

**DIRECT AS OF CROSS RE: SNODGRASS LETTER**  
**March 16, 2005**

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1 Q. Well, now, an increase in blood  
2 pressure from 100 to 150 to 170 -- that is to say,  
3 it starts at 100 and it goes to between 150 and 170,  
4 wouldn't that be the kind of thing that the folks at  
5 Merck would want to know about regarding somebody  
6 who is taking Vioxx? When I say "folks at Merck,"  
7 I'm not talking about the president of Merck  
8 Research Laboratories, I'm talking about the people  
9 at Merck who monitor reports from the field, so to  
10 speak, regarding patient experiences.

11 A. If it -- I mean, if this were a true  
12 finding, then, yes, that would be of interest.

13 Q. Right. Well, you don't have any  
14 reason to dispute that Deborah Dagit, co-employee at  
15 Merck, would be untruthful about her increase in  
16 blood pressure, would you?

17 A. Oh, I would not have any reason to  
18 expect her to be untruthful.

19 Q. So, wouldn't you have --

20 A. And I --

21 Q. I'm sorry. Were you finished?

22 A. No. I don't have a reason -- I would  
23 be -- I would question whether or not this was an  
24 accurate statement.

25 Q. Well, you would question it, but you

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1 proper department have been told about this fact?

2 A. I don't think that that's -- I don't  
3 think so.

4 Q. Now, let me ask you, sir, about  
5 another communication that you got. This one is  
6 from a doctor at UCLA, Dr. Snodgrass. You got it in  
7 2004, but somewhat earlier in the year, January 12th  
8 of 2004. I've marked it as P-38.

9 - - -

10 (Whereupon, Deposition Exhibit Kim-38,  
11 Letter 12-30-04, MRK-AFJ0009967, was  
12 marked for identification.)

13 - - -

14 (Witness reviewing document.)

15 BY MR. SPECTER:

16 Q. Take a minute and read it, if you  
17 would.

18 A. Thank you.

19 Q. I see you're doing that. Take your  
20 time.

21 A. Okay. I've read it now.

22 Q. Actually, I'm maybe a little bit  
23 confused here. He dates the letter as December 30,  
24 2004. Your stamp in your office has it received  
25 January 12, 2004. Obviously, one of those things

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1 didn't question it, did you, sir?

2 A. Not to my recollection.

3 Q. Did you have anybody at Merck  
4 question it?

5 A. I do not believe so.

6 Q. Well, shouldn't you have?

7 A. I don't think so, because she is  
8 being treated by a physician.

9 Q. No, sir. The physician isn't able to  
10 decide whether this is a complication that merits  
11 changing a warning label or taking the drug off the  
12 market or doing a study; correct?

13 MR. KIERNAN: Object to the form.

14 THE WITNESS: The physician is  
15 treating the patient.

16 BY MR. SPECTER:

17 Q. Right. But I'm talking about, Merck  
18 wants to know if people are having complications  
19 while on Vioxx; don't they?

20 A. Yes, we do.

21 Q. This is a complication; right?

22 MR. KIERNAN: Object to the form.

23 THE WITNESS: I don't know that.

24 BY MR. SPECTER:

25 Q. Shouldn't somebody at Merck in the

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1 would be incorrect. Is that right?

2 A. I would assume.

3 Q. Which do you think is wrong? Do you  
4 think he's wrong on his date or are you wrong on  
5 your date?

6 A. I would assume that the stamp that my  
7 office put on here did not change the date from '04  
8 to '05 in early January.

9 Q. I have the same problem in my office.

10 But this fellow was writing to you,  
11 and he identifies himself as an academic physician  
12 who sees many migraine patients and makes extensive  
13 use of NSAIDs; correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. He says he's not against business or  
16 against Merck, he owns Merck stock, he knew Ed  
17 Scolnick when he was a medical resident at Mass  
18 General; correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. He characterizes your letter to the  
21 New England Journal of Medicine as being  
22 "self-serving." Is that right?

