9	recorded 77:5	134:9
realistic 87:17	134:15 151:20	117:12 191:6	regarding 16:21
141:8 149:12 150:10 160:8	173:11	records 13:9 47:12	28:18 34:1 48:18
182:18	reassurance 90:8	49:21 83:2	102:10 103:16
	reassuring 145:22	134:12 135:2,10	146:14
reality 16:2 59:17	G	172:8 181:20	regards 176:3
60:4 80:21	rebate 154:18	recruit 69:2	C
134:21 135:14	recall 62:8 130:4	recruited 67:22	regimens 97:2
realized 106:4,19	154:10	79:11 159:7	region 96:21
really 8:20	receive 114:6	recruitment 69:6	regions 128:20
9:12,14,17,20,22	118:3	106:10	register 40:4 95:17
12:12,22	received 29:13,14	114:18,19,21	142:1,8
13:19,20,22	122:8	115:5 155:15	,
14:2,5,6,8,14,16,		176:19	registered 7:9
18,21 15:3,5,22	receiving 48:3 153:22	recurring 136:21	190:2
16:6,8			registers 110:18
17:5,11,18	recent 109:21	red 54:5 61:9	registration
18:3,11 19:16 26:7 67:20 70:5	183:15	reduce 101:19	7:3,5,6 91:21
73:18 78:22 82:7	recently 27:8	reduced 150:3	153:19 183:20
87:14 91:5	137:16 183:14	191:7	190:5
108:21 130:15	recognize 28:1	refer 80:6,11	registries 4:11,17
132:21 133:1,19	51:21 162:19	142:19 169:15	5:9 10:16,18
134:19 136:16	recognized 10:12		11:1
137:6 142:6	65:21 72:10	reference 11:7	12:8,9,15,20
144:7 148:3,7,17	100:11 172:13	48:10 49:17	13:22 14:9,18
149:5		51:14 53:22 54:7	15:2,7,9,18
153:9,10,12	recognizes 8:11	57:21 58:13 161:11 171:16	16:2,7,10,13,22
158:1 161:14	recommend 58:7		21:15 22:10
162:7 164:18,21	109:21 181:9	references 33:11	24:7,9,12,13,14
166:1,16	recommendation	90:3	26:11,18 27:6,8

	Page	E 30	
28:19 29:17	165:10 166:2	96:2,6,8,14,16,2	registry/
30:2,22	167:12 171:18	1 97:9,11,20,21	pregnancy
31:3,20,22	172:4 173:7,14	98:1,4 100:6	109:11
32:4,8,12,13,15	174:3,14	101:4	
33:16	175:12,14	103:5,12,13,21	registry-based
36:6,8,10,14	176:14	104:11,13,19	72:2
39:14	185:13,20 186:4	105:5,6 106:13	registry's 39:12
40:10,12,15	,	107:15 108:2	regression 56:12
41:2,7,13,15	registry 5:8 11:10	109:9,11	C
42:10.13	13:1 14:7 15:20	111:1,2,3,7,13	regular 112:13
43:12,21 44:6,15	21:11 22:18	112:4 113:14	126:2
45:1 47:4,6	24:14	114:7,12 116:4	regulated 28:8
48:1,2,12 49:1,5	25:15,16,17	117:4 120:17	regulations 118:18
50:20 51:4 57:18	28:17 29:7,11	121:22 122:21	128:5,14 154:20
62:6,22 63:7	30:6,8,12,14,19	123:3 125:4,13	,
68:2 69:9 73:20	32:18	127:2,8,16,19	regulators 14:12
79:3 89:8	33:2,5,12,13	130:17 131:7	101:6
92:14,15,19	34:7,16,18,20	132:9 134:22	regulatory 4:3 6:4
93:4,9,18	35:6,8,13,14,20,	137:15 138:13	15:12 27:3 28:12
94:6,12,17 95:1	21 36:11,15,19	140:18 141:6.8	36:10 103:10
96:10,19 97:7	37:1,2,4,6,9,11,1	144:22 145:4,20	105:6,19
100:10,21,22	9,22	147:4,6 148:7,13	106:8,15 111:20
100:10,21,22	38:2,4,6,10,12,1	149:15	119:1 127:10
101.2,9,14,19	9,20,22 39:6,7	150:14,18	145:17
102.5,13 103.17	40:16,18,21	152:7,11	
109:2	41:11	153:5,21	Reilly 69:13
110:7,10,14,21	42:11,12,18	155:5,8,11,19	reinforce 144:3
111:6,11,12,18	44:17	156:5	187:6
112:1,8,14,20	49:7,10,13,19	157:6,10,13,19	related 21:2 53:20
113:5 114:4,17	50:9,21 51:15,22	158:14 159:4	78:4 92:9 93:1
115:8,13,16	53:2,9,12,16	161:16 162:13	131:19 191:10
119:0,13,10	54:9,18,20	164:8,11,16	relates 134:8
