

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

MYLAN PHARMACEUTICALS INC., ACTAVIS LABORATORIES FL,
INC., AMNEAL PHARMACEUTICALS LLC, AMNEAL
PHARMACEUTICALS OF NEW YORK, LLC, DR. REDDY'S
LABORATORIES, INC., DR. REDDY'S LABORATORIES, LTD., SUN
PHARMACEUTICALS INDUSTRIES, LTD., SUN
PHARMACEUTICALS INDUSTRIES, INC., TEVA
PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC., WEST-WARD PHARMACEUTICAL
CORP., and HIKMA PHARMACEUTICALS, LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

JANSSEN ONCOLOGY, INC.,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2016-01332¹
Patent 8,822,438 B2

Before JEFFREY N. FREDMAN, KRISTINAM. KALAN and
JACQUELINE T. HARLOW, *Administrative Patent Judges*.²

KALAN, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Denying Patent Owner's Request for Rehearing
37 C.F.R. § 42.71(d)

¹ Case IPR2017-00853 has been joined with this proceeding.

² A Panel Change Order issued on September 28, 2018, indicating that the judges named herein now constitute the panel. Paper 86.

I. INTRODUCTION

Janssen Oncology, Inc. (“Patent Owner”) filed a Request for Rehearing (Paper 85, “Request” or “Req.”) of our Final Written Decision (Paper 84, “Final Written Decision” or “Dec.”) in which claims 1–20 of U.S. Patent No. 8,822,438 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’438 patent”) are unpatentable. For the reasons that follow, Patent Owner’s Request for Rehearing is denied.

II. THE REQUEST FOR REHEARING

In pertinent part, 37 C.F.R. § 42.71(d) states:

The burden of showing a decision should be modified lies with the party challenging the decision. The request must specifically identify all matters the party believes the Board misapprehended or overlooked, and the place where each matter was previously addressed in a motion, an opposition, or a reply.

Thus, a request for rehearing is not an opportunity merely to disagree with the Board’s assessment of the arguments or weighing of the evidence, or to present new arguments or evidence.

Patent Owner requests rehearing to address three issues with our Final Written Decision: first, whether the Board misapprehended evidence regarding Petitioner’s reasoning for administration of prednisone with abiraterone acetate; second, whether the Board improperly relied on new theories that Petitioners raised for the first time in the Reply to find a different motivation to combine prednisone with abiraterone acetate; and third, whether the Board misapprehended the Petitioner’s assertions as to the 1000 mg dose of abiraterone acetate in claims 4, 11, 19, and 20. Req. 1–3.

We have reviewed Patent Owner’s Request and carefully considered all the arguments presented. For the following reasons, we are not

persuaded that the Board misapprehended or overlooked arguments or evidence with respect to the contentions asserted by Patent Owner.

III. DISCUSSION

(A) Patent Owner's First Argument

Patent Owner argues that the Board “misapprehended the significance of Petitioner’s admission that ketoconazole does not cause mineralocorticoid excess.” Req. 3. Patent Owner indicates that, in its Response, it argued ketoconazole did not cause mineralocorticoid excess, and pointed to prior art that showed ketoconazole suppressed production of mineralocorticoids. *Id.* at 5 (citing PO Resp. 18–19). Patent Owner argues that the Board’s focus on the fact that ketoconazole would inhibit production of cortisol misapprehended that the Petition “did not portray the supposed inhibition of the production of cortisol as an ‘independent’ reason” to administer prednisone with abiraterone acetate. *Id.* at 6–7.

We considered this evidence and argument in our Final Written Decision, particularly noting Patent Owner’s argument that “there is no prior art evidence that ketoconazole causes mineralocorticoid excess.” Dec. 17 (citing PO Resp. 18). We also considered Petitioner’s countervailing evidence (*id.* at 17–18), Patent Owner’s Identification of New Arguments and Evidence in Petitioner’s Reply (Paper 65), and Petitioner’s reply to the same (Paper 74). We also noted in our Final Written Decision that Petitioner’s motivation to combine appeared to be premised on the adverse effects caused by reduced production of cortisol. Dec. 13. We also relied, in the Final Written Decision, on Dr. Garnick’s testimony that CYP17 inhibitors undesirably suppressed the production of cortisol, which is necessary for other biochemical cycles in the body, and which led to adverse

side effects. *Id.* at 12–13 (citing Ex. 1002 ¶¶ 42, 44, 58). We also relied on Dr. Garnick’s testimony that “in light of steroid synthesis inhibitors’ known effects on the adrenal pathways,” one of ordinary skill in the art “would have been motivated to administer a glucocorticoid with administered abiraterone acetate to counteract expected endocrine disruptions.” Dec. 17 (citing Ex. 1097 ¶¶ 21–66). We expressly addressed Petitioner’s arguments and evidence, Patent Owner’s arguments and evidence, and the respective testimony on this issue, and did not overlook Patent Owner’s testimony or other testimony regarding the relationship between ketoconazole and mineralocorticoid excess. Nor are we persuaded, given our consideration and analysis of the testimony and other evidence, that we misapprehended the import of this testimony and evidence, or Petitioner’s reliance on the same for Petitioner’s arguments to support motivation to combine the relied-upon references.

(B) Patent Owner’s Second Argument

Patent Owner argues that the Board overlooked or misapprehended evidence that abiraterone acetate does not cause adrenal insufficiency. Req. 11. Patent Owner argues that the Board relied on Petitioner’s new theory, presented for the first time in the Reply, that skilled person would have been motivated to combine abiraterone acetate with prednisone because abiraterone acetate might cause “adrenal insufficiency” and/or a “low adrenal reserve.” *Id.* Patent Owner also faults the Board for overlooking or misapprehending the Synacthen test results and the follow-on abiraterone acetate monotherapy study. *Id.* at 13.

As noted above, we considered Patent Owner’s Identification of New Arguments (Paper 74) in rendering our Final Written Decision, as well

Petitioner’s Reply (Paper 78) and the arguments presented by both parties on this issue. Dec. 2, 16–19; *see also Ericsson Inc. v. Intellectual Ventures I LLC*, 901 F.3d 1374, 1380 (Fed. Cir. 2018) (stating that reply arguments should not be parsed “with too fine a filter”). The arguments and evidence identified in Patent Owner’s second argument here are part of a broader argument concerning cortisol deficiency as a result of abiraterone acetate and/or ketoconazole activity. We stated in the Final Written Decision that “we understand that ketoconazole and abiraterone acetate do not have identical mechanisms,” but noted that the parties “appear to agree that, based on their respective mechanisms of action, administration of ketoconazole would inhibit production of cortisol, and administration of abiraterone acetate inhibits one of the pathways of cortisol production.” Dec. 18 (citing Pet. 26; Tr. 12:18–19; Ex. 1003, 2318). We also considered and discussed the results of the Synacthen test. Dec. 20–22. Patent Owner’s disagreement with our conclusions is not a proper basis for a rehearing request. Thus, our Final Written Decision, as part of a broader inquiry, looked not only at the differences, but also at the similarities, of the mechanisms of ketoconazole and abiraterone, and to the comparative discussions of both in the prior art, to determine that one of ordinary skill would have been aware of the differences and the similarities in the mechanisms. Dec. 18 (citing Ex. 1003, 2318, Figure 1). We are not persuaded that this constitutes overlooking or misapprehending aspects of Patent Owner’s argument concerning cortisol deficiency.

Patent Owner also argues in the introduction of its second argument (Req. 2) that the Board disregarded the presumption of validity that patents—including those undergoing inter partes review—are entitled to

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