

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

No. 08-346 V  
Filed: May 25, 2010  
Not for Publication

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GREGORY G. SCHWARTZ, M.D., Ph.D., \*

Petitioner, \*

v. \*

SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, \*

Respondent. \*

\* Damages decision based on stipulation;  
\* Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccination;  
\* Sensorineural hearing loss; Attorneys' Fees and  
\* Costs

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Mari C. Bush, Denver, CO, for petitioner.  
Lisa A. Watts, Washington, DC, for respondent.

**MILLMAN, Special Master**

**DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES AND ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS<sup>1</sup>**

On May 24, 2010, the parties filed the attached stipulation, in which they agreed to settle this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioner alleged that he suffered sensorineural hearing loss following a Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccination. Respondent denies that petitioner's sensorineural hearing loss was caused in fact by his MMR vaccination. Nonetheless, the parties agreed to resolve this matter informally.

The court hereby adopts the parties' said stipulation, attached hereto, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. Pursuant to the stipulation, the

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). Vaccine Rule 18(b) states that all decisions of the special masters will be made available to the public unless they contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged and confidential, or medical or similar information whose disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. When such a decision is filed, petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to delete such information prior to the document's disclosure. If the special master, upon review, agrees that the identified material fits within the banned categories listed above, the special master shall delete such material from public access.

court awards:

- a. a lump sum of **\$250,000.00** in the form of a check made payable to petitioner;
- b. a lump sum of **\$33,641.23** in the form of a check made payable to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Mari C. Bush, for attorneys' fees and costs; and
- c. a lump sum of **\$1,000.00** in the form of a check made payable to petitioner for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.<sup>2</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: May 25, 2010

/s/ Laura D. Millman  
Laura D. Millman  
Special Master

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

GREGORY G. SCHWARTZ, M.D., Ph.D.

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES,

Respondent.

ECF

No. 08-346V  
Special Master  
Laura D. Millman

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. On May 8, 2008, Gregory G. Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D. ("petitioner"), filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34, as amended (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of the Measles-Mumps-Rubella ("MMR") vaccine, which is covered under the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a), as amended.
2. Petitioner received the MMR vaccine on June 21, 2006.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that he suffered sensorineural hearing loss in his right ear, which was caused-in-fact by the MMR vaccine he received on June 21, 2006.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of his alleged vaccine-related injury.
6. Respondent denies that petitioner's hearing loss was caused by the MMR vaccine.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

a. A lump sum of \$250,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Gregory G. Schwartz. This amount represents compensation for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner would be entitled; and,

b. a lump sum of \$1,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner for reimbursement of his out-of-pocket costs associated with the filing of and proceedings on the petition pursuant to General Order #9; and,

c. a lump sum of \$33,641.23 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Mari C. Bush, for attorney's fees and litigation costs.

9. Petitioner and his attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

10. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs incurred in this proceeding, the money provided pursuant

to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the MMR vaccine administered on June 21, 2006, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about May 8, 2008, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 08-346V.

13. If petitioner should die prior to entry of the judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

16. Petitioner hereby authorizes the respondent to disclose documents filed by petitioner in this case consistent with the Privacy Act and the routine uses described in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program System of Records, No. 09-15-0056.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that petitioner's sensorineural hearing loss in his right ear was caused-in-fact by receipt of the MMR vaccine; or that petitioner's current disabilities are sequelae of his alleged injury.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

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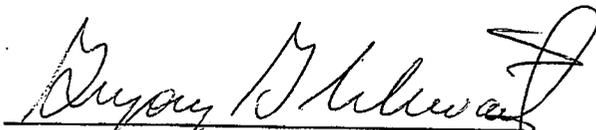
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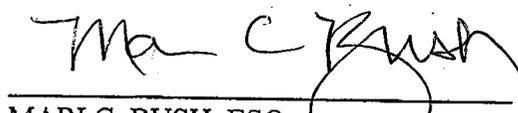
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Respectfully submitted,

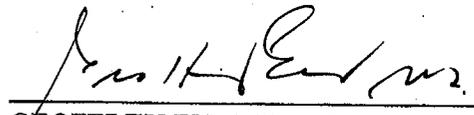
**PETITIONER:**

  
GREGORY G. SCHWARTZ, M.D., Ph.D.

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
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Dated: 5-24-2010

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