23 A. Yes, he does.

24 Q. And he said, "The coxibs looked good  
25 in the... '90s, in theory. Ulcers and GI bleeding

71 (Pages 576 to 579)

ESQUIRE DEPOSITION SERVICES

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1 limit use of the current NSAIDs. Most patients with  
2 chronic arthritis and related conditions are  
3 elderly; many have obvious cardiovascular disease.  
4 These are the people that one would expect to try  
5 any new 'wonder drug' for pain and that's what  
6 happened with the COX-2 inhibitors." Did I read the  
7 second and third sentences of the second paragraph  
8 correctly?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. Are those true statements?  
11 A. Umm.  
12 Q. We can break it out one statement at  
13 a time if you'd like. That may be easier.  
14 A. Okay.  
15 Q. "Most patients with chronic arthritis  
16 and related conditions are elderly." Is that true?  
17 A. I mean, I think that that's a  
18 generalization, and it depends on what you mean by  
19 "elderly," but it is true that as the population  
20 ages, the percentage of people that have arthritis  
21 goes up.  
22 Q. He then says that, "Many have obvious  
23 cardiovascular disease." Is that also true?  
24 A. I don't think so.  
25 Q. He then says that --

1 A. Well, excuse me. "Many," I mean,  
2 many is -- it depends on what he means by "many."  
3 Q. I want to know whether you agree with  
4 it.  
5 A. So, in the first part of the sentence  
6 he says "most" and then he switches to "many."  
7 Q. Well, he's talking about -- he's  
8 advancing two different concepts; isn't he? The  
9 first concept he's advancing is that "most patients  
10 with chronic arthritis and related conditions are  
11 elderly." The second concept is that many of those  
12 people have obvious cardiovascular disease.  
13 A. I'm not sure. It depends what was  
14 meant by "many."  
15 Q. He then says, "These are the people  
16 that one would expect to try any new 'wonder drug'  
17 for pain." Do you agree with that?  
18 A. No, not as is characterized.  
19 Q. Well, maybe you don't agree with the  
20 characterization, but is there an underlying truth  
21 to his statement?  
22 MR. KIERNAN: Object to the form.  
23 THE WITNESS: There's an underlying  
24 problem with the statement in that it's not up to  
25 these people to decide whether or not they're going

1 to try a new drug. It's up to their physician to  
2 decide whether or not to prescribe a new drug.  
3 BY MR. SPECTER:  
4 Q. Isn't the truth of the matter the way  
5 it really works out there in America, sir, is that  
6 Merck puts ads on television in the hopes that it is  
7 going to convince patients to ask for Vioxx, not  
8 that it is going to convince doctors to prescribe  
9 Vioxx?  
10 A. I don't know that.  
11 Q. Well, do you know one way or the  
12 other?  
13 A. I know that Vioxx was a drug that  
14 required a physician's prescription.  
15 Q. What do you think of  
16 direct-to-consumer advertising, Dr. Kim?  
17 A. I think that direct-to-consumer  
18 advertising is something that is a complicated issue  
19 and that there are clear cases where it is a  
20 beneficial thing.  
21 Q. Well, what do you think of it with  
22 Vioxx, sir? Good idea? Bad idea? Indifferent?  
23 A. I'm really not -- I don't have a  
24 strong opinion. I don't have an opinion really on  
25 that.

1 Q. Well, when you saw those ads on TV  
2 with Dorothy Hamill -- did you ever see those ads on  
3 TV, sir?  
4 A. I saw the ad with Dorothy Hamill.  
5 Q. Did you cringe, sir?  
6 MR. KIERNAN: Object to the form of  
7 the argument.  
8 THE WITNESS: I did not cringe.  
9 BY MR. SPECTER:  
10 Q. Did you have a reaction to it at all?  
11 A. I had a reaction that I recognized  
12 that it was a commercial for Vioxx.  
13 Q. Any other reaction, aside from  
14 recognizing that it was a commercial for your  
15 employer?  
16 A. I did not have any other reaction  
17 that is significant.  
18 Q. Well, I will and the jury will judge  
19 what is significant. I want to know if you had any  
20 other reaction, sir.  
21 MR. KIERNAN: Counsel, I think it's  
22 about time for a break. You're just arguing with  
23 the witness now.  
24 MR. SPECTER: Let's get the question  
25 answered and then we'll take a break.

