



**Southern**  
 Illinois University  
 School of Medicine

Physicians & Surgeons  
 December 14, 2006

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Stephen P. Stone, M.D.

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**Food and Drug Administration**

ATTN: Division of Dockets Management

5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, HFA-301

Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket number 1978N-0065, RIN 0910-AF53

As a practitioner with 30 years experience in dermatology, I write in opposition to the proposed actions with respect to hydroquinone. Hydroquinone is one of the most effective molecules for the treatment of dark discoloration over the past 40-50 years and has been used in millions of people – hundreds in my own practice. It is used to treat some of the top concerns among our patients, especially people of color, including melasma, photo-aging, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, medically and cosmetic disfiguring dyschromias.

Since 1961, hydroquinone has been used safely and effectively by those of us prescribing or recommending hydroquinone products. In spite of humans' exposure to natural sources of hydroquinone in wheat, pears, berries, coffee, tea, onions, rice and red wine, there is not an association with carcinogenicity. There have been no reported cases of related malignancies in more than 50 years of manufacture and use of HQ.

For all the above reasons, I believe the proposed actions are inappropriate and premature, and request such actions be deferred.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Stone, M.D.  
 Professor  
 Division of Dermatology

SPS/pb

**Department of Internal Medicine**

**Division of Dermatology**

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