

**FILED**

OCT 28 2022

**IN RE: SINGULAIR LITIGATION****THIS ORDER APPLIES TO ALL  
CASES**

JOHN C. PORTO, P.J.Cv.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION: ATLANTIC COUNTY  
DOCKET NO. ATL L-481-22****MCL NO. 637****CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER****STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

**THIS MATTER** having come before the Court with the Consent of all Counsel, and for good cause having been show, the Court hereby enters the following order:

**IT IS** on this 28th day of October, 2022, **ORDERED** as follows:

This Order shall apply to all cases that are currently pending in MCL No. 637 or subsequently transferred to MCL NO. 637. This Order sets forth the protocol for the production of confidential, proprietary, or private information by and between Plaintiffs and Defendants Merck & Co., Inc. and Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.<sup>1</sup> (collectively “Merck”) in the above-captioned action (the “Action”).

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Disclosure and discovery activity in the Action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting and defending the Action may be warranted. Accordingly, the Parties hereby stipulate to, and request that the Court enter, the following Stipulated Protective Order (the “Order”).

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<sup>1</sup> Defendant Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. is now known as “Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC.”

The Parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under applicable law.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Challenging Party: Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: Information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that contain confidential and non-public development, financial or commercial information or non-public personal information or any other information for which a good faith claim of need for protection from disclosure can be made under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or other applicable law.

2.3 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and In-House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.4 Designating Party: Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”.

2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: All items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which they are generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in the Action.

2.6 Expert: A person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the Action who has been retained by a Party or its Counsel to serve as an expert witness or consultant in the Action.

2.7 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”  
Information or Items: Sensitive “CONFIDENTIAL Information or Items” (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that contain or otherwise reference non-public trade secrets or other current or prospective confidential research, development, commercial, or financial information, or other highly sensitive data, the disclosure of which to another Party or Non-Party could cause a competitive disadvantage to a Producing Party or could create a substantial risk of serious harm that could not be avoided by less restrictive means, including, for example, strategic planning information and pricing and cost data and analyses.

2.8 In-House Counsel: Litigation attorneys who are employees of a Party to this action, including any attorney for Organon. In-House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

2.9 Non-Party: Any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity not named as a Party in this Action.

2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: Attorneys who are not employees of a Party to this action but are retained to represent or advise a Party to the Action and have appeared in the Action on behalf of that Party or are affiliated with or contracted by a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that Party.

2.11 Party: Any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors, and employees.

2.12 Producing Party: Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in this Action.

2.13 Professional Vendors: Persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

2.14 Protected Material: Any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" or as "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY."

2.15 Privacy Information: Any documents containing an individual's social security number or taxpayer identification number (other than only the last four digits thereof), an individual's birth date (other than only the year of the individual's birth), the name of an individual known to be a minor (other than only the minor's initials), a financial account number (other than only the last four digits thereof), "Personal Data," "Personally Identifiable Information," "Sensitive Private Data," or "Nonpublic Personal Information" as these terms are defined under federal or state laws, regardless of whether such information has been designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" (collectively "Privacy Information").

2.16 Receiving Party: Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

### 3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this Order cover Protected Material produced in discovery in the Action as well as (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected

Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material. However, the protections conferred by this Order do not cover the following information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a violation of this Order; and (b) any information obtained by the Receiving Party from a source who obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

4. DURATION

Even after Final Disposition of the Action, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. “Final Disposition” shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in the Action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of the Action, including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law. This Court will retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Order following the Final Disposition of the Action.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take reasonable care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies for protection under this Order.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

(a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial proceedings), that the Producing Party affix the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” to each page that contains Protected Material or, in the case of native file production, in conformity with the Stipulation and Order Regarding Production of Documents and Information.

A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which material it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or pages thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the appropriate legend (“CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”) to each document or page of a document that contains Protected Material.

(b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings, that all deposition testimony or testimony during other pretrial proceedings shall be treated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY” for a period of 30 days from the date of

receipt by Outside Counsel of Record of a final transcript during which a Designating Party may identify the specific portions of testimony as to which protection is sought and specify the particular level of protection being asserted. At the expiration of that 30 day period, only those portions that are specifically identified will qualify for protection under this Order.

Alternatively, during that 30-day period, a Designating Party may, if appropriate, designate the entire transcript as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” Any rough transcript that is generated before receipt by Outside Counsel of Record of a final transcript also shall be treated during the 30-day period as if it had been designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” in its entirety unless otherwise agreed. After the expiration of that period, the transcript shall be treated only as actually designated.

Each Party shall provide notice to all other Parties if it reasonably expects to reference or use Protected Material at a deposition, hearing or other proceeding so that the other parties can ensure that only authorized individuals who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A) are present at those proceedings. The use of a document as an exhibit at a deposition shall not in any way affect its designation as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.”

(c) for information produced in some form other than documentary form and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”. If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s) and specify the level of protection being asserted.

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If corrected within a reasonable period of time after production, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

## 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. A Receiving Party must challenge a designation of confidentiality within a reasonable period of time after such designation is made by the Designating Party.