1 THE WITNESS: As I said, I had a  
2 reaction that it was a commercial for Vioxx.  
3 BY MR. SPECTER:  
4 Q. What other reaction did you have,  
5 sir, whether significant or otherwise?  
6 A. I don't think there was any other  
7 reaction.  
8 MR. SPECTER: May I finish this  
9 letter and then we'll take a break?  
10 MR. KIERNAN: If it's just going to  
11 be more jury arguments, let's just take a break and  
12 you can make your jury arguments when we come back.  
13 MR. SPECTER: We'll have to argue  
14 about what I'm doing by way of my questioning.  
15 MR. KIERNAN: Let's take a break.  
16 THE VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Stand by,  
17 please. That concludes Video Cassette Number 3.  
18 The time is 4:00 p.m. We're going off the record.  
19 - - -  
20 (Whereupon, there was a recess from  
21 4:00 p.m. until 4:13 p.m.)  
22 - - -  
23 MR. KIERNAN: For the record, we had  
24 a Notice of Deposition, a document request in this  
25 case from Alabama counsel during the first day of

1 the deposition. A formal objection to the Request  
2 for Production of Documents associated with that  
3 Notice of Deposition has been filed today on the  
4 grounds that the document request is untimely. I  
5 believe it's the Rogers case, and it was a notice  
6 that was provided by Mr. Allen on day one.  
7 MR. SPECTER: Let's just note for the  
8 record there's no Alabama counsel present in the  
9 room.  
10 MR. KIERNAN: Right. It appears that  
11 Alabama counsel left, I believe, yesterday at some  
12 point.  
13 MR. MEADOW: This morning. He was  
14 here this morning. He left.  
15 MR. KIERNAN: It looks like Alabama  
16 counsel was here this morning and has now departed,  
17 but we've made this note for the record.  
18 Thank you.  
19 THE VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: This  
20 begins Video Cassette Number 4. The time is 4:13.  
21 We're back on the record.  
22 BY MR. SPECTER:  
23 Q. Dr. Kim, I have one other area  
24 regarding this letter from Dr. Snodgrass from UCLA  
25 that I want to ask you about, and that's at the

1 bottom paragraph. He says that he saw two patients  
2 with migraine with aura" who had strokes while  
3 taking 25 milligram Vioxx daily, that they were aged  
4 17 years of age and 24 years of age, respectively.  
5 He says he doesn't know if Vioxx caused their  
6 stroke, but none of his patients taking naproxen  
7 have had strokes. Do you see those statements?  
8 A. I see those sentences you're  
9 referring to.  
10 Q. Do you have a recollection of getting  
11 this letter? It would have come into you two months  
12 ago.  
13 A. I have a vague recollection.  
14 Q. Did you respond to it?  
15 A. I do not believe I responded to it.  
16 Q. Well, actually, it says here in your  
17 handwriting "File." Correct?  
18 A. That's what it says.  
19 Q. That means put it in the file; is  
20 that right?  
21 A. That's correct.  
22 Q. Then there's something called a  
23 "Privilege Redaction" above that. Do you see that  
24 there, sir?  
25 A. I see that.

1 Q. Do you understand that there's  
2 something called an attorney-client privilege? Is  
3 that correct? Are you aware of that?  
4 A. I'm aware of something called the  
5 attorney-client privilege.  
6 Q. Did you send a copy of this letter to  
7 your lawyers?  
8 A. I don't recall.  
9 Q. Well, did you send this letter over  
10 to the people who monitor adverse events? I mean,  
11 here you have two patients, 17 and 24 years old for  
12 whom there had been a report of strokes while taking  
13 Vioxx.  
14 A. I did not send a copy of this letter  
15 over to people who monitor adverse events. If Dr.  
16 Snodgrass reported these events, they would have  
17 made it into the Merck adverse event files.  
18 Q. Well, he appears to have reported  
19 them to the president of Merck Research  
20 Laboratories; right?  
21 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
22 BY MR. SPECTER:  
23 Q. Is that correct?  
24 A. This is not -- I would not view this  
25 as reporting to me. The reporting of adverse events