121:17,20	55:4,7,20 56:6	165:16	
122:17,18	57:17 59:11,20	166:4,8,11	Relating 4:18
123:7,19 128:3,6	60:8,11,13,14,20	173:13 174:11	43:13
130:21 131:20	62:20 64:8,17	175:6 176:6,16	relation 62:13
134:8 135:14	65:4,10,11 67:16	177:1,4	
137:6 138:14	68:4,9,11 76:2	180:13,14,15,20	relationship
140:15 141:12	77:22 80:4,15,19	181:7	180:6,15,16
142:11 149:18	81:22 82:7,15	182:3,5,19,21	relative 56:17
150:1,19	83:16 84:1,13	183:6,9,13	57:7,12 59:8
151:16,17 152:5	87:6,18 89:2	184:3,8,12	62:16 66:16
153:9,19 156:20	90:14 93:14	185:4,6,18	191:13
157:1,21 158:10	94:2,7,15,19	187:10,21 188:2	relatively 62:14
161:7,9 162:2	95:11,13,22	10.110,21 100.2	133:10,14
101.7,7 102.2			155,10,11

	1 ag		
147:12 179:5	77:8 99:21 108:2	require 9:19 11:14	41:21
release 85:4,17	117:7,13 119:1,8	12:5 28:21	responsible 103:4
86:15 87:3	120:2 135:2	102:15,17 104:6	105:7 107:16
135:20 136:14	177:2	127:17 182:12	110:13 187:15
156:1	reporter 117:19	required 29:19	restrict 57:2
released 85:5,10	120:20 191:1,2	35:17 56:6	
•	reporting 1:20	123:17 172:14	restricted 12:22
releasing 85:7	101:4 102:5,7	186:22	Restrooms 7:20
relevance 94:6	104:8 105:6	requirement 29:20	result 41:11 49:4
103:12	112:15 113:18	35:16 123:19	52:2 54:22 56:22
relevant 52:20	116:5,6 118:12	124:16	94:14 117:4
151:11	119:2 121:11	requirements	189:6
reluctance 177:16	124:12 179:12	124:12	resulted 34:16
	reports 33:19 40:3	requiring 12:1	
rely 63:8 75:10	46:3 73:13	• 0	results 27:7,13,14 32:20 33:6,13
remain 135:14	98:4,10 100:3	research 4:5 5:12	34:7,18 36:2
remained 84:4	116:10,16 117:4	6:5 21:1,5,14	38:7,10 57:4,10
remaining 39:16	122:8,9,10,11	22:2,12 23:21	58:2,4 83:4
	129:7	24:3 25:13 30:15	89:15,17 90:16
remains 123:7	179:1,10,11	46:14 47:8 68:21	97:19 112:18
remarks 4:9 9:3	repository 179:4	73:7 82:16 92:13 105:15 107:14	134:22 135:1
19:5,10,17	represent 14:14	110:15 136:12	resume 92:1 190:1
remember 8:9	51:12 54:4		
51:20 68:5		researchers 14:12	retention 16:1,21
reminder 131:13	representative	28:9 34:10	retrospective
	5:16 32:6 63:1,5 108:9,15 172:21	reservations 156:9	113:8 172:6
remodeled 185:21	,	resident 172:18	retrospectively
REMS 35:18	representatives	resource 101:10	114:6,11
rent 160:10	2:18 3:3	102:3 159:8	119:13,21 120:2
	87:21,22 88:2		return 162:11
repeatedly 163:13	105:3	resources 30:17	
replicate 66:6,19	represents 51:12	40:18 47:14	review 27:7,11
report 66:6 90:1	55:5 60:10 61:8	66:19 101:7	30:21 32:11
105:9 110:5	186:12	127:18 138:4 160:4	39:21
112:18 115:3,15	reproductive 12:3		40:8,9,13,14 41:1 62:4 100:5
116:2,3,14	30:10 93:8	respect 14:18	103:22 105:2
118:18 123:19	95:6,20	102:21 133:22	173:17 178:19
124:12,22	request 10:17	respond 151:11	
125:18 126:3	11:10	responding 149:9	reviewed 38:11
129:8,11 130:10	requested 29:19	response 143:1,5,9	117:14,16
150:14,15	_	•	reviewer 26:15
reported 1:19 50:7	requests 68:6	responsibility	112:2

	Pag	C 30	
reviewing 92:20 172:8 reviews 33:20 99:22 107:20	166:1 188:9 189:21 roughly 71:11,15 72:8	50:14 51:16 60:10,13 61:5 78:10 80:19 127:5,7 135:7,11	105:2,13,16,20 106:4 129:6 183:12 Scott 3:5 22:11
	round 44:4	140:16 141:7	screen 133:13
revising 29:14		155:18 159:6	
