

EXHIBIT 31

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: ROUNDUP)
PRODUCTS LIABILITY) MDL No. 2741
LITIGATION)
_____) Case No.
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES) 16-md-02741-VC
TO ALL CASES)

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017
CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER
- - -

Videotaped deposition of William F. Heydens, Ph.D., held at the offices of HUSCH BLACKWELL, L.L.C., 190 Carondelet Plaza, Suite 600, St. Louis, Missouri, commencing at 9:03 a.m., on the above date, before Carrie A. Campbell, Registered Diplomate Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, Illinois, California & Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter, Missouri & Kansas Certified Court Reporter.

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1 Q. Yes, sir.

2 That you wrote, right?

3 A. That's not correct.

4 Q. Here's what it says in

5 January 2016. You said then, sir, "I had
6 already written a draft introductory chapter
7 back in October/November."

8 That's what happened, right,
9 sir?

10 A. Yeah, that's exactly what I was
11 just talking to in the previous -- in my
12 previous response.

13 Q. Yet when we go to Exhibit 3:4
14 that you just pointed out, page 16, it says,
15 "Neither Monsanto" -- "neither any Monsanto
16 Company employees nor any attorneys reviewed
17 any of the expert panel manuscripts prior to
18 submission to the journal."

19 You didn't just review them;
20 you wrote them.

21 MR. JOHNSTON: Objection.

22 Vague.

23 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLER:

24 Q. Wrote parts of the expert panel
25 report; you wrote them, right, sir?

1 MR. JOHNSTON: Objection.
2 Vague. Misstates the testimony and is
3 argumentative.

4 THE WITNESS: I'll answer
5 again: I wrote a draft introductory
6 chapter for possible use back at the
7 beginning, really, when the panel
8 concept was coming together. That --
9 and that -- the information that was
10 in there, again, was historical. It
11 had nothing to do with the panel
12 deliberations. Didn't even deal with
13 the data at all because, again, it was
14 historical.

15 Subsequently it was -- like I
16 said in the previous -- my previous
17 response, you know, moving forward and
18 getting later in time, the journal
19 editor didn't think it was even
20 appropriate to have the chapter, so he
21 had Ashley extract what would be
22 relevant historical information to
23 include in that publication, and
24 that's what Ashley did.

25

1 foundation.

2 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLER:

3 Q. Right, Doctor?

4 A. That's what's stated there.

5 Q. Okay. Let's take a look at
6 exactly --

7 A. And this is -- this is really
8 what we've already covered, but go ahead.

9 Q. Thank you.

10 This is from William Heydens,
11 February, to Ashley Roberts: "Ashley, I have
12 gone through the entire document and
13 indicated what I think should stay, what can
14 go, and in a couple spots did a little
15 editing."

16 So those are three of the
17 things you did to that Intertek epi report,
18 right?

19 MR. JOHNSTON: Objection.

20 Vague and misstates the record.

21 THE WITNESS: So this is --

22 I'll go back, and we'll talk about

23 this again. This is what we had

24 talked about previously.

25 So this is very late stage in

1 the process. Recall that I had
2 mentioned that when we first -- when
3 this project started that there was
4 going to be four reports, and at that
5 point in time it was not envisioned
6 that there would be a summary document
7 and much less what the authorship
8 might be.

9 So as the project progressed,
10 the concept for the summary article
11 progressed as well. And what I mean
12 by that is it was decided that the
13 summary -- the overall summary article
14 would be authored by all -- was it
15 16? -- of them.

16 And so what we're looking at
17 here, this is a point in the process.
18 So initially they were reviewing their
19 own sections, and so they very easily
20 could agree amongst themselves. What
21 I mean by that is the epidemiologists
22 could agree amongst themselves what
23 they thought they should say about the
24 epidemiology, the gene tox folks, so
25 on and so forth.

1 So now we've gone through that
2 whole process and they're at the point
3 where, as I just described, they're
4 all going to be authors on this paper.
5 So then they start reviewing each
6 others' -- another -- you can think of
7 it as another level of peer review, if
8 you will, where they were reviewing
9 what the others had written.

10 So in these e-mail
11 communications, the epidemiologists
12 did a very hard look at the animal --
13 from the animal bioassay group, and
14 they're actually critiquing -- the
15 epidemiologists are actually
16 critiquing some of the things that
17 were said in the other; most notably,
18 one of them that I'm looking at right
19 here talking about Hill's criteria.

20 So the epidemiologists didn't
21 think that the toxicologists should be
22 talking about Hill's criteria when --
23 and they're just flat out wrong, quite
24 honestly, because if you go read, for
25 instance, EPA's cancer risk assessment

1 guidelines, which they used on
2 glyphosate and use on other things as
3 well, they very clearly say that
4 there's a modified form of Hill's
5 criteria. So anyway, there was
6 questions amongst -- around them about
7 that.

8 Another thing that sticks out
9 in here, as I look at this, where
10 there was some disagreement -- and I
11 think we actually touched on this
12 earlier in the day, where the
13 different panels took somewhat
14 different approaches. So I think I
15 mentioned how the epidemiologists,
16 when they did their review, they
17 didn't really want to do it from the
18 standpoint of here's what IARC got
19 wrong. They did it just, what is all
20 the data, what does the data tell us,
21 here's our conclusions.