6.2 Meet and Confer. In the event of a challenge to a designation, the Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written notice must recite that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the Order. The Parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly (in person or by telephone) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the Designating Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the chosen designation.

6.3 Judicial Intervention with Respect to Confidentiality Designations. If the challenge cannot be resolved through the meet and confer process, the Challenging Party disputing the designation may apply to the Court for a ruling that a document (or category of



documents) designated as Protected Material by the Designating Party is not entitled to the specified level of protection within 21 days of the Designating Party's response described in paragraph 6.2 above.

The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Challenging Party. Frivolous challenges and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions.

While any challenge pursuant to this paragraph is pending, all Parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Designating Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

## 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle the Action. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of Section 16 below.

Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order. The recipient of any Protected Material that is provided under this Order shall maintain such information in a reasonably secure and safe manner that ensures access is limited to the persons authorized herein, and shall further exercise the same standard of due and proper care with respect to the storage, custody, use, and/or dissemination of such information as the

recipient would use with respect to its own material of the same or comparable sensitivity, but no less than the reasonable precautions set forth in Section 15 below.

7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

(a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in the Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for purposes of the Action;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including In-House Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for purposes of the Action;

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for purposes of the Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the Court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for purposes of the Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(f) during their depositions, witnesses in the Action who are or were employed by a Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A); and

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information.

7.3 Disclosure of “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES

ONLY” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” only to:

(a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in the Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for purposes of the Action;

(b) In-House Counsel of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for purposes of the Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A, that has been designated to receive such information or item (“Designated In-House Counsel”) and as to whom the Designating Party does not object to disclosure, in accordance with Section 7.4 below;

(c) Experts of the Receiving Party (1) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for purposes of the Action, and (2) who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the Court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A); and

(f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information.

7.4 Procedures for Requesting Disclosure of Information or Items Designated

“HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”

(a) A Party that makes a request and provides the information specified in the preceding paragraphs may disclose the subject Protected Material to the identified Designated In-House Counsel or a Designated Plaintiff Representative after seven business days of making the request and providing the required information (collectively, the “Request Date”) unless, within five business days of the Request Date, the Party receives a written objection from the Designating Party setting forth the grounds on which the objection is based.

(b) A Party that receives a timely written objection must meet and confer with the Designating Party (either in person or by telephone) to try to resolve the matter by agreement within seven days of the written objection. If the dispute is not resolved during the meet and confer, the Party receiving the objection may seek relief from the Court.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in the Action as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party and include in such notification a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Order and must include a copy of this Order with the notification; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

(d) counsel shall take all other reasonable steps to ensure that persons receiving Protected Material do not use or disclose such information for any purpose other than for the purpose stated in the subpoena or court order in that specific litigation.

If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” before a determination by an appropriate court, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission, or is ordered to do so by any Court. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material.

Nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

9. APPLICABILITY OF THIS STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER TO NON-PARTIES

9.1 Order Applicable to Non-Parties. The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by Non-Parties in the Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”. Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this Action is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order.

9.2 Service of Order with Non-Party Discovery Request. The Party issuing any subpoena or other discovery request on any Non-Party in this Action shall include with any such subpoena or discovery request a copy of this Order.

9.3 Request to a Party Seeking Non-Party Confidential Information. In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party’s confidential

information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

- (a) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;
- (b) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of this Order, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and
- (c) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this Court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Party that received the discovery request may produce the Non-Party's responsive confidential information. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party that received the discovery request shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the Court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this Court of its Protected Material.

10. FILING OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

In the event a Party wishes to use any Protected Material designated by another Party as Confidential or Highly Confidential or any papers containing or referring to the content of such material in any pleading or document filed with the Court in this Action, such pleading or document and any appended Protected Material shall be filed under seal pursuant to the New Jersey Court Rule 1:38-11, subject to the following exception:

- (a) A Party wishing to use any Protected Material designated by another Party as Confidential or Highly Confidential will provide a list of all such documents to the designating

party seven (7) days prior to the filing due date and request that the Protected Material and any reference thereto not be filed under seal.

(b) If a Party identifies one or more designated document that it intends to file less than seven days prior to the filing due date, the Party shall notify the designating party immediately upon that determination and request that the Protected Material and any reference thereto not be filed under seal.

(c) If the designating party agrees in writing that the designated material need not be filed under seal, the Protected Material may be filed in the public docket.

(d) If the designating party does not agree in writing that the Protected Material may be filed in the public docket, the document shall be provided to the Court for in-camera review, rather than uploaded on to the e-courts docket. Documents submitted for in-camera review may be emailed to Judge Porto's law clerk with a copy to opposing counsel if the scanned documents are less than \_\_\_\_ MB. If the document exceeds \_\_\_\_ MB, the document shall be sent to the court via overnight mail or separated into smaller documents and emailed in multiple emails.

(e) Documents will be filed under seal only if the Court so orders.

