



## Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Omer Boudreau  
Director General  
Director General's Office  
Health Canada  
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Dr. David Clapin  
A/Director General, Marketed Health Products Directorate  
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May 25, 2005

Dear Mr. Boudreau, Dr. Clapin,

Pfizer Canada welcomes the announcement by Minister Ujjal Dosanjh of the public forum on COX-2 inhibitors scheduled for June 9-10, 2005. We believe that such a forum is the appropriate venue for important scientific discussions about COX-2 inhibitors and other NSAIDS, and we share Minister Dosanjh's commitment to openness and transparency.

Since last fall, the safety of COX-2 inhibitors and other NSAIDs has been an issue of concern for Canadians. Given the very public nature of the debate, we agree with the need to convene this public forum and support the presentation of the scientific data in this setting.

As such, Pfizer Canada feels that, in the spirit of transparency, both days of the panel discussion should be open to the public. We recognize that Health Canada may feel compelled to conduct part of the proceedings behind closed doors due to the proprietary nature of some of the information presented, and we appreciate your concern about this. However, we want you to be aware that Pfizer believes that this situation is unique and we would welcome public access to all of the discussion.

There is no information that is relevant to assisting members of the expert panel in answering the questions being asked and making recommendations to Health Canada that Pfizer is not willing to disclose to the public in the context of this forum and the debate among the panel experts.



In the interests of furthering Health Canada's laudable efforts at greater transparency in its decision-making, we hope you will take this request under consideration and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Prigent".

Bernard Prigent, MD, MBA  
Vice President and Medical Director  
Pfizer Canada Inc.

cc: Diane Gorman  
Health Canada

Jean-Michel Halfon  
Pfizer Canada Inc.