

Ken Moll
Rebecca Fredona
Fatima Abuzerr
MOLL LAW GROUP
22 W Washington St
15th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
T: 312.462.1700
F: 312.756.0045
rfredona@molllawgroup.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

IN RE: ROUNDUP PRODUCTS LIABILITY
LITIGATION

MDL No. 2741

Case No. 16-md-02741-VC

This document relates to:

Cervantes v. Monsanto Co., 3:19-cv-03015-VC
Karman v. Monsanto Co., 3:19-cv-01183-VC
Pecorelli v. Monsanto Co., 3:19-cv-06936-VC
Peterson v. Monsanto Co., 3:19-cv-07271-VC
Schafer v. Monsanto Co., 3:19-cv-02169-VC

**PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO
MOTION TO EXCLUDE
TESTIMONY OF DR. DENNIS
WEISENBURGE *DAUBERT*
GROUNDS**

**PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO MOTION TO EXCLUDE TESTIMONY OF DR. DENNIS
WEISENBURGER ON *DAUBERT* GROUNDS**

PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO MOTION TO EXCLUDE TESTIMONY OF DR. DENNIS WEISENBURGER ON

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TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**Cases:**

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I. Introduction

Dr. Dennis Weisenburger has more than 40 years of experience and is a highly qualified physician and hematopathologist - currently an Assistant Pathologist at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California. Fredona Decl., Ex. 1, Dr. Sawyer CV. He is Board Certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners and the Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, American Board of Pathology. *Id.* To date, Dr. Weisenburger has given many dozens of hours of testimony in the Roundup® litigation. He has spent hundreds of hours reviewing published studies, medical records and conducted interviews with Plaintiffs.

Dr. Weisenburger is offering case specific opinions for Gerard Cervantes, John Schafer, James Peterson, Mark Pecorelli, individually and as Representative of the Estate of Michael Pecorelli, deceased and Christine Karman, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of Robert Karman, deceased. Dr. Weisenburger will testify regarding causes of cancer, causes of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, whether exposure to glyphosate and/or glyphosate-based formulated products can cause cancer, and particularly non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, including testimony in the areas of epidemiology, pathology, hematopathology, cellular changes with the development of NHL and cancer development. These areas of testimony were the subject of his prior testimony in the Roundup litigation.

Monsanto's motion should be denied in full, and the jury should be allowed to consider Dr. Weisenburger's testimony before reaching its conclusions. Monsanto has repeatedly tried and failed to exclude or strike Dr. Weisenburger's opinions. *See In re Roundup Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 390 F. Supp. 3d 1102 (N.D. Cal. July 10, 2018). (Court finding no basis for excluding Dr. Weisenburger's opinion) ; *In re Roundup Products Liability Litigation* (N.D. Cal., July 12, 2019, No. 16-CV-0525-VC) 2019 WL 3219360, at *1 (Dr. Weisenburger's testimony admissible where he testified that Hardeman's "...exposure levels still far exceeded the threshold used in most of the epidemiological literature, and specifically the McDuffie and Eriksson studies."). Further, Monsanto makes the same arguments in its Motion regarding Dr. Weisenburger in Plaintiffs Gerard Cervantes, John Schafer, James Peterson, Mark Pecorelli, individually and as Representative of the Estate of Michael Pecorelli, deceased and Christine Karman, Individually

1 and as Representative of the Estate of Robert Karman, deceased, cases as Monsanto made in
2 motions regarding Dr. Sawyer in Wave One cases. This Court has already considered and denied
3 Monsanto's previous Motions' to Exclude Testimony of Plaintiffs Specific Causation Expert Dr.
4 Weisenburger in Pre-Trial Order ("PTO") 203, Dkt. No. 9144, for the reasons set forth in PTO 85,
5 Dkt. No. 2799. Because the germane facts, issues and law are essentially the same in all of
6 Monsanto's motions regarding Dr. Weisenburger, Plaintiffs here adopt the Wave One Plaintiffs'
7 Response to Monsanto's Specific Causation *Daubert* and Summary Judgment Motion to Strike
8 Certain Opinions of Monsanto Company's Expert Witnesses (MDL No. 2741 Document 2478).

9 Plaintiffs also incorporate the developing science on glyphosate as set forth in and attached
10 as exhibits to their opposition to Monsanto's Motion for Summary Judgment on Causation
11 Grounds (Dkt. No. 8001). By incorporating by reference prior filings to this pleading, Plaintiffs are
12 in no way waiving any arguments raised therein.

13 In addition to the above briefing and this Court's prior ruling that these experts may testify
14 on specific causation issues, Plaintiffs address the issues that Monsanto contends were not
15 previously decided by the Court.

16 **II. Legal Standard**

17 The Ninth Circuit has mandated that "Rule 702 should be applied with a 'liberal thrust'
18 favoring admission." *Wendell*, 858 F.3d at 1232 (quoting *Messick v. Novartis Pharm. Corp.*, 747
19 F.3d 1193, 1196 (9th Cir. 2014)). Expert testimony is admissible under Rule 702 when based on a
20 reliable differential diagnosis. *See id.* at 1235 ("Nothing in *Daubert*, or its progeny, properly
21 understood, suggests that the most experienced and credentialed doctors [specifically referencing
22 Dr. Weisenburger and Dr. Shustov] in a given field should be barred from testifying based on a
23 differential diagnosis."). In conducting a differential diagnosis,¹ an expert considers the
24 "pertinence of all potential causes, then rules out the ones as to which there is no plausible evidence
25 of causation, and then determines the most likely cause among those that cannot be excluded." *Id.*

26
27 ¹ *See Wendell*, 858 F.3d at 1234 ("When performing a differential diagnosis, [Dr. Shustov] first assumes the
28 pertinence of all potential causes, then rules out the ones as to which there is no plausible evidence of causation, and
then determines the most likely cause among those that cannot be excluded. We have recognized that this method of
conducting a differential diagnosis is scientifically sound." (citing *Clausen*, 339 F.3d at 1057-58).

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