1 that physicians do has a specific form, and it comes  
2 into the adverse event department of Merck.  
3 Q. So, if he doesn't use the right form  
4 and send the right form to the right place, then  
5 there's not going to be any followup on reports of  
6 strokes in young people? Is that correct?  
7 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
8 THE WITNESS: The way in which  
9 adverse events are collected on drugs that we market  
10 is through an adverse event reporting system in  
11 which the physicians report such adverse events.  
12 MR. MEADOW: Objection,  
13 nonresponsive.  
14 BY MR. SPECTER:  
15 Q. Let's say he did it wrong. Let's say  
16 he just didn't send the right form and didn't send  
17 it to the right place. You know about it. You're  
18 the president of Merck Research Laboratories.  
19 Shouldn't you be telling the people who monitor  
20 adverse events about it?  
21 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
22 THE WITNESS: Again, the mechanism  
23 for reporting adverse events is one that physicians  
24 should be aware of, and it is an adverse event  
25 reporting system that comes into Merck.

1 MR. MEADOW: Objection,  
2 nonresponsive.  
3 BY MR. SPECTER:  
4 Q. Dr. Kim, if he did it wrong, so what.  
5 You've got two young people with strokes.  
6 Shouldn't adverse reporting in Merck know about  
7 this?  
8 MR. KIERNAN: Counsel, I think you're  
9 just arguing with the witness. He's already  
10 answered your question.  
11 THE WITNESS: Again, the adverse  
12 events come through the adverse event reporting  
13 system.  
14 BY MR. SPECTER:  
15 Q. So, your assumption, just so we're  
16 clear, is that nothing was done at Merck in followup  
17 on these two reports; is that correct?  
18 MR. KIERNAN: Object to form.  
19 THE WITNESS: I don't know that.  
20 BY MR. SPECTER:  
21 Q. You did nothing in followup; correct?  
22 A. I do not believe I did anything.  
23 Q. Except for putting the word "file" on  
24 the top of the letter and making some entry for  
25 which your lawyers have taped a piece of black tape

1 and typed the words "privilege redaction." Correct?  
2 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
3 THE WITNESS: I don't know how -- I  
4 don't know who put the black tape there. I know  
5 that it does say the word "file."  
6 BY MR. SPECTER:  
7 Q. When you go down and talk to the FDA,  
8 are you planning to tell the FDA about these events?  
9 A. When I go down to the FDA, I will be  
10 going down to the FDA with the data that was in our  
11 clinical trials and in our adverse events.  
12 Q. So, if this data doesn't get into  
13 your adverse events file by a correct form being  
14 supplied by Dr. Snodgrass, it won't be discussed; is  
15 that correct?  
16 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
17 THE WITNESS: Even if it were, it  
18 would be as part of an overall adverse event  
19 profile.  
20 BY MR. SPECTER:  
21 Q. Dr. Reicin is also a recipient of  
22 this; is that correct?  
23 A. Well, the letter is addressed to Dr.  
24 Reicin as well.  
25 Q. Did you discuss this letter with her?

1 A. Not that I recall.  
2 - - -  
3 (Whereupon, Deposition Exhibit Kim-39,  
4 E-mails, MRK-AFJ0008381 -  
5 MRK-AFJ0008382, was marked for  
6 identification.)  
7 - - -  
8 BY MR. SPECTER:  
9 Q. Take a look at this document, please,  
10 Kim-34 -- not Kim-34. I'm not sure what we're up  
11 to. 39. I apologize. This is an e-mail that was  
12 sent to you on August 27, 2004 by a Ph.D. retired  
13 former Merck Research Labs vice president named  
14 Richard A. Dybas. Did I pronounce that correctly?  
15 A. I have no idea.  
16 Q. Do you know him?  
17 A. I do not.  
18 Q. How many vice presidents does Merck  
19 Research Labs have?  
20 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
21 THE WITNESS: Oh, I see. This is a  
22 retired former MRL vice president.  
23 BY MR. SPECTER:  
24 Q. Right. How many vice presidents does  
25 Merck Research Laboratories have?