revisions 29:12 revisit 185:11	routes 94:21 routine 48:4 90:12 108:1 124:4	160:13,17 161:19,20 162:2 170:16	screening 53:4,18 54:2 57:12 58:16 76:1,6 82:5 83:9
ribavirin 95:12,15		San 22:7 25:11	screens 58:6
183:13,15,17,20 184:1,5	rule 29:1,5 37:13,14 170:4	Sandy 19:12,15,18	screenshot 32:16
,	,	Sanofi 5:15	
ride 81:12	run 21:17 87:3	20:15,16 113:20	scrounging 178:22
risk 5:15 13:5	running 9:1 64:3	115:8 121:16,18	SCS 144:15
22:16 35:18 37:17 41:13	66:15 182:21	122:17	se 18:1
48:16	S	sanofipasteurpreg	search 33:17
56:11,14,17,19,2	safe 17:19 140:2	nancyregistry.c	searched 34:4
0 57:7,8	175:10	om 115:9	searching 65:3
59:8,10,15,18	safety 1:5 6:11	SARAH 192:2,11	second 13:11,20
60:21	9:10,13,15	SAS 35:4	14:21 51:18
61:5,7,9,15,16,1 8 62:16	10:4,18 11:17	satisfaction 106:1	61:11 85:9 98:13
66:16,17,22	13:4 14:5,19		99:6 114:16
85:14 87:4	16:5 20:9 23:22	satisfying 105:19	115:4 131:3
93:1,10	27:20 28:6,21,22	saw 83:3 86:2	secondary 49:3
95:8,9,12 96:4	29:22 31:1 32:1	Scandinavian	section 29:9 37:20
99:7,18 102:10	34:1,3 41:2 45:5 93:1,6,10 95:12	110:19	section 27.7 37.20 sections 37:17
109:17,20	105:22	scant 9:14	
144:7,18 145:13 150:3,4,21 155:7	109:12,13 114:1	scaring 87:4	seeing 132:8 142:4,6,18
156:15 178:8,12	117:15 119:2	scary 86:7	, ,
risks 53:9 57:12	124:8 127:15	ScD 2:4,19 5:14	seemed 152:3 188:16
145:6 152:21	145:6 146:19 150:21	ŕ	
153:1,4 156:8		scenario 95:21 96:18 185:6	seems 145:18 155:8
164:1	Sahin 3:11 4:13		
roadmap 44:20	12:17 23:13,14 26:14,21	School 5:4,8 21:6 23:21 86:19	seen 47:10 73:21
robust 101:22	31:14,16 36:2,4		74:14 113:5 131:22 137:6
role 157:1	42:4,21 83:21	science 17:12 24:9	151.22 157.0
	109:8 171:6	Sciences 21:7	174:9,11
roles 101:11	sales 187:11	scientific 84:3 85:2	sees 136:4
room 1:16 7:21 31:6 41:5 88:17	sample 32:3,5 47:1	86:22 88:15 104:21	seizure 80:10

	Pag	C 37	
selected 31:19 32:3 62:10	46:4 179:12	shoestring 148:21	115:10 135:4 150:19 151:2,8
selecting 53:16	serious 11:17 119:7	short 63:12 shot 168:3	167:8 169:13
54:22	seriously 125:21		173:12
selection 50:18	seriousness 119:6	showed 70:5 73:7 76:22 86:17	simple 56:11 95:21 189:8
selective 63:17	serve 6:4 102:3	142:21 155:20	simply 163:11
self 168:19,21	served 44:1	showing 71:15	sincerely 6:14
semiannual	Services 5:11	86:9	single 93:17
100:1,3	serving 107:14	shown 81:17 181:4	94:14,18,19 95:1
semiannually 107:20	session 5:19 17:5	shows 75:6	96:1,3 97:14,20 101:1 102:7
send 88:5 148:10	130:14 188:3,5	shy 165:21 sick 179:21	101:1 102:7
181:17	190:2		179:11 183:7
sending 125:15	setting 1:5 6:12 9:11 89:15 93:4	sight 149:18 sign 7:5 80:18 83:1	189:7
147:16,19	126:18,20,22	134:11 136:7,14	Singulair 37:3
senior 4:3,21 21:13 23:3,7	127:2 135:15	148:8 177:21	sit 129:6
sense 55:18 63:1	setup 103:4	signal 114:2	site 76:4
159:7 185:6	seven 36:20 38:6,13 50:1	120:11,12 122:21 141:16	sites 172:9
186:17	181:12	146:21 162:4	sitting 74:15 82:12 situation 53:19
sensitive 58:3,5	Seventeen 39:8	signals 46:5 114:1	54:5 56:2 161:15
sensitivity 49:2 103:7 106:2	Seventy-eight 98:3	123:1	179:1 185:11
sent 64:19 117:18	Seventy-six 36:11	signature 135:20 136:10	situations 185:3
