

PMPRB  
Box L 40  
Standard Life Centre  
333 Laurier Avenue West  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 1C1

May 9, 2005

RE: Price Increase for Patented Medicines, Discussion Paper

Attn: Secretary of the Board

Dear Madame Dupont and Board Members,

In March 2005, the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) issued a discussion paper on price increases for patented medicines in Canada, and invited comments from stakeholders.

AstraZeneca Canada Inc. fully supports the position paper submitted by Rx&D to the PMPRB Board on this matter.

In particular, we are concerned with the introduction of further regulatory burden on patentees, creating additional inefficiencies in the price review process and expanding the mandate of the PMPRB beyond the authority established under the Patent Act.

Any review of the PMPRB's guidelines with respect to price increases should be conducted as part of a sectoral review, taking into account not only the PMPRB price review factors, but the entire pharmaceutical environment, from regulatory approval, intellectual property protection, investment, research & development, health care funding etc. Any new policies must seek to balance consumer protection and affordable health care with trade and industrial development objectives of the pharmaceutical patent legislation.

Sincerely,

Mike Cloutier  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.