**DIRECT RE: SNODGRASS LETTER**

**June 8, 2005**



1 MR. SPECTER: Objection, testifying.  
 2 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.  
 3 BY MR. KIERNAN:  
 4 Q. Can you put these numbers into  
 5 perspective for us?  
 6 MR. BUCHANAN: Objection, form.  
 7 MR. MEADOW: Objection, form.  
 8 THE WITNESS: Sure. When we're  
 9 talking about blood pressure, the numbers that we're  
 10 talking about are the increases in what's called the  
 11 systolic blood pressure or the first number that one  
 12 hears when one is referring to a blood pressure. To  
 13 put that in perspective, for example, normal blood  
 14 pressure is considered to be blood pressures of up  
 15 to 120 millimeters of mercury for the systolic blood  
 16 pressure. And so in the example you just gave, if  
 17 you were dealing with a person who had a normal  
 18 blood pressure of 120, in one group that would go up  
 19 to approximately 121, and the other group it would  
 20 go up to approximately 124. So, there would be --  
 21 that would be the difference in blood pressure that  
 22 we're talking about between the two groups.  
 23 BY MR. KIERNAN:  
 24 Q. Is this a 450 percent increase, as  
 25 counsel suggested?

1 MR. MEADOW: Objection, form.  
 2 THE WITNESS: No, it's not.  
 3 BY MR. KIERNAN:  
 4 Q. Now, you received a letter from a Dr.  
 5 Snodgrass at UCLA describing two patients had who  
 6 had migraines with aura. Do you recall that  
 7 discussion?  
 8 A. Yes, I do.  
 9 Q. In his letter Dr. Snodgrass said that  
 10 he did not know whether the events he described had  
 11 anything to do with Vioxx. Do you recall that?  
 12 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.  
 13 MR. MEADOW: Objection, leading.  
 14 BY MR. KIERNAN:  
 15 Q. Now, counsel asked you if you  
 16 forwarded this letter to the folks at Merck who  
 17 monitor adverse events. Do you recall that  
 18 question?  
 19 A. Yes, I do.  
 20 Q. You indicated that you had not?  
 21 A. That's correct.  
 22 Q. Following your deposition on March  
 23 30, 2004, did you do any followup?  
 24 A. Yes, I did. I went to Dr. Peter  
 25 Honig, who reports to me and to whom the adverse

1 event reporting group reports ultimately up to, and  
 2 I asked him what would be his advice in terms of  
 3 what I should do if I were to receive a letter in  
 4 which a potential side effect of a Merck drug was  
 5 disclosed to me. And his advice was that I should  
 6 send it to the head of the adverse event reporting  
 7 group, and that is a doctor called Dr. Linda  
 8 Hostelley.  
 9 And so, following that, what I did  
 10 was to instruct my staff to go through my  
 11 correspondence and to look for any correspondence  
 12 which contained information or potential side  
 13 effects with Merck drugs and to forward any and all  
 14 of that correspondence to Dr. Hostelley in the  
 15 adverse event department.  
 16 I also learned that there is, in  
 17 fact, a formal procedure and policy around all of  
 18 this at Merck for all employees at Merck in terms of  
 19 what they should do when they receive information  
 20 about a potential adverse event for a Merck drug.  
 21 So, following being briefed on that policy and  
 22 procedures, what I did to make sure that everyone on  
 23 my staff was aware of those policies, was I actually  
 24 requested that Dr. Hostelley come to my staff  
 25 meeting, and she spent about 30 minutes working

1 through and describing the background and what the  
 2 procedures are for such events were one to get  
 3 information about a potential side effect of a Merck  
 4 drug, as well as I asked her to have a meeting with  
 5 all of the administrative assistants for myself and  
 6 my staff in order to explain the procedures so that  
 7 as correspondence or letters come in from the  
 8 outside that the administrative assistants see, they  
 9 will also be alerted as to what the policies and  
 10 procedures should be followed.  
 11 MR. MEADOW: Objection,  
 12 nonresponsive.  
 13 MR. KIERNAN: Thank you very much,  
 14 Dr. Kim, that's all I have at this time.  
 15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
 16 MR. KIERNAN: Shall we take a short  
 17 break?  
 18 MR. SPECTER: That will be fine.  
 19 THE VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Stand by,  
 20 please. The time is 11:54. We're going off the  
 21 record.  
 22 - - -  
 23 (Whereupon, a recess was taken from  
 24 11:54 a.m. until 12:10 p.m.)  
 25 - - -

