

ORIGINAL
In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

(Filed: February 9, 2004)

FILED
FEB - 9 2004
**U.S. COURT OF
FEDERAL CLAIMS**

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 5, 2004. Participating were Michael Williams, Thomas Powers, and Ghada Anis for the petitioners, along with Vincent Matanoski for the respondent. Pursuant to discussion at that conference, I hereby note as follows.

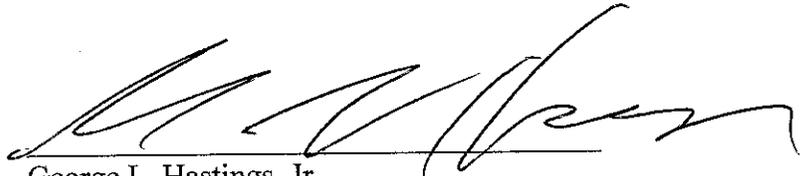
1. Merck discovery

A status conference, involving only the respondent and the petitioners' attorneys, has been scheduled for February 13, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern (noon Pacific) time, to discuss the disclosure issue only.

2. Discovery from respondent

The parties have agreed that the date for the petitioners' "motion to compel" concerning the Thimerosal Screening Analysis (TSA), as well as other issues concerning the request for discovery from the government, shall be extended to March 8, 2004. The respondent's response thereto will

be due on April 23, 2004, and the petitioners' reply will be due on May 7, 2004. In addition, the week of June 7, 2004, has been set aside for an evidentiary hearing concerning the TSA issue, and possibly other issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. L. Hastings, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master