

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 4267

[Inter-Department Memo, Aug. 14, 1959]

To: Dr. J. S. Scanlan—Vick. New York.
From: E. F. Van Maanen.
Subject: MER-29—Effects on Monkey Ovaries.

DEAR JOHN: Dr. King informs me that you have two prints of sections from monkey ovaries. One represents a control monkey, the other, a monkey treated for 16 months with MER-29.

As you know, we are in the middle of identifying these changes. At the moment, we are not certain whether these are produced by MER-29 or whether they represent an idiosyncrasy of a monkey. Because we are not sure yet what these changes mean, we would appreciate it if these pictures would have a very restricted distribution. It may be very harmful, for instance, when clinicians start interpreting our results and later we would find that these changes were an anomaly. On the other hand, we feel obliged to inform you as well as our Medical Research Department about these findings but do not think that these should have wide outside distribution until we have identified the problem.

At the same time, we are very much interested to know whether females during the reproductive period do ovulate in the presence of MER-29.

[Inter-Department Memo, Aug. 19, 1959]

To: E. F. Van Maanen.
From: Medical Research Department.
Subject: M.E.R.-29—Effects on Monkey Ovaries. (Your memorandum of August 14 to Dr. Scanlan).

DEAR FLOR: Many thanks for the tactful way in which you defined the conditions under which the monkey ovary pictures can be used clinically. I am strongly opposed to the discussion of any finding from experimental animals until we have agreed upon our interpretations. Some potential investigators were frightened about M.E.R.-29 a year ago because of a very similar problem. In this case, I do agree that we can show the pictures to our investigators in Syracuse, but it is acknowledged that we are taking a calculated risk because of a great moral and ethical problem involved. Because of the careful selection of our investigator in Syracuse, I think that it is a reasonable risk for us to take.

R. C. POGGE, M.D.

[Inter-Department Memo, Aug. 20, 1959]

From: John S. Scanlan.
To: Dr. E. F. Van Maanen.
Subject: MER-29—Effects on Monkey Ovaries.

You may rest assured that the pictures of the monkey ovaries which I received from Dr. King have received indeed a restricted distribution. Whilst in my possession they were shown only to Dr. Lloyd in Syracuse. However, I did discuss the matter with Gerry Mersen, although even he did not see the photographs.

This may well be a question of making a mountain out of a mole hill, however, we should not leave any stone unturned. How is that for a mixed metaphor?

No doubt Dorsey has informed you of the results of our discussions with Dr. Lloyd.

Kind personal regards,

JOHN S. SCANLAN, M.D.

[Inter-Department Memo, Feb. 16, 1960]

To: Dr. E. F. Van Maanen.
From: W. H. King.
Subject: MER-29 Monkey Ovarian Studies.

Four adult cynomolgus female monkeys were given MER-29 in a dose of 5 mg/kg/day. Two additional monkeys that were sacrificed in the course of bilateral nephrectomies for the department of Microbiology furnished control ovary sections. Monkeys No. 80 and 87 were continued on the drug for six weeks, at which time they were autopsied. Monkeys No. 83 and 89 were given MER-29 for