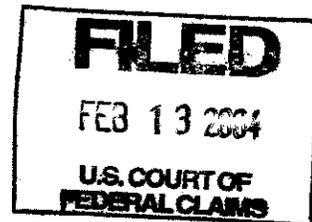


In the United States Court of Federal Claims

ORIGINAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

(Filed: February 13, 2004)



IN RE: CLAIMS FOR VACCINE INJURIES *
RESULTING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM *
DISORDER OR A SIMILAR *
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER *

VARIOUS PETITIONERS, *

v. *

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND *
HUMAN SERVICES, *

Respondent. *

AUTISM MASTER FILE

SCHEDULING ORDER

An unrecorded telephonic status conference was held on February 12, 2004. Participating were Thomas Powers for the petitioners, along with Vincent Matanoski and Mark Raby for the respondent. Pursuant to discussion at that conference, I hereby note as follows.

1. The status conference previously scheduled for February 13, 2004, is hereby cancelled.
2. Due to the fact that the third batch of uncontested pages of the Merck "Hepatitis B" PLA (approximately 3200 pages) has not yet been turned over to petitioners, Mr. Powers requested a delay in the due date for filing the petitioners' filing concerning the "necessity" issue with respect to the pending Merck discovery request. (That filing had been due on February 12, 2004.) I granted the request. We already have on the schedule a status conference for February 19, 2004. At that time, we will discuss a new due date for the petitioners' "necessity" filing.
3. The date of March 2, 2004, is still set aside on my calendar for oral argument. At the February 19 conference, we will discuss whether that date should be delayed.

George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master