

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

AMGEN INC.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	Civil Action No.: 1:05-CV-12237 WGY
v.)	
)	
F. HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE LTD, a)	
Swiss Company, ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS)	
GMBH, a German Company, and)	
HOFFMANN LA ROCHE INC., a New)	
Jersey Corporation,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

**AMGEN’S RESPONSE TO ROCHE’S BENCH MEMORANDUM
TO PRECLUDE AMGEN FROM INTRODUCING TESTIMONY
RELATED TO PEGYLATION OF NON-EPO COMPOUNDS**

Roche motion to preclude the expert opinions of Dr. Lodisch and Dr. Torchilin on whether Roche’s pegylation process materially changes the claimed EPO fails to adequately acknowledge that this Court, on three occasions, addressed the issue regarding discovery into Amgen’s specific pegylation programs of non-EPO compounds and that these experts do not rely on any unproduced documents.

First, Amgen’s experts do not rely on any information that Amgen refused to produce in discovery.

Second, last May, Roche sought to strike and preclude Dr. Lodisch, Dr. Torchilin and another Amgen expert’s testimony, Dr. Katre, based on the same theory. The Court denied that motion to strike without prejudice, stating that “no witness may rely on evidence withheld from discovery.” Roche has not shown any reliance on withheld Amgen evidence, nor is there any.

Third, on January 3, 2007, the Court entered an order denying Roche’s far-ranging discovery requests into all other Amgen pegylation programs. The Court stated: “This case

involves EPO, including Pegylated EPO, not Other Pegylated Compounds.” Amgen properly withheld such documents on Amgen’s other pegylated proteins in light of the Court’s order. There is no discovery issue here.

Fourth, Roche mischaracterizes Amgen’s position in the original motion to compel. Contrary to Roche’s position, Amgen did not contend that pegylation or whether or not a protein could be pegylated was not relevant. Rather, what Amgen contended was that pegylation was well-known and established in that the scientific literature, and the burdensome and unfocused discovery requests aimed at hundreds of thousands of pages of Amgen documents failed to satisfy the requisites of Rule 26. Amgen statements to this Court included:

“Defendants argue that they are entitled to virtually all Amgen documents relating to pegylation of *any* substance. Defendants elevate “peg” over EPO, in an attempt to divert this Court’s attention away from the indisputable fact that their peg-EPO products contains EPO. EPO, not peg, is at the heart of this dispute.”¹

“Unfocused discovery into Amgen’s pegylation projects is unwarranted. There can be no dispute that *pegylation is a well-known and commonly used technique to increase the serum half-life of therapeutic proteins. Amgen-authored publications cited in Defendants’ Memorandum state as much.* Defendants’ representations in their BLA are not to the contrary.”²

“Defendants’ request, seeking *all* documents related to pegylating *any* “compound” (the “compounds” are not even limited to proteins) are unreasonably broad.”³

“*Defendants admit that pegylation is a standard technique, on which there is extensive scientific literature. There is no compelling justification to force Amgen to produce the enormous amounts of proprietary information on Amgen’s research and development of products other than EPO.*”⁴

Amgen was very clear that pegylation and the scientific literature in general was at issue, but that the relevance of Amgen work on non-EPO pegylated proteins did not justify the overbroad, unfocused and burdensome discovery that Roche sought. The Court agreed, denying Roche’s

¹ Docket 201 at 7 (Attachment 2, hereto).

² Docket 201 at 8 (emphasis added).

³ *Id.* at 8-9.

⁴ *Id.* at 10 (emphasis added).

Motion to Compel. All Amgen's experts rely upon is the very scientific literature that both parties informed the Court existed and was not at issue in the Motion to Compel the large quantity of Amgen proprietary documents.⁵

Roche's motion improperly and unconvincingly attempts to revise Amgen's position in opposing the Motion to Compel to be that pegylation in general is irrelevant, or that Amgen stated that general scientific knowledge of the pegylation arts and what it showed was irrelevant to the structure and function of peg-EPO -- a position *never* taken by Amgen. Rather, Amgen argued that document requests for *all* of its research and development documents relating to pegylation of *any* compound failed to satisfy Rule 26.⁶ Roche's motion is wrongfully aimed at prohibiting opinions of Amgen's experts (1) that are directly in line with Amgen's consistent statements regarding the well-known and common use of pegylation as established in the scientific literature, and (2) that rest on documents Amgen and Roche produced in discovery.

Fifth, Roche cites two instructions not to answer where Roche was seeking to question Dr. Mollineux about specific work he performed at Amgen on peg-GCSF that related to his article. Roche makes no showing that the questioning was related to peg-EPO, as counsel requested that Roche make at the deposition, consistent with the Court's January 3 Order. Moreover, Amgen's Experts in no way address or rely on the contents of the article.

In sum, Amgen provided discovery within the scope of the Court's Order, and Roche's attempt to prevent Amgen's experts from relying on the general pegylation literature and Roche's internal documents is without basis. The request to preclude should be denied, just as was done last Spring. For the convenience of the Court, Amgen attaches as exhibits hereto its previous three oppositions to Roche's various motions aimed at this issue as well as the Court's Orders of January 3, 2007, and May 16, 2007.

⁵ Roche did not then and has never since articulated any relevance for requests so overly broad and burdensome and did not move for reconsideration.

⁶ Docket 201 at 8-9.

DATED: October 3, 2007

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Respectfully Submitted,

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/s/ Michael R. Gottfried

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