Author's response to reviews

Title: Long-term retention on treatment with lumiracoxib 100 mg once or twice daily compared with celecoxib 200 mg once daily: a randomised controlled trial in patients with osteoarthritis [NCT00145301]

Authors:

   Roy Fleischmann (RFleischmann@arthsdocs.com)
   Hyman Tannenbaum (hyman_tannenbaum@sympatico.ca)
   Neha P Patel (nehap.patel@novartis.com)
   Marianne Notter (marianne.notter@novartis.com)
   Peter Sallstig (peter.sallstig@novartis.com)
   Jean-Yves Reginster (jyreginster@ulg.ac.be)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Norton

Re: Long-term retention on treatment with lumiracoxib 100 mg once or twice daily compared with celecoxib 200 mg once daily: a randomised controlled trial in patients with osteoarthritis [NCT00145301]

We would be grateful for your consideration of the above manuscript for publication in *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders*. This manuscript reports the findings of a randomised, double-blind trial comparing the 1-year retention on treatment rate of patients with osteoarthritis of the hip, knee, hand or spine taking lumiracoxib 100 mg once or twice daily, or celecoxib 200 mg once daily. Secondary variables included efficacy measures, safety and tolerability. The results show that retention on treatment rates with both doses of lumiracoxib were comparable to that seen with celecoxib.

Osteoarthritis is a chronic disease that often requires management for extended periods; it is therefore important to establish the long-term safety and efficacy of potential treatments. We believe that this manuscript is worthy of publication as it provides data from the first study to look prospectively at the long-term (1 year) efficacy and safety of lumiracoxib 100 mg once daily and lumiracoxib 100 mg twice daily in patients with osteoarthritis.

All authors were involved in drafting or critically revising the manuscript, have given final approval of the version to be published, and have disclosed any relevant competing interests.

We would like to suggest the following reviewers for this manuscript: *Roy Altman*, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA; raltman@mednet.ucla.edu  
*Maxime Dougados*, Hôpital Cochin, Paris, France; m.doug@cch.ap-hop.paris.fr  
*Alan Gibofsky*, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY, USA; gibofsky@hss.edu  
*Rollie Moskowitz*, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH, USA; rolliemoskowitz@aol.com

The trial is registered at clinicaltrials.gov and the registration number is NCT00145301.

Yours sincerely

Professor Roy Fleischmann