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Dated: February 10, 2003.

Sandra R. Manning,

*Director, Procurement and Grants Office,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 03-3922 Filed 2-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03027]

Grants for New Investigator Training Awards for Unintentional Injury, Violence Related Injury, Acute Care, Disability, and Rehabilitation-Related Research; Notice of Availability of Funds Amendment

A notice announcing the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for grants for new investigator training awards in four research areas: unintentional injury prevention, violence-related injury prevention, injury-related acute care and disability research, and injury-related biomechanics research published in the **Federal Register** on February 7, 2003, Volume 68, Number 26, and pages 6483-6488. The notice is amended as follows: On page 6483, second column, the Program Announcement 03027 title should read: Grants for New Investigator Training awards for Unintentional Injury, Violence related Injury, Biomechanics, Acute Care, Disability, and Rehabilitation-Related Research.

Dated: February 7, 2003.

Sandra R. Manning,

CGFM, Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 03-3921 Filed 2-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 01E-0403]

Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; VALCYTE

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined the regulatory review period for VALCYTE and is publishing this notice of that determination as required by law. FDA has made the determination because of the submission of an application to the Director of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, for the extension of a patent that claims that human drug product.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and petitions to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Claudia Grillo, Office of Regulatory Policy (HFD-013), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-3460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-417) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act (Public Law 100-670) generally provide that a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years so long as the patented item (human drug product, animal drug product, medical device, food additive, or color additive) was subject to regulatory review by FDA before the item was marketed. Under these acts, a product's regulatory review period forms the basis for determining the amount of extension an applicant may receive.

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For human drug products, the testing phase begins when the exemption to permit the clinical investigations of the drug becomes effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the human drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the drug product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Director of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example, half the testing phase must be subtracted, as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for a human drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(1)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the human drug product VALCYTE (valganciclovir hydrochloride). VALCYTE is indicated for treatment of cytomegalovirus retinitis in patients with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for VALCYTE (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,953) from Syntex, and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated October 31, 2002, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this human drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of VALCYTE represented the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product. Shortly thereafter, the Patent and Trademark Office requested that FDA determine the product's regulatory review period.

FDA has determined that the applicable regulatory review period for VALCYTE is 2,101 days. Of this time, 1,919 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 182 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) became effective:* June 30, 1995. The applicant claims July 26, 1995, as the date the investigational new drug application (IND) became effective. However, FDA records indicate that the IND effective date was June 30, 1995, which was 30 days after FDA receipt of the IND.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505(b) of the act:* September 29, 2000. The applicant claims September 28, 2000, as the date the new drug application (NDA) for VALCYTE (NDA 21-304) was initially submitted. However, FDA records indicate that NDA 21-304 was submitted on September 29, 2000.

3. *The date the application was approved:* March 29, 2001. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 21-304 was approved on March 29, 2001.

This determination of the regulatory review period establishes the maximum potential length of a patent extension. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office applies several statutory limitations in its calculations of the actual period for patent extension. In its application for patent extension,