Paper 13

Date: November 19, 2018

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION, Petitioner,

v.

PLEXXIKON INC., Patent Owner.

Case IPR2018-01287 Patent 9,469,640 B2

Before SHERIDAN K. SNEDDEN, JO-ANNE M. KOKOSKI, and KRISTI L. R. SAWERT, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

SNEDDEN, Administrative Patent Judge.

ORDER Conduct of the Proceeding 37 C.F.R. § 42.5



In an email sent to the Board on November 12, 2018, counsel for Petitioner requested a conference call seeking authorization to file a reply to Patent Owner's Preliminary Response (Paper 10, "Prelim. Resp.") to address certain arguments made by Patent Owner. A conference call was held between counsel for the parties and the Board on November 16, 2018 to discuss Petitioner's request.

During the conference call, Petitioner argued that good cause exists to file the requested reply to address Patent Owner's "new" argument that the written description requirement is satisfied by the disclosure of a "core structure" consisting of "a sulfonamide with its nitrogen adjacent to the fluorine in a fluorinated phenyl," and a "uniform overall shape and size" of the claimed chemical compound, which are allegedly the "key features" of the claimed compounds. Patent Owner argued that briefing at the preliminary stage of a *inter partes* review is typically limited to a petition and patent owner preliminary response and that Petitioner is not entitled to a reply simply to respond to the merits of the Patent Owner's Preliminary Response.

Petitioner may seek authorization to file a reply to the preliminary response, but "must make a showing of good cause." 37 C.F.R. § 42.108(c) (revised April 1, 2016). In consideration of the arguments advanced during the teleconference by both parties, we determine that good cause for authorization to file the requested reply has not been shown. There is no indication that the record lacks sufficient information hindering the panel's ability to scrutinize Patent Owner's contentions related to written description when determining whether the information presented in the petition shows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with



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respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition. 35 U.S.C. § 314(a).

Accordingly, it is hereby:

ORDERED that Petitioner's request to file a reply to Patent Owner's Preliminary Response is *denied*.

PETITIONER:

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PATENT OWNER:

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