sentinel 141:11	several 11:11 30:4	signed 84:16 136:2	six 20:17 38:8 40:9
separate 88:14	34:15 68:11,18 69:14 71:12	significance 73:5	84:10 112:12 122:7 158:19
99:13 124:11	94:11 102:12	74:16	159:7,15,21
189:20	117:21 160:14 176:19 181:12	significant 6:16	160:5 163:9 173:4
separated 119:13	185:15 186:5	76:17,18 78:7 80:17 81:1 90:10	size 42:12 47:1
separately 49:2 67:17 80:5 87:19	severe 118:15	99:7,18	60:10,13 61:5
separation 105:13	severity 81:11	silence 6:20	78:10 79:21 80:3
septal 75:13 79:18	shadow 162:14	Silver 1:17	127:5,7 135:7,11 140:16 141:7
80:2	share 6:19 92:18	similar 36:9 56:22	144:21 145:2
sequentially	167:20	67:19 72:4 96:4	146:1 155:18
185:10	shared 41:20	108:19 109:10,14 110:5	159:6 160:13,17 161:19,20 162:2
series 40:3 43:18	sharing 107:11	112:10,11	164:8 170:16

	1 ag	C 10	
skilled 83:7	solutions 131:9	116:6 123:8	specifically 17:8
slam 185:5	solved 163:7	sources 34:5 41:12	44:3 46:17
slide 7:13 38:5	somehow 66:18	47:7 71:16,18	47:8,17 55:11
40:8 70:5 75:6	134:17 135:22	106:3 110:9,16	65:15 106:9
80:8 86:2	185:20	112:15 116:6,20	109:18 121:2 130:21 138:21
slides 63:20 67:17	someone 74:13	156:22	170:6,14
90:4 108:21	82:10 83:6	South 21:7 127:13	ŕ
109:5	134:14 137:19	spanned 57:19	specified 11:1 35:2
slightly 72:11	somewhere 159:15	spanning 160:19	spectrum 14:15
109:3		•	80:16 149:20
	Sonia 2:12 5:3	speak 7:8,9,10	spend 82:8
slippery 139:14	23:19 44:8,10	8:10,11,13 20:2 44:9 79:4 92:17	spent 65:10 138:4
Slone 24:22 47:20	65:18 67:15 68:17 69:18 70:5	44:9 79:4 92:17 107:6 108:9	spina 89:6
slope 139:14	78:13 80:8 81:17	124:10 131:14	•
slower 132:17	83:7 86:17 90:4		sponsor 98:1
	186:1	speaker 7:5 8:7,16 19:3 26:13	105:3 184:3 187:16
slowly 111:12,17 125:8	Sonia's 86:2		
	132:20	speakers 7:4 16:15	sponsors 10:18
small 46:22 62:2		speaking 8:12	12:6 87:21,22
81:3	sonographer 133:13	142:21 190:5	88:2,6,14 105:11
smaller 162:3		speaks 143:15	spontaneous
smallpox 25:16	sooner 148:14	special 93:20	56:4,7 58:1,11
137:8	sophisticated	104:3	113:17 118:16 119:16 121:11
Smartphone	86:18,21		119:16 121:11
125:20 129:17	sorry 129:4 158:8	Specialists 38:16	
Smartphones	183:10	specialty 172:11	spread 184:18
126:1 137:17	sort 9:5 12:21 13:2	species 45:13	spreading 148:18
Smith 69:13	17:15 18:22	specific 16:20	Spring 1:17
	72:11 91:2	18:1,9 44:22	spurious 156:11
smoking 50:6 81:3	107:4,8 132:1,18	46:21,22 47:2,3	Sr 5:11
snapshot 150:2	139:14 150:2	49:6 55:15 57:22	
so-called 50:11	152:13 160:18	58:15 59:2,7,19	SSRIs 178:10
society 80:16,20	161:2,3 164:19 165:2 166:3	63:3,18 65:7 69:22 73:11,19	stable 172:1
147:15	167:14 169:7,13	79:5 88:22 99:20	staff 4:4 6:7 19:7
solely 157:6	178:14 185:5	100:7 104:15	23:5,8,15
	188:17	107:8,22 117:3	26:15,16 33:20
solicitation 154:14	sound 126:10	120:22 143:2,11	82:21
Solomon 3:6 4:7		146:3 151:13	stakeholders
8:16 22:20 42:3	sounds 64:6 149:2 152:6	161:5 162:8	14:15 41:21
162:10		174:7	101:8 103:14
	source 82:2 86:12		

	1 ag	C 11	
104:14 106:17	104:8 135:6	182:17	submitted 67:18
stand 81:14	statistically 99:18	strong 59:15,17	submitting 72:13
standard 142:11	105:9	strongly 187:22	subtle 85:15