#### 11. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of

this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Additionally, if the Receiving Party discovers any loss of Protected Material or a breach of security, including any actual or suspected unauthorized access, relating to the produced Protected Material, the Receiving Party shall:

- (a) Promptly provide written notice to Producing Party of such breach within twenty-four (24) hours of the breach discovery
- (b) Investigate and make reasonable efforts to remediate the effects of the breach, and provide Producing Party with assurances that such breach shall not recur
- (c) Provide sufficient information about the breach that the Producing Party can reasonably ascertain the size and scope of the breach. The Requesting Party agrees to cooperate with the Producing Party or law enforcement in investigating any such security incident.
- (d) The Requesting Party shall promptly take all necessary and appropriate corrective action to terminate the unauthorized access and/or correct the breach.

12. NOTIFICATION IN THE EVENT OF A SECURITY BREACH OR UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO PRODUCED MATERIAL

- (a) If the Receiving Party discovers any breach of security, including any actual or suspected unauthorized access, relating to materials produced, the Receiving Party shall:
- (b) Promptly provide written notice to Producing Party of such breach within twenty-four (24) hours of the breach discovery.
- (c) Investigate and make reasonable efforts to remediate the effects of the breach, and provide Producing Party with assurances that such breach shall not recur.



(d) Provide sufficient information about the breach that the Producing Party can reasonably ascertain the size and scope of the breach. The Receiving Party agrees to cooperate with the Producing Party or law enforcement in investigating any such security incident.

(e) The Receiving Party shall promptly take all necessary and appropriate corrective action to terminate the unauthorized access and/or correct the breach.

13. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

Nothing in this Order shall be construed to prohibit a Producing Party from seeking relief from any inadvertent or unintentional disclosure of confidential, privileged, or work-product information. Nothing in this Order shall diminish the legal rights of any person seeking such relief. When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), neither the attorney-client privilege nor the work product protection is waived by inadvertent production in this Action or any other action. This Protective Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection allowed by Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d).

14. MISCELLANEOUS

14.1 Right to Further Relief and Modification by the Court. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future. The Court retains the right to allow disclosure of any subject covered by this Order or to modify this Order at any time in the interest of justice.

14.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. No Party waives through entry of this Order any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Order.

14.3 Right of a Party to Use Its Own Documents. Nothing in this Order shall affect a Party's use or disclosure of its own documents in any way.

14.4 Right of a Party to Use Independently Obtained Documents. Nothing in this Order shall impose any restrictions on the use or disclosure by a Party of documents, material or information obtained by such Party independent of formal discovery proceedings in this Action.

14.5 Right to Supplement or Request Deletion. If during the course of litigation, a data subject with privacy rights pursuant to the Data Protection Laws identified herein exercises his or her right to erasure of personal data contained within the previously produced Protected Material, the Producing Party shall furnish newly redacted versions of the Protected Material within a reasonable time. The Requesting Party will promptly destroy the original version of the Protected Material and replace it with the redacted version. The Producing Party may also require the entire document destroyed and replaced with a slip-sheet indicating the Protected Material is subject to erasure pursuant to the applicable Data Protection Law.

14.6 Personally Identifiable Information Personally identifiable information that a party has designated as Protected Material as defined herein, based on its good faith belief that the information is subject to federal or state laws or other privacy obligations, or any of the

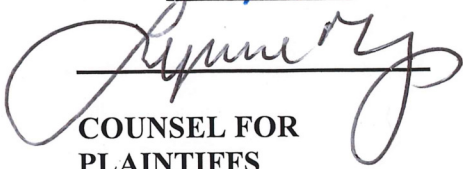
information contained therein, shall be handled by Counsel for the Receiving Party with the highest care.

15. FINAL DISPOSITION

Within 60 days after the Final Disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. However, the Receiving Party may maintain its notes and coding of the documents produced for use in another action averring the same allegations as this Action against the same defendants in another jurisdiction until such time as all actions pending in other jurisdictions reach final disposition. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain archival copies of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Order as set forth in Section 4.

**IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

Dated: 10/28, 2022



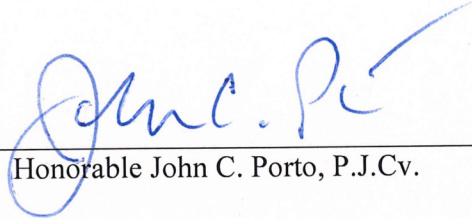
**COUNSEL FOR  
PLAINTIFFS**

Respectfully submitted,



**COUNSEL FOR  
DEFENDANTS MERCK &  
CO., INC. and MERCK  
SHARP & DOHME CORP.**

**APPROVED AND SO ORDERED** this 28th day of October, 2022.



Honorable John C. Porto, P.J.Cv.

**A COPY OF THIS ORDER SHALL BE POSTED ONLINE BY THE COURT.**

**EXHIBIT A**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the Superior Court of New Jersey Law Division, Atlantic County on \_\_\_\_\_ in *In re: Singulair Litigation, MDL No. 637*. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of New Jersey Law Division, Atlantic County for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_