**RECROSS RE: SNODGRASS LETTER**  
**June 8, 2005**



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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 992</p> <p>1 THE VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: This 2 begins Video Cassette Number 2. The time is 12:10. 3 We're back on the record. 4 - - - 5 EXAMINATION 6 - - - 7 BY MR. SPECTER: 8 Q. Dr. Kim, good afternoon. 9 A. Good afternoon. 10 Q. Shanin Specter, we've met before. 11 Dr. Kim, I want to start with what 12 you were questioned about last during your counsel's 13 direct of you, which was this letter from Dr. 14 Snodgrass that was received by you on, I think you 15 told us, January 12, 2005, Dr. Snodgrass being a 16 physician at the University of California in Los 17 Angeles. Do you recollect that letter being 18 discussed with you a few minutes ago and also some 19 weeks ago when we discussed this matter? 20 A. Yes, I do. 21 Q. Do you recollect that the letter 22 contained a report from Dr. Snodgrass that two 23 patients that he saw with migraines who had been 24 prescribed Vioxx who were aged 17 and 24 had had 25 strokes? Do you recollect that?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 994</p> <p>1 receives a letter or information about a potential 2 adverse event, that it should be forwarded to the 3 adverse event department. 4 Q. So, that means this letter should 5 have been sent down to the adverse event department 6 in January of 2005; correct? 7 A. Assuming that that's when I received 8 that letter, that would have been the policy and 9 procedures to follow. 10 Q. Now, you'd been working at Merck for 11 four years and two months exactly when I asked you 12 about this on March 30th of 2005; correct? 13 A. Correct. 14 Q. You did not know the relevant policy 15 until we discussed the issue on that date and then 16 thereafter when you asked about it; correct? 17 A. I'm sorry, when you said "thereafter 18 when you asked about it" -- 19 Q. Well, you did followup by asking your 20 colleague, Dr. Honig, what you should be doing; 21 correct? 22 A. That's correct. 23 Q. Is there a written policy with 24 respect to the obligation of all Merck employees, 25 including the president of Merck Research</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 993</p> <p>1 A. I don't recollect the details. If 2 you want to show me the letter, I'll be happy to 3 refresh my memory here. 4 Q. It is in the last paragraph, the 5 third sentence. 6 A. Yes. It says "Two patients I saw 7 with migraine with aura had strokes while taking 25 8 milligrams rofecoxib daily, aged 17 and 24. I don't 9 know if Vioxx caused their stroke, but none of my 10 patients taking naproxen have had strokes." 11 Q. Thank you. 12 Now, as I understand your testimony 13 from a few minutes ago, you did not know before you 14 answered my questions on March 30th of this year 15 that in point of fact, you should have sent this 16 letter down to the adverse event report department; 17 is that correct? 18 A. I think it's fair to say that that is 19 correct. I was not familiar with the exact details 20 of the procedures here. 21 Q. But, in fact, when you got this 22 letter in January 2005, you should have sent it down 23 to the adverse event report department; correct? 24 A. The policy and procedures at Merck 25 for Merck employees are that when any employee</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 995</p> <p>1 Laboratories, to provide to the adverse event 2 department any report of adverse incidence? 3 A. I'm not sure if there's a written 4 policy. What I am now aware of is that there is a 5 policy and procedures to be followed by all Merck 6 employees when they receive information about a 7 potential adverse event with a Merck product. 8 Q. Well, have you asked if there is a 9 written policy to that effect? 10 A. No. What I've done is to -- 11 Q. Sir, my only current question is, 12 have you asked if there is a written policy to that 13 effect? I think that question could be answered yes 14 or no. 15 A. No, I have not. 16 Q. Well, isn't it important for you to 17 know as the president of Merck Research 18 Laboratories, a person who describes himself as 19 being "responsible for the overall patient safety 20 associated with Merck's drugs" -- you did use those 21 words to describe yourself earlier today; correct? 22 A. That is correct. 23 Q. Isn't it important for a person who 24 is "responsible for the overall patient safety 25 associated with Merck's drugs" to know whether</p>

