

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

~~(Filed: September 4, 2002).~~

FILED SEP 5 2002

**IN RE: CLAIMS FOR VACCINE INJURIES *
RESULTING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM *
DISORDER OR A SIMILAR *
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER ***

AUTISM MASTER FILE

VARIOUS PETITIONERS, *

Not for publication

v. *

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND *
HUMAN SERVICES, *

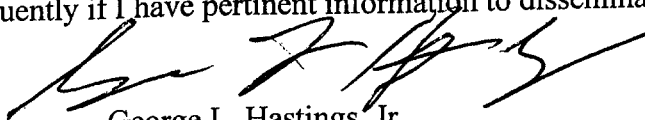
Respondent. *

AUTISM UPDATE--SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

On August 2, 2002, the Petitioner's Steering Committee filed an extensive discovery request, consisting of interrogatories and requests for the production, designed to elicit from various government agencies material that may be relevant to the general causation issue. On September 3, 2002, respondent filed a formal response to the petitioners' discovery request. (Copies of both these documents have been filed in the Autism Master File.) I will now be working with both sides to see if agreement can be reached as to discovery, or to resolve any disputes myself if full agreement cannot be reached. I will be engaging in repeated status conferences with the parties, and, in addition, an evidentiary hearing has been scheduled for October 8, 2002, at which time I will, if necessary, hear any testimony that may be relevant to any discovery disputes.

The parties and I, of course, will strive to finish all discovery matters as expeditiously as possible, so that the petitioners can then put forth their case on the causation issue.

I will file additional regular updates on the progress of the Omnibus Autism Proceeding, at the beginning of each month or more frequently if I have pertinent information to disseminate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George L. Hastings, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master