169:7,17	statistician 22:14	struck 177:1	subtract 71:9 72:9
standardization	statistics 34:12	structural 72:6	success 16:1 42:17
101:16 standardize 28:14	status 4:12 15:6 26:19 27:5 29:16	structure 83:22 100:17	104:10 107:6 140:17
standards	39:6 44:5 135:17	104:12,18	successes 12:10
168:12,17	stay 163:12	105:12 107:4	15:7 31:7
169:2,4,13	steadily 86:3	struggle 136:7	successful 12:14
standpoint 135:6 177:15	steady 6:10 86:12	140:20 176:22	30:7,18 40:17 41:11
	steering 100:16,18	stuck 19:13	
stands 81:14 start 19:22 20:1	104:19 step 18:16 72:12	studies 4:12 10:17 11:14 12:1,6	successfully 153:21
27:10 44:7 70:10	106:15	21:15 24:20	Suddenly 77:13
108:14 113:10 128:20 148:17	170:13,16 stepping 19:8	26:19 28:22 30:4 40:2,3	sufficient 41:15 59:14 99:11
149:6 166:22 183:19	175:19	45:8,11,19 46:8,14,15,16	108:5 145:4 166:11
started 24:14	steps 17:7 68:18	47:7,16 62:7 70:10 71:14	suggest 100:9
35:8,10 60:14	stillbirth 118:16	70.10 71.14 72:4,21 75:2	177:16
74:19 78:1 82:9 111:13 121:22	119:17	113:7 116:21	suggested 185:19
133:6 136:11	stops 89:2	117:2,3,6 122:12	suggestion 167:2
137:8 138:9	stories 90:8	123:2,4,17 142:8 145:9 146:17	185:17
168:8,16 starting 16:8 32:9	story 75:15 straight 173:22	157:2 158:15	suggestions 14:11 131:9
112:14,19		studying 52:6	
state 8:13 84:13	straightforward 188:14	58:10 62:13	suggests 41:1
131:14 146:11	Strategic 5:11	stuff 140:2 143:14 154:2 168:15	suites 189:4 Sumatriptan
154:11 168:1 188:8	strategies 15:8	175:12	96:13
stated 33:8,9 39:3	18:22 41:6 106:7	stumbling 176:4	summarize 100:5
statement 100:3	strategy 35:18	subdivide 83:8	summary 27:12,15
States 35:22 68:20	90:21 93:15	subject 9:4 178:7	37:17 41:14 56:10 57:17 82:6
95:16 111:15,20	stratified 34:14	subjects 53:3,5	56:19 57:17 82:6 83:11 122:20
126:12 127:3,12	streamline 101:20	54:1 58:17 59:13	supervises 68:1
132:9	stressing 81:21	submit 7:11 37:15	•
statistical 101:17	striving 169:9	88:7 100:15	supplements

	Pag	C 12	
144:10	72:3 74:6 82:15	59:3,9,19 68:22	25:4,19 69:1
support 88:20	113:19 121:10	72:5 73:14 82:8	ten 20:10 29:11
184:17	125:11,19 155:3	86:9 143:3 144:6	137:9
supported 78:2	160:1 162:20	145:15 146:15	tend 53:11 55:17
	164:19 172:13	160:11	132:12
supporting 57:14	177:14	161:18,20	
supposed 139:21	systematic 32:11	165:12 174:19 175:10	tenofovir/
154:1	40:9 76:1 90:11		emtricitabine 36:22
sure 19:19 52:22	systems 17:17 18:5	talks 115:21	
78:5,9 84:2	30:18 46:5 47:19	target 33:9 34:20	teratogenesis
130:2 132:22	119:3 124:12	39:2,3,4 132:2	188:12 189:10
135:17 155:4,14	132:17 160:20	134:1 138:11	teratogenic 81:11
160:8 165:16	161:2,5 177:3	task 178:15	179:3,19
171:12 182:11		Tassinari 3:7 4:20	teratogenicity
surgery 172:14	T	23:2,3	45:9,12
surgical 72:6	table 7:5 60:10	43:2,10,16 63:22	teratogens 149:21
surveillance 4:8	78:13,22 103:3 134:6	64:2 65:13 67:5	160:22
21:1 27:10 40:5		83:19 90:18	teratology 38:15
46:4 47:19 71:3	tables 6:22 7:3	91:14 92:1,5	189:2
110:18	tabulations 79:15	106:22 108:7	term 94:18 138:10
113:1,4,7,15,16	take-home 79:2	123:11 125:2	162:14 176:20
116:22 117:3	taking 54:19 69:4	126:10,21 129:3 130:13 136:22	