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1 there's a written policy at Merck requiring Merck  
2 employees to provide adverse incidence reports to  
3 the adverse event report department?  
4 A. I think the important thing for me to  
5 know is that such a policy exists and to take steps  
6 to ensure that that policy is followed. When I was  
7 made aware of the policy, I took steps to ensure  
8 that not only my staff, but also the administrative  
9 assistants of my staff, were aware of these  
10 policies.  
11 Q. Can you answer my question directly  
12 as to whether you believe you should know whether  
13 there's a written policy to that effect?  
14 A. I don't think it's critical that I  
15 know that there's a written policy to that effect.  
16 What is important is that I know that there are  
17 policies and procedures and that there are people in  
18 place to articulate and follow those policies.  
19 Q. Putting aside the question of whether  
20 you think it important to know whether there is a  
21 written policy on this subject, do you think that  
22 there should be a written policy informing Merck  
23 employees of their obligation to report adverse  
24 incidents to the adverse event report department?  
25 A. You're asking my opinion?

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1 Q. Yes.  
2 A. Yes. My opinion is yes.  
3 Q. Are you going to see to it that such  
4 a policy is put in writing if it has not already  
5 been done?  
6 A. I will investigate whether or not  
7 there is such a policy in writing. I assume that  
8 there is, but I don't know that there is, which is  
9 why I answered the question the way I did.  
10 Q. Okay. Thank you.  
11 If there is not such a policy in  
12 writing, will you see to it that it's put in  
13 writing?  
14 A. I will take steps to investigate if  
15 that's the case.  
16 Q. Well, can you answer my question  
17 directly, which is, will you see to it that such a  
18 policy is put in writing if it has not already been  
19 put into writing?  
20 A. I think it's fair to say that I would  
21 do that, yes.  
22 Q. You have that power; correct?  
23 A. I have the power to influence that.  
24 Q. How many employees does Merck have?  
25 A. Approximately 65,000 employees at

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1 Merck.  
2 Q. How many of those 65,000 people do  
3 you think, like you, didn't know that there was a  
4 policy requiring Merck employees to report adverse  
5 incidents to the adverse event report department?  
6 MR. KIERNAN: Objection, form.  
7 THE WITNESS: I do not know.  
8 BY MR. SPECTER:  
9 Q. Do you intend to find out?  
10 A. I don't intend to find out in that  
11 way.  
12 Q. Do you intend to find out in some  
13 way?  
14 A. Well, I think the question is a good  
15 question and is one that is worthy of followup.  
16 Q. So, do you intend to follow up to the  
17 question that I've asked?  
18 A. Yes, I think --  
19 Q. How?  
20 A. -- that that's a good suggestion.  
21 Q. How?  
22 A. Well, I will begin by discussing it  
23 with people like Dr. Honig and others on my staff.  
24 In general, I rely on people that are subject matter  
25 experts on my staff, and I would not want to

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1 proscribe, proscriptively say how it is that we  
2 should go about doing something, but I do think that  
3 the issue is an important issue that I should  
4 discuss with members of my staff who are better  
5 equipped to address these issues.  
6 Q. Does the FDA require drug companies  
7 to have a procedure in place for the internal  
8 reporting of adverse incidents?  
9 A. I'm not familiar with what the  
10 explicit FDA requirements are.  
11 Q. You don't know; correct?  
12 A. I don't know. People on my staff  
13 would certainly know the answer to those questions.  
14 Q. Dr. Kim, when you discussed this  
15 matter further with Dr. Honig, did you see to it  
16 that Dr. Snodgrass's letter reporting two strokes in  
17 women aged 17 and 24 who were taking Vioxx, did you  
18 see to it that this letter found its way down to the  
19 adverse event report department?  
20 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
21 THE WITNESS: I think I said what I  
22 did. I'll restate it.  
23 What I did was to instruct my staff  
24 to go through my correspondence and to identify any  
25 correspondence which highlighted a potential adverse

