



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

DATE: January 2, 2008

TO: Randall W. Lutter, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner for Policy
Food and Drug Administration

THROUGH: Vince Tolino /s/
Director, Ethics and Integrity Staff
Office of Management Programs
Office of Management

Michael F. Ortwerth, Ph.D. /s/
Deputy Director, Advisory Committee Oversight and Management Staff
Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness

FROM: William Freas, Ph.D. /s/
Director, Division of Scientific Advisors and Consultants
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

SUBJECT: 712(c)(2)(B) Conflict of Interest Waiver for John Modlin, M.D.

I am writing to request a waiver for Dr. John Modlin, a member of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, from the conflict of interest prohibitions of section 712(c)(2)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Waivers under section 712(c)(2)(B) may be granted by the appointing official where "necessary to afford the advisory committee essential expertise" and where the individual has made a disclosure to FDA of the financial interests at issue. We have determined that you are the appointing official for purposes of section 712(c)(2)(B). Therefore, you have the authority to grant Dr. Modlin a waiver under section 712(c)(2)(B).

Section 712(c)(2)(A) prohibits Federal executive branch employees, including special Government employees, from participating in any particular matter in which the employee or an immediate family member has a financial interest that could be affected by the advice given to the FDA with respect to the matter. Because Dr. Modlin is a special Government employee, he is under a statutory obligation to refrain from participating in any deliberations that involve a particular matter having a direct and predictable effect on a financial interest attributable to him.

The function of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is, as stated in its Charter, to advise the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration in discharging responsibilities as they relate to assuring safe and effective biological products for human use and, as required, any other product for which the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory responsibility.

Dr. Modlin has been asked to participate in the February 20-21, 2008 meeting of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting. Topic 1, the Committee will discuss and make recommendations on the safety and efficacy of a rotavirus vaccine, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline. Topic 2, the Committee will discuss strain selection for influenza virus vaccine for the 2008 – 2009 season. Topic 3, the Committee will discuss clinical development of influenza vaccines for pre-pandemic uses.

These matters are coming before an advisory committee of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee. Topic 1 is a particular matter involving specific parties. Topic 2 and Topic 3 are particular matters of general applicability.

Dr. Modlin has advised the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that he has a financial interest that could potentially be affected by his participation in the matters described above. Dr. Modlin is a consultant for [REDACTED]. He is Chair of the Data Safety Monitoring Board on Human Papillomavirus on Clinical Trials. He has received no remuneration. The consulting is unrelated to the topics. Dr. Modlin is also a member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board with [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. He received [REDACTED] on August 2007.

As a member of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting, Dr. Modlin could become involved in matters that could affect his financial interests. Under section 712(c)(2)(A), he is prohibited from participating in such matters. However, as noted above, you have the authority under section 712(c)(2)(B) to grant a waiver permitting Dr. Modlin to participate in such matters if necessary to afford this committee essential expertise.

For the following reasons, I believe that it would be appropriate for you to grant a waiver to Dr. John Modlin that would allow him to participate fully in the matter described because his voting participation is necessary to afford the committee essential expertise.

First, the waiver is justified because the Committee has a special need for Dr. Modlin's service because of his unique expertise, experience, and viewpoints with respect to the issue before the Committee. Dr. Modlin is Professor of Pediatrics, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He is a pediatrician and virologist, with expertise in pediatric virology, and is a leading childhood infectious diseases expert. He specializes in viral vaccines and virology. Since the topics before the Committee include an influenza vaccine that will be administered to the pediatric population and a pediatric rotavirus vaccine, I believe Dr. Modlin's participation will contribute to the diversity of expertise and viewpoints represented and will help provide a foundation for developing advice and recommendations that are fair and comprehensive.