121:10 123:17	70:15 80:10	130:13 130:22	termination 54:17,21 119:17
124:4 130:5	111:16 115:13	149:2 157:14	·
168:5	117:2 132:4	158:5 165:6	terminations 51:5
169:3,14,16	141:5 143:20	171:4 176:18	terminology 68:6
surveys 147:10	147:11 154:2	179:22 180:19	terms 10:1 12:14
surviving 75:1	178:13	183:1 188:4	26:10 30:14,16
Susan 2:4 21:22	talk 12:16 13:14	189:11,15 190:8	36:19 39:2,6
suspect 134:7	27:1 49:12 50:17	taught 70:4	61:8 62:1 76:4
136:1	64:5,9 74:9	Tdap 109:22	78:8 107:5,11
	83:21 88:4,22	•	126:13 129:13
suspected 43:5	89:5 100:19	team 31:8,17 34:22 82:10	134:4 136:9
suspicion 135:21	124:20		141:2 144:21 145:16 161:3,6
swing 138:8	134:13,14 136:13 144:5	technologies 132:13	162:3 164:7,18
switched 165:8	136:13 144:5 145:20 153:17		167:4
sworn 191:5	162:12 178:4,6	technology 24:4 75:22 134:2	territories 98:5
symmetrics 15:22	talked 16:11 79:18	teeth 167:3	test 50:11,14 53:6
system 17:10	talking 12:18 13:21 18:1,3	telephone 3:13	tested 162:6
22:10 25:2 69:12	13.21 10.1,3		testimony

	Page	2 40	
191:4,6,9	theoretically 159:6	107:21 108:4	87:9 108:18,20
tests 114:9	theory 55:2	throughout 57:19	130:12,16
Thalidomide	therapeutic	68:19 161:17	150:22 183:3
59:10 146:1	102:18 106:11	throw 148:12	topics 28:3 104:2
165:1 170:3	187:4	187:14	140:11 153:10 157:3
Thalidomides	therapy 94:10	thumb 74:11	
164:20 170:2	99:10	ticking 136:9	Topyramate 147:20
thank 6:15 19:8	thereafter 191:7	timeframe 173:7	total 38:9 59:12
20:12 21:8 22:5 23:17 25:9 26:6	therefore 58:6	timeline 28:12	
31:14 36:3,4	62:7,15,17	timelines 102:20	totally 122:3 140:11
41:22 42:21 43:1	63:3,11 184:3	Tina 22:6 131:18	touch 101:13
44:13 63:20,22	there's 67:7 73:17	138:9 140:9,10	163:12
67:12 83:17	132:17 139:2 142:10 148:2	144:22 149:7	tough 164:2
91:14,22 92:14 106:20 107:2	166:10 179:3	164:13 176:9	toward 111:12
108:11,15 123:9	they're 9:22 72:22	180:3	
131:17 138:7	126:13 134:16	tire 19:14	towards 7:22
171:11 188:4	137:21,22	tissue-fluid 133:11	toxicological 45:8
189:14 190:8	149:19 152:6	Title 118:17	Toxicology 178:18
thanks 19:9 20:18	174:4	toaster 154:18	trade-off 161:3
that's 11:5 15:18	they've 169:10	today 6:13 9:8	trade-offs 107:7
51:11 52:12,18	third 24:10,12	14:15 16:6 20:12	traditional 50:12
56:1 60:18 61:1,20 65:3	51:18 98:15 99:6 116:5 134:10	43:20 44:13	training 20:10
66:1,12 72:1	135:7 136:18	68:12 92:17	22:14 23:10
77:15 89:3,7	Thirty-nine 98:12	178:4	Tran 91:20
91:12 125:19	thorough 116:14	today's 12:12 27:1	transcribed 8:14
127:21 133:13 134:21 140:11	G	tolerance 149:1	TRANSCRIBER
150:9,12 151:5	thoughtful 131:8	toll-free	192:1
155:4 157:5	thoughts 126:13 130:19 146:7	116:1,11,12	transcript 192:3
161:13 163:4	153:14 165:14	tomorrow 17:1	transcription
166:5 171:15	171:10 179:22	41:18 47:15 145:21 156:21	189:3
178:14 184:22 187:18 188:18	188:7,9	164:11	transcriptionist
themselves 8:9	thousand 86:5	tonofovir 38:19	131:15
19:21 41:15	thousands 78:22	tool 165:17	Transcripts 7:15
116:9 168:13,15	79:8 87:16		translate 142:7
169:11	148:12	topic 4:17,19 5:18 9:8 16:11 17:1	translated 129:12
theoretical 109:17	threefold 57:8	20:13	translation 129:10
147:22	threshold 99:13	43:12,15,17 66:4	ti alisiativii 129.10

	Page	C 11	
transmission	38:19	U.S 95:19 98:4	underway 72:1
109:17,20	try 7:10 13:2 18:22	172:22	unenroll 138:3
Transplant 37:8	19:17 44:4 54:4	U.Sbased 36:14	unexpected 56:1
treat 96:12,20 151:12 183:17 treated 94:9,10	59:7 66:19 78:19 112:6 137:20 146:3,17 168:11 170:20 182:15	ultimately 83:6 86:4 148:4,19 ultra 146:9	unexposed 51:14 54:3,7,14 55:16 59:12 76:13
139:2 186:5 treatment 95:10 96:15 97:2 105:18 151:14 178:21	trying 14:10 77:18 112:13 124:19 126:9,15 135:19 136:7 137:18 138:5 140:21	ultrasound 75:22 76:5,21 77:13 133:11,15,21 166:15 ultrasound-only	77:16 78:15 82:20 83:15 121:14 unfortunately 19:12 70:12
treatments 96:17	145:1 148:13	77:9	134:15
trends 46:9,10	163:22 165:18	unable 41:9	uniform 143:17
Treximet 96:13	turn 8:10,12 20:4 31:11 36:1 76:17	unacceptable 106:10	unintentional 10:6,10
trial 11:16 68:5,10 127:11	turned 85:11 turnover 86:13	unanswered 89:4	unique 95:7,19 104:6 137:4
trials 27:17		unbranded 94:22	United 35:22
45:15,20 tricky 177:18	Twenty-five 97:15 twice 78:11 84:6	uncertainty 67:3 78:7 106:6	68:20 95:16 111:15,20
tried 173:14 trigger 11:19,22	87:11 twofold 56:18,22	uncommon 62:13 179:6	126:12 127:2,12 132:9
trimester 52:21	57:13 160:18	unconditional	universal 155:11
53:1 54:2 56:16	Tylenol 143:13	56:12 57:6	University 21:7
98:12,14,15	type 29:18 74:2	under-	22:7 25:1
99:2,6,14 100:8 161:18,20	75:13 96:2,5,21 118:13	ascertainment 63:17	unknown 153:4 162:16
trimesters 99:6	types 74:8	understand	unknowns 162:16
Trinka 2:8 21:16	typewriting 191:7	10:4,18 15:6 126:15 129:14	Unless 55:21
141:9 174:12 tripled 145:14	typical 50:21 178:14 180:20	151:15 153:12	unnecessarily
true 46:5 81:4 139:11 156:8 191:8 truly 133:20 139:7	typically 45:15 46:1,10 48:22 51:18 62:8 149:21	186:11 understanding 14:19 31:5 88:9 102:10 106:15 176:11 186:20	66:13 unplanned 10:9 unrealistic 145:3 untreated 94:9
172:16	typo 70:13	understated	unvalidated
truncation 51:9	T T	164:10	142:15
58:7	U U.K 47:13	understood 66:11	unwilling 134:11
Truvada 36:21	U•IX 77.13		

	Pag	10	
update 27:5 119:2	123:3,7 130:5	Varivax 37:4	113:16
updated 106:8	137:5,10 138:22	38:21	volunteer 54:18
upon 178:19	161:17	varying 94:21	volunteers 63:2
182:20	vaccines 5:13 10:1	153:9	VSDs 79:22
upper 144:15	11:21 36:7 37:5,7 39:1	VEACH 192:2,11	166:14
usable 145:9	91:1,7 108:10,13	verbal 69:4	
usage 30:10	109:14,18,19,22	version 35:4	<u>W</u>
C	113:5 115:14	versions 95:1,14	wait 37:12 60:22
useful 10:4 30:2 45:8 112:3	116:9	versus 56:22 62:11	87:4 159:15
145:2,4,21	valid 11:7 48:10	65:4 70:22 83:9	163:1 181:16
users 24:11	136:10	84:17,18 93:17	waiting 82:4
	validated 49:20	103:20 105:22	walk 112:6
usually 27:16,21 30:3 45:10 72:16	validity 45:1	107:8 147:18	Walking 121:15
88:1 114:5,13,22	101:18 170:16 186:6	152:8 161:4 176:2	warm 143:22
115:12 116:6	valproate 81:14	via 3:13 6:14	warrant 99:12
117:10,21 118:22	85:11	117:18 131:16	123:5
119:10,11,14	valproic 55:13	Vicki 3:8 4:3 6:3	wary 177:10
120:18 121:12	165:1	23:6 26:21	wasn't 57:21 154:6
134:16 135:3	valuable 100:16	131:12	ways 15:22
171:5	159:8	view 65:11 102:2	17:16,17,18
utility 106:18	value 91:4 164:11	127:18 150:2	34:15 90:17
168:18	165:3	186:3,7,16	114:2 116:18 123:3 124:3
utilization 101:11 106:1 141:20	VAMPSS 22:10	views 14:16	125:9,20 141:3
100.1 141.20	25:2	vigorously 83:14	wear 148:22
V	variable 179:13	villus 50:14	web 65:3 115:1
VA 141:11	variables 68:10	Viread 38:19	web-based
vaccine 25:16,17	variation 45:12	virtually 184:6	125:11,18
38:18,21 48:17	76:4	Virus 37:6	129:16
95:18 108:16	variations 132:11	Virus-Containing	webcast 6:14
109:3,6,9 110:4,8	varicella 37:6	39:1	131:16
110:4,8	38:22 109:19	vital 105:15	webpage 7:14
112:1,8	varies 147:7	vitamin 50:5	22:18 40:11
113:6,14,22	variety 14:11	vitamins 143:13	website 32:4,9,17
114:8,17,20	32:7,15 189:5	voice 144:4	33:22 34:4 49:5
116:13,19 118:7 120:6,15	various 103:14	Volume 1:11	52:1 115:11,22 116:12
120:0,13	128:21		websites
		voluntary 10:21	websites

	1 ag	e 46	
115:6,7,11	34:15,18,20	50:10,22	102:19 104:14
Wednesday 1:12	35:19 42:11 48:8	51:10,12,17,20	140:21 141:10
ľ	58:5 82:19 85:17	52:2,8,9,13,22	155:10,13,14
week 83:3	88:21 104:15	53:8,10,15	160:22 171:12
weeks 52:13 56:1	117:19 126:11	54:6,15,16,22	worked 20:17
75:5 133:5,15,21	131:22 140:2	55:7 56:15 57:2	86:13 87:19
weight 150:3	141:13 144:5	58:5,8 60:17	91:4,7 148:4
S	164:22 165:14	63:2 65:2,12	153:9
welcome 4:2 6:2,9 8:19	183:7 186:21	66:7 68:19	working 17:13
	White 1:15 25:5	69:16,17 70:15	31:16 135:6
we'll 17:2 19:14	whole 14:7 15:1	76:2,3 79:9	168:18 180:7
26:9 27:4,6	45:16 184:19	80:6,7,10,12	
100:17 104:2	188:16	81:18 83:8,9	workshop 8:20
well-documented	whom 191:2	84:16 87:7 89:16 90:7 93:3,7	13:20
174:4		95:5,20 110:1	world 16:14
we're 14:10,15	whose 85:9 187:7	113:16 116:8	128:21 168:1
15:18 17:22 64:3	191:4	121:5 135:21	worried 135:22
67:19 68:12	wide 14:11,15 32:7	137:13,18 138:5	136:3 137:20
78:9,10 111:12	57:13 61:17	139:7 142:22	152:6 160:9
113:12 122:15	80:16	143:3,19 144:15	worry 50:21
125:7,10,21	widely 153:9	145:13 147:11	135:12 145:12
126:7 127:5,21	184:18	150:12	152:12 178:14
130:1,8 135:4		151:7,13,15	180:11
138:11 144:5	willing 87:10	152:5 153:22	
145:22	Wilson 189:9	154:16 155:7,12	worse 180:9
146:7,9,15	window 161:21	159:3 170:4,10	Wrap-up 5:19
154:10 160:11	witness 191:4,6,9	172:22 173:1	188:3
164:12 187:20	, ,	181:3,4,8 187:17	wrestle 74:20
190:6	woman 53:13	Women's 22:13,17	75:19
Westgate 77:2	68:18,22 69:20	32:4,17 40:11	writing 88:16
we've 136:18	70:21,22 82:3	71:4 77:3	105:9
176:18	83:1,2 84:9 132:22 133:14	wonder 131:22	written 135:20
whatever 85:3	136:15 178:10	152:13	
88:8,9 138:2			wrote 168:4
152:19 161:11	woman's 135:17	wondered 89:22	
167:19	women 10:2,22	125:2	<u>Y</u>
	27:4,16,21	wonderful 160:6	Yao 3:10 4:10
whatnot 68:6	28:3,14,16	wondering 66:3	19:4,9,11
135:13	29:6,19 32:2	153:13	25:3,18 26:2
Whereupon 190:9	41:19,20 42:16	work 19:15	124:10 146:5
wherever 90:15	45:15,21 46:2,21	20:8,15 22:9	yearly 89:22
whether 32:20	48:3,13,14,20,21	24:5 49:8 67:16	yet 75:9
WHETHER 32.20	49:15,19	83:12 87:14	yet 13.7

Page 47			
yourself 25:20			
yourselves 26:7			
you've 91:10 136:8 159:5 166:22 167:4 178:10			
Zostavax 37:5 38:21 Zoster 37:6 39:1			
Zoster 37:0 39:1			