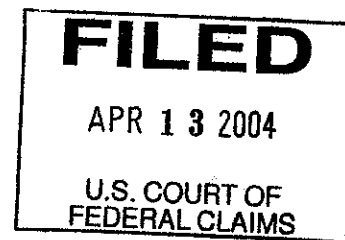


In the United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
**ORIGINAL**  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

(Filed: April 13, 2004)



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IN RE: CLAIMS FOR VACCINE INJURIES \*  
RESULTING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM \*  
DISORDER OR A SIMILAR \*  
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER \*  
  
VARIOUS PETITIONERS, \*  
  
v. \*  
  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND \*  
HUMAN SERVICES, \*  
  
Respondent. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

AUTISM MASTER FILE

**SCHEDULING ORDER**

An unrecorded telephonic status conference was held on April 9, 2004. Participating were Thomas Powers for the petitioners, along with Vincent Matanoski, Mark Raby, and Linda Renzi for the respondent. Pursuant to discussion at that conference, I hereby note as follows.

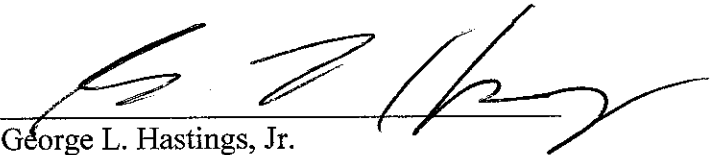
**1. Merck discovery**

A status conference, involving not only the respondent and petitioners' attorneys, but also counsel for Merck, has been scheduled for April 16, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern (11:00 a.m. Pacific) time, to discuss the disclosure issue.

**2. Discovery from respondent**

The parties have agreed to a change in the schedule for the briefing concerning the petitioners' pending "motion to compel" for discovery from the government. The respondent's response will be due on May 14, 2004, and the petitioners' reply will be due on June 4, 2004. In

addition, the dates set aside for an evidentiary hearing concerning that motion have been changed to June 21 - 25 and June 28 - 29, 2004.



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George L. Hastings, Jr.  
Special Master