22 The animal people -- when I say
23 "the animal," I mean the animal
24 bioassay group, because they worked in
25 their sections in isolation

1 previously. They did do some
2 criticisms, some direct criticisms,
3 of founded -- well-founded criticisms
4 of IARC, and some reference of that
5 made it into their publication. When
6 the -- and some of that drained over
7 into the overall review publication.

8 So when the epidemiologists saw
9 that, they didn't think that it was
10 appropriate. So there was some dialog
11 back and forth about that.

12 So when you look at this
13 document here and you see some
14 editing, what was going on at that
15 point in time. John, being the good
16 soul that he is, he stepped in and was
17 trying to make it easy for Ashley --
18 he was trying to be kind of a
19 go-between, I guess, if you will,
20 between the epidemiologists and Ashley
21 and the animal people to try and bring
22 this to some resolution.

23 And so John, as part of that,
24 he suggested a number of edits which
25 are reflected in this document. You

1 can see some of them; you can't see
2 others. I don't know why that is.
3 There appears to be some problem with
4 picking up the editing function.

5 But anyway, that's what
6 happened. And then -- so Ashley --
7 that's what Ashley sent to me and
8 basically said, "Hey, look what John
9 did."

10 And I went through his
11 comments. And that's what we talked
12 about earlier this morning where I
13 said I made some comments about John's
14 comments, sent them back to Ashley,
15 and then Ashley dealt with them as
16 he -- as he saw appropriate.

17 MR. MILLER: Objection. Move
18 to strike as unresponsive.

19 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLER:

20 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 3-20.

21 MR. JOHNSTON: Objection. You
22 asked the question, Counsel. He
23 answered your question.

24 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLER:

25 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 3-20.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017
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1 anyone on the phone call?

2 MR. TRAVERS: Jeff Travers from
3 The Miller Firm.

4 MR. MILLER: Good morning, Jeff
5 Travers from The Miller Firm.

6 Who else? Anyone?

7 MR. JOHNSTON: And the
8 plaintiffs' counsel attending in
9 person is the same as was present
10 yesterday.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 QUESTIONS BY MR. JOHNSTON:

13 Q. Good morning, Dr. Heydens.

14 A. Good morning.

15 Q. My name is Robert Johnston. I
16 represent Monsanto in this case. We've met
17 before, have we not?

18 A. Yes, we have.

19 Q. Can you tell the jury what your
20 profession is, Dr. Heydens?

21 A. Yes. I'm a toxicologist by
22 profession.

23 Q. And what is your current title
24 at Monsanto?

25 A. Currently I'm product safety

1 assessment strategy lead.

2 Q. And can you tell the jury what
3 you do in that role?

4 A. In that role, my job is to work
5 with other scientists as we get new products
6 that come in that would need to be tested for
7 safety to work on, devise the overall testing
8 strategy and sets of studies that we would do
9 to support the safety of that product.

10 Q. Are there standard studies or a
11 guide to what kind of studies need to be done
12 for a new product?

13 A. There are for some -- for the
14 traditional pesticides, there are a set of
15 guideline studies. A couple different sets
16 of guideline studies that we can use and we
17 can -- if necessary, we can adapt those for a
18 different product concept.

19 Q. Are there any required studies
20 that would have to be done for a new
21 herbicide or pesticide?

22 A. For new pesticides, for which
23 herbicide is one, yes, there's a whole set of
24 studies, a very comprehensive set of studies
25 that need to be done, all way from acutes,

1 A. Yes, there was.

2 Q. Who was that?

3 A. At the time that I took that
4 over, that would have been Donna Farmer.

5 Q. How much work did you do with
6 glyphosate as the director of the toxicology
7 group?

8 A. Very, very little for that
9 period of time. Because the other thing that
10 was happening shortly after I became the
11 director of the toxicology group, I also
12 became the co-lead for what was -- what
13 Monsanto called the product safety center.
14 And the product safety center was responsible
15 for -- that was the group where the group of
16 scientists was housed who were responsible
17 for demonstrating the safety of Monsanto's
18 biotechnology portfolio. And that's a
19 portfolio that in the early 2000s was growing
20 rather significantly, and so I found myself
21 spending more and more time working in those
22 areas and less on the traditional chemicals
23 like glyphosate.

24 Q. What type of products were in
25 the biotechnology area?

1 A. "It was concluded that, under
2 present and expected conditions of use,
3 Roundup herbicide does not pose a health risk
4 to humans."

5 Q. Now, I want to look back at the
6 acknowledgements for this paper on page 160
7 of the journal.

8 I want you to start with the
9 authors in the acknowledgement, and can you
10 read that for the jury, please?

11 A. "The authors were given
12 complete access to toxicological information
13 contained in the great number of laboratory
14 studies and archival material at Monsanto in
15 St. Louis, Missouri, and elsewhere. Key
16 personnel at Monsanto who provided scientific
17 support were William F. Heydens, Donna R.
18 Farmer, Marian S. Bleeke, Steven J. Wratten,
19 and Catherine H. Carr."

20 Q. Okay. You can stop there.
21 Your name is in that list of
22 folks, correct?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. And so this paper disclosed in
25 the acknowledgements that you were involved