

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board  
P.O. Box 1451  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451**

Mailed: September 2, 2008

Opposition No. 91184754

Helsinn Healthcare SA

v.

sanofi-aventis

Karl Kochersperger, Paralegal

Applicant's consented motion filed August 28, 2008 to extend time to complete the required settlement and discovery planning conference (discovery conference), as well as all trial dates is noted.

The parties are reminded that they share responsibility to conference to discuss the scope of the pleadings, the possibility of settlement and planning for disclosures and discovery, as explained in the notice of institution. In addition, the Board finds no good cause to delay the parties' required conference to allow for the mere possibility of settlement talks when the parties are required to discuss settlement in the conference. See "Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Rules," 72 Fed. Reg. 42242, 42245 (Aug. 1, 2007):

if a motion to extend or suspend for settlement talks, arbitration or mediation is not filed prior to answer, then the parties will have to proceed, after the answer is filed, to their discovery

conference, one point of which is to discuss settlement. It is unlikely the Board will find good cause for a motion to extend or suspend for settlement if the motion is filed after answer but prior to the discovery conference, precisely because the discovery conference itself provides an opportunity to discuss settlement.

Inasmuch as the extension does not provide any compelling reasons for an extension or good cause, it is denied. Conferencing, disclosure, discovery and trial dates remain as set. See Trademark Rule 2.120(a)(2).

**NEWS FROM THE TTAB:**

The USPTO published a notice of final rulemaking in the Federal Register on August 1, 2007, at 72 F.R. 42242. By this notice, various rules governing Trademark Trial and Appeal Board inter partes proceedings are amended. Certain amendments have an effective date of August 31, 2007, while most have an effective date of November 1, 2007. For further information, the parties are referred to a reprint of the final rule and a chart summarizing the affected rules, their changes, and effective dates, both viewable on the USPTO website via these web addresses:  
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242.pdf>  
[http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242\\_FinalRuleChart.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242_FinalRuleChart.pdf)

By one rule change effective August 31, 2007, the Board's standard protective order is made applicable to all TTAB inter partes cases, whether already pending or commenced on or after that date. However, as explained in the final rule and chart, this change will not affect any case in which any protective order has already been approved or imposed by the Board. Further, as explained in the final rule, parties are free to agree to a substitute protective order or to supplement or amend the standard order even after August 31, 2007, subject to Board approval. The standard protective order can be viewed using the following web address:  
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/ttab/tbmp/stndagmnt.htm>