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1 event with a Merck drug and to forward that to Dr.  
2 Hostelley. When they did that, this was one of the  
3 letters that they found.  
4 BY MR. SPECTER:  
5 Q. Was there followup by the adverse  
6 event report department on these reports?  
7 A. I do not know what the adverse event  
8 department did following receipt of this letter.  
9 Q. Have you asked?  
10 A. No, I have not.  
11 Q. Does it interest you to know what  
12 followup has occurred with respect to a letter that  
13 was addressed to you from a physician at the  
14 University of California concerning a report of  
15 strokes in two young women aged 17 and 24 while on  
16 Vioxx?  
17 A. It's of interest to me to know that I  
18 have highly competent and qualified people who are  
19 extremely familiar with the procedures and policies  
20 and the FDA requirements to deal with these issues  
21 and that they are in place to carry out their  
22 functions.  
23 Q. My question was whether it interests  
24 you to know what followup has occurred with respect  
25 to this letter. Do you want to know the answer to

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1 that question?  
2 A. Specifically, no. I think that,  
3 again, I have qualified people who are addressing  
4 these issues, and I have confidence in them to do  
5 so.  
6 Q. Do you have an expectation that they  
7 are going to contact Dr. Snodgrass and get the  
8 records of these patients?  
9 A. I don't have that expectation. I do  
10 have the expectation that they will follow  
11 procedures and do so in a correct manner that  
12 follows the policies and procedures.  
13 Q. Do you know what those procedures  
14 are?  
15 A. No, I do not.  
16 Q. Don't you think you ought to know  
17 what the procedures are for followup of adverse  
18 incident reports?  
19 A. I have extreme confidence in the  
20 group that is dealing with adverse event reporting  
21 at Merck. It's a highly qualified, very  
22 professional group, and I have confidence in them,  
23 and I have confidence in the leadership that they  
24 are doing the correct thing.  
25 Q. Dr. Kim, when you asked your staff to

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1 pull together these reports that you had received  
2 concerning adverse incidents regarding  
3 pharmaceuticals, how many such reports did they pull  
4 together?  
5 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
6 THE WITNESS: I believe that there  
7 were two.  
8 BY MR. SPECTER:  
9 Q. Was this one of them?  
10 A. That was one of them.  
11 Q. What was the other one?  
12 A. I don't recall.  
13 Q. Did it regard Vioxx?  
14 A. I don't recall.  
15 Q. When was that letter received by you?  
16 A. I don't recall.  
17 Q. Do you know how many letters  
18 employees of Merck have received over the five plus  
19 years that Vioxx was on the market reporting on  
20 adverse incidents that were not, in fact, reported  
21 to the adverse event report department because the  
22 person who received the letter, like you, didn't  
23 know the procedures?  
24 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
25 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

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1 BY MR. SPECTER:  
2 Q. Have you made any effort to inquire  
3 as to that subject?  
4 MR. KIERNAN: Objection to form.  
5 THE WITNESS: No, I have not.  
6 BY MR. SPECTER:  
7 Q. Now, moving backward from what you  
8 were asked about by Mr. Kiernan in his direct of  
9 you, do you recollect telling us that "all...NSAIDs  
10 are associated with an increased cardiovascular  
11 risk"?  
12 A. I believe what I said was that the  
13 FDA had concluded that NSAIDs and COX-2 inhibitors  
14 were associated with increased cardiovascular risk.  
15 Q. Just a moment, sir.  
16 Dr. Kim, I want to show you your  
17 testimony. Apparently this is not going to extend  
18 across the table because of the cord, but I'll read  
19 to it you and if you'd like to see it yourself, you  
20 can certainly come over and take a look at it.  
21 Mr. Kiernan --  
22 MR. SPECTER: Let's go up, if we  
23 could, Lisa, to the question that was asked.  
24 BY MR. SPECTER:  
25 Q. The question that was asked was: