June 5, 2008	Tulu-Page Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY	LIST OF EXHIBITS
ON HORMONE RECEPTOR TESTING	
	EXHIBIT P-1565
BEFORE THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE CAMERON - COMMISSIONER	
	EXHIBITS P-1570 THROUGH TO P-1603 INCLUSIVE Pg. 131
June 3, 2008	
Appearances:	
Remark Coffee O.C.	
Bernard Coffey, Q.C Commission Co-counsel Sandra Chaytor, Q.C Commission Co-counsel	
Sandra Chaytor, Q.C Commission Co-counser	
Rolf Pritchard/Stephen Mills Her Majesty in Right of NL	
Jane Hennebury Doctors Kara Laing et al	
Daniel Simmons Eastern Regional Integrated	
Health Authority	
, and the second	
Pamela Taylor Members of the Breast Cancer	
Testing Class Action	
Mark Pike NL Medical Association	
Jennifer Newbury Canadian Cancer Society (NL Division)	
Stacey O'Dea Central, Western and Labrador-Grenfell	
Regional Integrated Health Authorities	
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TABLE OF CONTENTS	1 THE COMMISSIONER:
	2 Q. Please be seated. Ms. Newbury.
MS. SUSAN BONNELL - RESUMES THE STAND	3 MS. SUSAN BONNELL, EXAMINATION BY MS. JENNIFER NEWBURY
Francisco de Louis de Nombros Contido Des 4 CO	4 (CONTINUED)
Examination by Jennifer Newbury - Cont'd Pgs. 4 - 60	5 MS. NEWBURY: 6 Q. Thank you. Can we go to P-0616 please? This
Examination by Mark Pike	
Examination by Daniel Simmons	7 is the letter that you had drafted. I 8 understand the intention was that this could
Re-examination by Bernard Correy, Q.C Fgs. 113 - 129	9 be used for the NLMA website as a letter for
DR. GERSHON EJECKAM - SWORN	physicians. And we looked at that yesterday.
DR. GERSHON EJECKANI - SWORN	11 Paragraph 6 of the letter states that "Only a
Examination by Bernard Coffey, Q.C Pgs. 129 - 296	12 small percentage of breast cancer patients may
Examination by Bernard Correy, Q.C 1gs. 125	be affected by this retesting. Approximately
Certificate	14 75 percent of all breast cancer patients
	15 already tested positive for ER and PR
	16 receptors. From the results that we have
	17 retested thus far we are anticipating that
	less than 10 percent of all breast cancer
	patients will convert from a negative to a
	20 positive and may experience a change or
	21 addition to their cancer therapy. Patients
	with positive ER and PR results or those who
	previously received hormone therapy for their
	24 cancer are not impacted." When you drafted
	25 that letter there, was this a concept that you

- came up with yourself or is that information 1
- that had been provided to you by Dr. Williams 2
- or someone else? 3
- 4 MS. BONNELL:
- 5 A. This was the information at--what is the date
- on this letter, Ms. Newbury? 6
- 7 MS. NEWBURY:
- 8 Q. That date, the e-mail, I believe, is October
- the 4th.
- 10 MS. BONNELL:
- A. October 4th, yeah. At that point in time I 11
- guess that's what we believed might be the 12
- case, although I don't--I think I indicated to 13
- Mr. Coffey that I don't believe this letter 14
- was ever sent. 15
- 16 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Right. Yes, I understand that. But at the 17
- time you were drafting it, it would 18
- potentially be placed on the website? 19
- 20 MS. BONNELL:
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Okay. And this was shortly before the various 23
- media reports dated October 5th up through to 24
- October 14th where Dr. Williams made similar 25

 - Page 6
 - comments about the 10 percent -
- 2 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 3

1

- 4 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. are expected to convert. And you'd 5
- indicated that you later suggested to Dr. 6
- 7 Williams that he should stay away from using
- that percentage figure as it might cause -8
- 9 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 10
- 11 MS. NEWBURY:
- O. some confusion. You didn't think about that 12
- 13 at the time you were preparing this letter,
- were you? 14
- 15 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, I think that's where, that's where--you 16
- 17 know, what I indicated to Dr. Williams was
- that the 10 percent was being misinterpreted. 18
- 19 MS. NEWBURY:
- o. Okay.
- 21 MS. BONNELL:
- A. And that it was best just to avoid numbers as 22
- we were trying to predict, anyway, and had no 23
- way of knowing. The test results may have all 24
- come back with no change. I mean, we had no 25

way of knowing. They may have all come back

Page 7

Page 8

- 2 all changed. At that point it would all be
- supposition. 3
- 4 MS. NEWBURY:
- 5 O. Sure.
- 6 MS. BONNELL:
- A. And in the meantime this letter was not set,
- 8 to my knowledge.
- 9 MS. NEWBURY:
- 10 Q. Right, okay. But you hadn't tuned into the
- fact that this could possibly be 11
- misinterpreted when you prepared this draft? 12
- 13 MS. BONNELL:
- A. The letter wasn't sent, Ms. Newbury.
- 15 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. No.

19

24

- 17 MS. BONNELL:
- 18 A. So, you know, in the end it's not part of what
 - happened, anyway. But I don't recall where my
- head was when that particular memo was written 20
- or letter was written, drafted. 21
- 22 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. With regard to management of the ER/PR 23
 - problem, generally speaking, you'd mentioned
- that in your view it was Dr. Williams who 25
- - handled that until his retirement?
 - 2 MS. BONNELL:
 - A. Yes.
 - 4 MS. NEWBURY:
 - Q. And subsequent to his retirement, who took
 - over management of the ER/PR issues? 6
 - 7 MS. BONNELL:
 - A. After he retired?
 - 9 MS. NEWBURY:
 - o. Yes.
 - 11 MS. BONNELL:
 - A. It would have been Dr. Howell. 12
 - 13 MS. NEWBURY:
 - 14 Q. Okay. Did he take over all aspects, all of
 - the same aspects of the ER/PR issues that Dr. 15
 - Williams had previously been handling? 16
 - 17 MS. BONNELL:
 - A. He took over Dr. Williams portfolio, so it 18
 - would be my understanding that he did. 19
 - 20 MS. NEWBURY:
 - Q. Okay. You're not aware that any part of the 21
 - ER/PR problem was -
 - 23 MS. BONNELL:

- 24 A. I know that Ms. Pilgrim became more involved 25
 - when Dr. Williams left the organization, but

1	Dr. Williams had quality as part of his
2	portfolio and Dr. Howell did not.

- 3 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Okay. Were there any other differences in
- terms of what Dr. Howell had assumed in terms 5
- of management of the ER/PR issues? 6
- 7 MS. BONNELL:
- A. I can't speak to that, Ms. Newbury.
- 9 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Now, there was some evidence given by you 10 about your communication with Carolyn Chaplin 11
- in around July 22nd and 23rd. And you'd 12
- indicated at that time there was some to and 13
- fro, you thought that the problem was serious 14
- and you had contacted Ms. Chaplin just to give 15
- 16 her the heads up that there might be some
- press coming up in the next few days? 17
- 18 MS. BONNELL:
- 19 A. I think that was actually the week before
- 20 that.
- 21 MS. NEWBURY:
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 MS. BONNELL:
- A. The meeting with the minister, I believe, was 24
- on the 23rd. Am I correct in that? 25
- Page 10

- 1 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Correct.
- 3 MS. BONNELL:
- A. So it would have been the week before that.
- 5 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. The week before that, July 19th, I believe was 6
- the date. 7
- 8 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Okay.
- 10 MS. NEWBURY:
- 11 Q. And then when you--I think, or maybe it was
- July the 18th. But in the next couple of days 12
- you had gone back and forth and you had 13
- indicated that the problem reverted back to 14
- 15 being more serious. And I understood from
- your evidence that you did not call Ms. 16
- 17 Chaplin back to tell her that it was now
- considered more serious because you were not 18
- 19 planning to do a press conference?
- 20 MS. BONNELL:
- 21 A. I believe that following the meeting with the
- 22 minister on the 23rd, if I'm right on my date,
- really what happened at that meeting was that 23
- 24 we made a decision that we weren't going to
- make a decision at that point. Do you know 25

- Page 11 what I mean? Like, at that meeting we said 2 that the decision on what we would do, press conference, whatever option it was, was 3 delayed until we could gather more 4 information, so in the subsequent days we 5 gained new information. There was a meeting 6 on the 1st of August in the organization at 7 8 which point we made a decision to redo--well, it was at that point or around that point that 9 10 the decision was made to do, in fact, what we did, you know, the group that we were going to 11 12 do and that we weren't going to use our own internal system to redo the testing, that we 13 14 would halt, all those sort of decisions were sort of fermented at that time. And I did not 15 16 contact Ms. Chaplin myself, but I was aware
- 20 MS. NEWBURY:

and others.

17

18

19

2

- 21 Q. So you didn't think at the time that the
- 22 impression that you left with Ms. Chaplin with

that the organization was in contact with the

department through Dr. Williams and Mr. Tilley

- when you last spoke with her is that this is 23
- less serious, perhaps I should call her back 24
- even though we don't plan to do a press 25
- conference, perhaps I should call her back 1

just to let her know that -

- 3 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, no, I -
- 5 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. we again think this is more serious?
- 7 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No.
- 9 MS. NEWBURY:
- 10 Q. Okay. Is there any reason why you would not 11
 - have thought it important to do that?
- 12 MS. BONNELL:

14

- 13 A. Because it wasn't my role do to that. If I was
 - asked to do that, I would have done that, but
- 15 it was my understanding that someone else was
- making contact with the department other than 16
- 17 myself to Ms. Chaplin.
- 18 MS. NEWBURY:
- 19 Q. But you had contacted her initially. Was that
- on your own initiative that you contacted Ms. 20
- 21 Chaplin?
- 22 MS. BONNELL:
 - 23 A. No. I was asked to call Ms. Chaplin.
- 24 MS. NEWBURY:
- 25 Q. Okay. And did you know that someone would be

	Page 15
Page 13	
1 calling her back to let her know that the	1 MS. NEWBURY:
2 problem was again more serious?	2 Q. Okay. Now I see there on the second line it
3 MS. BONNELL:	3 states, "We have prepared a few messages in
4 A. Ms. Chaplin is within the department, so we would assume that she would hear that through	the event that she gets calls regarding this issue."
1	6 MS. BONNELL:
6 her own - 7 MS. NEWBURY:	7 A. Um-hm.
	8 MS. NEWBURY:
8 Q. If I could have Exhibit 0361, please? This is	
9 an e-mail that you forwarded to Joan Dawe and	9 Q. And I assume that refers to the ER/PR issue? 10 MS. BONNELL:
George Tilley and copied to Dr. Williams about an interview. You've already been shown this	10 MS. BONNELL: 11 A. Yes.
1	12 MS. NEWBURY:
and given some evidence about that. Do you know how the interview with Ms. Kearney came	13 Q. Okay. And what form were those messages
I	14 provided to her?
about, whether that was something arranged by Eastern Health?	15 MS. BONNELL:
16 MS. BONNELL:	
17 A. I don't believe it was arranged by Eastern 18 Health. If we don't have a record of the call	
coming in to us, it would not have been	
20 arranged by us. I don't believe it was	20 MS. NEWBURY:
21 arranged by us.	Q. So that would have been verbally as opposed to
22 MS. NEWBURY:	22 in writing?
Q. Okay. And how did you become involved in this	23 MS. BONNELL:
24 issue?	24 A. Yeah.
25 MS. BONNELL:	25 MS. NEWBURY:
Page 14	
1 A. There are e-mails prior to this one in which	1 Q. And do you -
2 Ms. Dawe had heard about it occuring. We then	2 MS. BONNELL:
3 had subsequent phone calls with Ms. Kearney	3 A. There was probablyyou know, if you haveyou
4 because she was concerned about being put in a	4 know, I would suspect what I would have said
5 situation of having to address ER/PR, given	5 to her is something like, you know, I'm not a
6 her role within the organization. And we made	6 spokesperson on this issue, if you have
7 some calls on her behalf and wereshe called	7 questions, I'd suggest you call the patient
8 Mr. Dawe and together they made a decision	8 relations officer, that sort of a general
9 that they weren't going to be talking about	9 that would have been the kind of thing we
10 ER/PR, so that was my only involvement. She	would have given her and others who may be
11 wantedI remember her wanting to not do it	would have given her and others who may be questioned on ER/PR.
wantedI remember her wanting to not do it because she was afraid of being questioned on	would have given her and others who may be questioned on ER/PR. 12 MS. NEWBURY:
wantedI remember her wanting to not do it because she was afraid of being questioned on something which she knew nothing about and my	would have given her and others who may be questioned on ER/PR. MS. NEWBURY: Q. Okay. And were you the one that gave that
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wantedI remember her wanting to not do it because she was afraid of being questioned on something which she knew nothing about and my encouraging her to do it because I felt that it was something that she really wanted to do and it was a topic, I think this October might	would have given her and others who may be questioned on ER/PR. MS. NEWBURY: Q. Okay. And were you the one that gave that message to Ms. Kearney? MS. BONNELL: A. I don't recall if it was me or Ms. Thomas. I
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conversation with her at that time. 1

2 MS. NEWBURY:

- Q. Okay. And do you know if anyone else within 3
- Eastern Health would have had any occassion to 4
- talk to her about this particular interview? 5
- 6 MS. BONNELL:
- A. I doubt it very much.
- 8 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Okay. Thank you. Now, it was your evidence,
- and you've spoken about this a couple of 10
- times, that a strategic plan would have been 11
- advisable and that as part of that strategic 12
- plan you would have included communication 13
- 14 with advocacy groups such as the Canadian
- Cancer Society. And that would be proactive 15
- 16 communication, I assume, as opposed to
- reactive communication? 17
- 18 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes.
- 20 MS. NEWBURY:
- 21 Q. And would that communication be for providing
- 22 information to those advocacy groups or would
- 23 it also seek input or feedback from these
- 24 groups?
- 25 MS. BONNELL:

2 MS. NEWBURY:

1

3

Page 18

19

- 2 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Okay. Generally speaking, what would you do
- in a strategic plan, would you--would it be a 4
- two-way conversation? 5

A. It could be both.

- 6 MS. BONNELL:
- 7 A. We always encourage two-way communication. We
- always encourage involvement so that 8
- 9 stakeholders feel engaged in an issue. So it
- would be hard to predict what I would -10
- 11 MS. NEWBURY:
- 12 Q. So even though that you didn't have a
- 13 strategic plan in place, then, you know,
- 14 including dealing with the Cancer Society as
- an advocacy group, in 2005 Peter Dawe was seen 15
- in the media on behalf of the Canadian Cancer 16
- 17 Society providing some of his views and
- concerns about the ER/PR issue. Why not, at 18
- 19 that time, whether you have a strategic plan
- or not, take an initiative to involve the 20
- 21 Cancer Society in -
- 22 MS. BONNELL:
- 23 A. Well, I believe he -
- 24 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. to engage at that point in time?

- 1 MS. BONNELL:
- A. he was briefed numerous times. Maybe--well,

Page 19

Page 20

- I don't know if I should say numerous. I 3
 - remember at least two, maybe three times in
- which I was involved in briefings. And I know 5
- that early in October Mr. Williams--Dr. 6
- Williams and Mr. Tilley informed me that they 7
- 8 had done a briefing with him at that point.
- 9 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. And you were attending these meetings 10
- 11 yourself?
- 12 MS. BONNELL:
 - A. I didn't attend that one, but I did attend
- 14 others, yeah.
- 15 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Okay. During those meetings did you ever 16
- initiate or seek feedback from them, you know, 17
- please tell us what the concerns are that 18
 - you're hearing, or was it simply a matter of
- providing information that you saw fit to 20
- provide to the Cancer Society at that time 21
- 22 just to update them on what the status was?
- 23 MS. BONNELL:
- A. I wasn't involved in that briefing, so I don't 24
- know what was said in that briefing to Mr. 25
- Dawe. 1
- Q. So you have no idea what the communication 3
- was? 4
- 5 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No. I think he was given information on what 6
- 7 was happening at that point in time. Whether
- he was asked for feedback or not, I don't 8
- know.
- 10 MS. NEWBURY:
- 11 Q. And given your role in communications, do you
- think it would have been important to try to 12
- 13 find out? These are the types of things I
- understand you would do in a strategic plan, 14
- you would have communication with the group -15
- 16 MS. BONNELL:
- 17 A. Um-hm.
- 18 MS. NEWBURY:

- Q. Even though that you're aware some other 19
- people in your organization might be briefing 20
- him, do you think at that point in time it 21
- might have been appropriate to take it a step 22
- further and try to open the lines of 23
- communication from the communications 24
 - department perspective with the Cancer

Ju	ne 3, 2008 Mu	lti-P	2age	e Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 2	21		Page 23
1	~		1	being the spokesperson and conducting that
l	MS. BONNELL:		2	meeting. The communications department's role
3			3	in that is to help facilitate, it's to
4			4	organize, to help prepare messaging, to make
5			5	sure there's enough chairs in the room, to
6	1 1 1 10 0 1		6	make sure the media are invited, that, you
7			7	know, it's a facilitation role.
				S. NEWBURY:
8				
9				Q. So the strategic plan for communications that
10	e e	10		you noted was absent in this case - S. BONNELL:
11	•			
12	•	12		A. Would be an organizational plan.
13				S. NEWBURY:
14	•	14		Q. Okay. So you would not be directly involved
15	•	15		in the communications with the stakeholders,
16		16	6	the stakeholder mapping that you mentioned,
17	•	17	7	you would just indicate to other members or
18	attended with Mr. Dawe, I've been there as an	18	8	other departments of the organization this is
19	advisor toI remember one we gave him late in	19	9	what you should now do?
20	May that I was there as an advisor to Dr.	20	0 M	S. BONNELL:
21	Howell, if there were questions about the	21	1	A. I think I indicated to Mr. Coffey a couple of
22	media coverage or the briefing that Mr. Dawe	22	2	days go that it's not my role within the
23	had to answer. I wasn't there to speak on	23	3	organization to be a spokesperson for the
24	behalf of the organization.	24	4	organization, it's not my role to be a leader
25	MS. NEWBURY:	25	5	in actually conducting the communications.
	Page 2	22		Page 24
1	77	1	1	It's a facilitation role and a building role
l	MS. BONNELL:		2	and a consultancy role and an advisory role.
3	** *			S. NEWBURY:
l	MS. NEWBURY:			Q. And part of that role is to make sure that it
5	Q. Okay. But when you've spoken about the	5	5	gets done?
6			5 6 M	S. BONNELL:
7			7	A. Yes, indeed.
8				S. NEWBURY:
°				Q. If you see that there's a need for
l		10		communication with -
10	MS. BONNELL:			S. BONNELL:
l				A. Yes.
12		12		
13	·			S. NEWBURY:
14	•	14		Q stakeholders, then -
15				S. BONNELL:
16		16		A. It's to encourage that those things get done,
17		17		yes.
18				S. NEWBURY:
19	3	19		Q. And as part of that strategic communications
20		20		plan, do you think that there is a role for
21	e	21		the communications department or others in the
22		22		organization making sure that they understand
23	responsibility for that falls within one of	23	3	what the issues and concerns are of the
	.1 .6 1 1 . 1 . 11	100		

24

25 MS. BONNELL:

various advocacy groups?

the portfolios, a director who's responsible

for doing that and making that happen and

24

Ju	ne 3,	2008	Multi
			Page 25
1	A.	Yes, I do.	
2	MS. NI	EWBURY:	
3	Q.	And if you have a formal plan or not, I take	
4		it that you can still seek feedback and input	
5		from advocacy groups, even if you haven't had	l
6		the opportunity or had overlooked getting a	
7		strategic plan in place?	
8	MS. BO	ONNELL:	

- A. Yes, of course.
- 10 MS. NEWBURY:
- 11 Q. Okay, and did you at any time after October 12 2005, when Mr. Dawe, on behalf of the Cancer 13 Society was reporting in the media, did you
- 14 take an effort to find out yourself what
- 15 exactly the issues and concerns were of the

concerns and issues were, yes.

- 16 Cancer Society?
- 17 MS. BONNELL:
- 18 A. I was certainly informed by individuals who 19 work more closely with Mr. Dawe, individuals 20 from the Cancer Program, doctors in the Cancer 21 Program, leaders in the Cancer Program who 22 work more closely with him, what some of his
- 24 MS. NEWBURY:

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8

25 Q. Okay, but not from Mr. Dawe? He might have a

Page 26

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5

- different perspective as an advocate for 1 cancer patients. 2
- 3 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Well, if Mr. Dawe is speaking to Ms. Pilgrim, 4
- 5 for example, and expressing his concerns to
- Ms. Pilgrim or Dr. Williams or Dr. Howell, and 6
- 7 those concerns are expressed to me, then I
 - have some understanding of what the concerns
- are. I believe I've already indicated that 9
- one of the things that we should have done 10
- 11 following the announcement and in the period
- of time while the panelling was being done was 12
- 13 do more open communications with the patients
- 14 who were involved and the Cancer Society, I
- guess, would have some role and involvement 15
- there, but I guess our thinking, in 16
- 17 retrospect, is that we should have had an
- opportunity for patients to come in and be 18
- informed of what the process was in that 2006 19
- 20 year.
- 21 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. After the first briefing that you mentioned 22
- that you did not attend, and that was Mr. 23
- Tilley's briefing with Mr. Dawe? 24
- 25 MS. BONNELL:

Page 27 A. Yes, I don't even know if it was a briefing,

- 2 phone call, if they brought him in for a
- meeting, I'm not sure. I was told that they 3
- had met with Mr. Dawe. 4
- 5 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. And you didn't seek a report of what happened
- in that meeting? 7
- 8 MS. BONNELL:
- A. From my CEO, no.
- 10 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Or indirectly through someone else who might 11
- know what had happened? 12
- 13 MS. BONNELL:
- 14 A. No, I was told that Mr. Dawe was brought in
- and told what was going on, but I didn't ask 15
- my CEO for a report, no. 16
- 17 MS. NEWBURY:
- O. And he didn't offer one?
- 19 MS. BONNELL:
- 20 A. Other than that, no.
- 21 MS. NEWBURY:
- 22 Q. If I could have Exhibit 0304, please? This is
- the memo that you've seen a few times, July 23
 - 22nd 2005. This is page three of the exhibit,
- and there's a reference there at the bottom of 25
 - Page 28
- the page, the fourth bullet, and then another 1
 - indentation, the third bullet, you've
- indicated there "do we have the potential to 3
- ignite breast cancer advocacy groups?" 4
 - If I could have Exhibit 1500, please?
- I'm just going to point out a couple of things 6
- 7 and ask a couple of questions. This is an e-
- mail that you had forwarded to Heather Predham 8
- on August 8th, 2006, and you indicate there -9
- 11 A. I think this was an e-mail from Ms. Pilgrim,
- 12 wasn't it? Yes.
- 13 MS. NEWBURY:
- 14 Q. It's an e-mail from--yes, it starts as an e-
- mail from Patricia Pilgrim. 15
- 16 MS. BONNELL:
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 MS. NEWBURY:
- 19 Q. To Leona Barrington, Heather Predham and to
- yourself and copied to Dianne Smith. 20
- 21 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes.
- 23 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. And this is regarding a call that had been 24
- placed to Peter Dawe, even though he's on 25

25

leave the general public with the impression

that there are a new group of women. This is

we wanted to share with him. What I'm

suggesting to her at this point is e-mail him,

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1 causing confusion and we're getting ca	lls 1	I think that, you know, as I've indicated
2 asking about this. There is a new level of	of 2	already, I do not feel that these people are
fear and anxiety that Peter Dawe is creati	ng 3	less credible individuals. I was making the
4 and then blaming us for."	4	point that theythat the individuals with the
5 Now I know that you've offered	5	credibility, in terms of speaking from an
6 explanations on these various e-mails at t	the 6	Eastern Health's perspective, should be the
7 time to perhaps explain that those are	7	individuals who work for Eastern Health.
8 isolated events in a moment of frustration	or 8	And the last bullet, I also explained at
9 perhaps to neutralize the tone or explain t		great length yesterday and did attempt to say
meaning behind those e-mails. I'm wond	lering 10	that it's patently false and when I read it,
if you had offered the explanations to the	ose 11	it was never an impression of the
recipients of these e-mails at the time?	12	organization. I'm not speaking on behalf of
13 MS. BONNELL:	13	anybody else here, and this e-mail, when I see
14 A. At the time that the e-mail was written?	14	it, is extremely embarrassing to me as someone
15 MS. NEWBURY:	15	who tries to always deport themselves in a
16 Q. Yes.	16	professional way, and that I was even thinking
17 MS. BONNELL:	17	that at 4:25 on May 16th is somewhat of an
18 A. Did I offer an explanation?	18	embarrassment to me. But I can tell you at
19 MS. NEWBURY:	19	4:30 and 5:00, I was not thinking these
20 Q. To those people. I mean, did you say to	Mr. 20	things, and I've worked with Mr. Tilley for
Tilley, "don't mind my e-mail this morning."	ng. I 21	eight years, I've worked with Mr. Dodge for
was up all night. I was tired"? It might	22	the same amount of time, a shorter amount of
leave the impression in the mind of the pe		time with Dr. Howell. These individuals know
reading these e-mails that Peter Dawe and	I the 24	me. They know what I am like and I would
25 Canadian Cancer Society is not held	in 25	suspect if you were to ask them, and not me,
	Page 34	Page 36
particularly high regard, and you've offer	red 1	that they would indicate to you that they did
2 explanations over the last couple of days		not feel that I felt this way and that I would
3 explain that that's not really how you felt		hope, and certainly my own boss has indicated
but I'm wondering if the recipients of the	ese 4	to me in private conversations about this
5 e-mails at the time had the benefit of those	se 5	since this has become such a big media story
6 explanations?	6	in the last couple of months, that he never
7 MS. BONNELL:	7	felt that I believed that way and that they
8 A. No, they didn't get an explanation from n	ne. I 8	knew that I was frustrated, and they knew that
9 wasn't questioned on this e-mail.	9	I was upset and that the inaction of the
10 MS. NEWBURY:	10	organization to speak at this point, we all
11 Q. Okay. But you didn't take the initiative t	o 11	felt some culpability for that and that's
say, "listen, I spoke a little hastily this	12	where our heads were at that point in time.
morning. I was frustrated. You know,		As to the issue with Ms. Mundon, I
really do think Mr. Dawe and Ches Crosb		indicated to Mr. Coffey yesterday that I wrote
15 Geri Rogers are credible, but"you know		that in a moment of frustration. I believe I
explain it, just as you have done yesterday	y? 16	discovered after that point that Mr. Dawe had
17 MS. BONNELL:	17	actually spoken to the media prior to our
18 A. As I said yesterday, and I'll say it again,		informing him that he was going tothat there
that although it would appear that that	19	were going to be briefings. The issue of
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briefing somebody so far in advance puts an

individual who is as public as Mr. Dawe is in

a very awkward position, in that if we were to

brief him two weeks in advance of the media

briefing and for him to have that information

would put him in an awkward position. We made

sentence indicates that I believe that Mr.

Dawe is not a credible individual, Ms. Rogers,

or Mr. Crosbie, I do not feel that way and the

sentence doesn't say "the media will look for

less credible people like Peter Dawe," it says

"hence, all these people are doing stories."

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1	a decision that we would not do the briefing	1	series of two or three e-mails that seem to
2	that far in advance, and that was the decision	2	present an impression of the organization and
3	that we made.	3	of me in one particular light. I've indicated
4	MS. NEWBURY:	4	to you that we could have done a better job of
5	Q. But the tone of your e-mail, you have to admit	5	dealing with the Canadian Cancer Society as a
6	-	6	stakeholder, but I've also indicated to you
7	MS. BONNELL:	7	that I do not hold Mr. Dawe or the Canadian
8	A. Oh, I totally agree, yes.	8	Cancer Society in poor ill regard, and so have
9	MS. NEWBURY:	9	other people who've spoken to the Commission
10	Q is a bit different from that.	10	have indicated to you that they consider the
11	MS. BONNELL:	11	Canadian Cancer Society to be an important
12	A. Yes.	12	stakeholder and it's unfortunate that after
13	MS. NEWBURY:	13	all this time that the impression that's being
14	Q. And again, I appreciate that you've offered	14	left with you and with others is that I am an
15	some explanations and indicated that this is	15	unprofessional person who feels that Mr. Dawe
16	not really how you felt, but upon reviewing	16	is less credible and is responsible for this
17	the various e-mails within the communications	17	issue. I've tried, over the last three days
18	department of Eastern Health, I guess I'm more	18	of testimony, to indicate to you that at
19	concerned about what I'm not seeing, which is,	19	Eastern Health, I certainly take
20	you know, "let's see what Peter Dawe has to	20	responsibility for my part in this and we have
21	say on behalf of the Cancer Society. Maybe we	21	all looked at this and welcomed this
22	should try to find out what are the basis of	22	Commission and the opportunity to go through
23	his concerns here. He's made some comments in	23	all of this. I've tried, to the best of my
24	the media. Let's try to sort out where he's	24	ability, to do that.
25	getting these concerns, and is there anything	25	MS. NEWBURY:
	Page 38		Page 40
1	we can do to perhaps ease those concerns and	1	Q. Yes, I do appreciate the explanations that
2	try to find some sort of balance here in terms	2	you've given. I guess my concern is that
3	of communications on these issues?" So it's	3	people reading this might have their own
4	not just the fact that there's some e-mails	4	interpretation on it, including the recipients
5	here that appear to show that the	5	at the time, and again, you've offered the
6	communications department didn't hold the	6	explanation that you think that these people
7	Cancer Society in high regard.	7	know you better, but my next question is
8	MS. BONNELL:	8	perhaps can you explain why there are not e-
9	A. But that's not -	9	mails or other documentation to show that,

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19 MS. BONNELL:

10 MS. NEWBURY:

Q. There's also the absence -

12 MS. BONNELL:

A. That's not fair, and I have spoken to that. 13

14 MS. NEWBURY:

Q. That's an interpretation of that, and I 15 appreciate that. That's an interpretation of 16 17 these e-mails.

18 MS. BONNELL:

A. And I have written--you know, in providing the 19 e-mails to the Commission, with all due 20 21 respect, I've written thousands of e-mails in 22 the eight years that I've been in the organization and I attend hundreds of 23 24 meetings, and all I can say to you is that 25 what we are looking at on the record are a

aside from these aberrant comments that there were actually steps taken by the communications department to say "listen, we really need to find out what the Canadian Cancer Society is concerned about. What are they hearing from their patients? What is it that they need to know? Why is Mr. Dawe making these comments in the media about that?" To delve into what his concerns are.

A. No, I can't show you any e-mails to say that,

other than to say to you that when briefings

the organization to do those things, and we

followed up on concerns that Mr. Dawe expressed in the media by following up with

were conducted, I was certainly encouraging

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Page 41

- individuals within the organization. So when 1
- 2 a concern was expressed about something, we
- would go follow up with that concern and say 3
- "why is Peter Dawe saying this? Is there an 4
- issue with notification? Is there an issue 5
- with this? Is there an issue with that?" So 6
- that follow up was done. 7
- 8 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Did you follow up directly with Mr. Dawe or 9 10 did you ask that someone make sure that they follow up with Mr. Dawe? 11
- 12 MS. BONNELL:
- A. In the three years, I think I've probably had 13
- one or two conversations with Mr. Dawe, 14
- usually about a media issue. But as I 15
- 16 indicated to you earlier, it wouldn't be my
- role to speak directly with advocates. It 17
- would be better for the Director of the Cancer 18
- 19 Program or the Vice President responsible for
- the Cancer Program or the physicians in the 20
- Cancer Program to make that contact and have 21
- 22 that phone conversation because they're more
- 23 intimately involved in the program than I
- would be. That would not be my role. 24
- 25 MS. NEWBURY:

1 2

- Page 42
- Q. And was it your role to make sure that it was done and that you, as the communications
- 3 director, are aware of what those concerns
- are, as it may have some impact upon -4
- 5 MS. BONNELL:
- A. I was aware of concerns that were raised, that 6
- 7 were brought back through that process, but
- 8 Ms. Newbury, I'm not even a member of
- executive, so I'm in no position to go tell 9
- Kara Laing that she has to report back to me 10
- 11 on a conversation that she has with Mr. Dawe
- or to ask one of my executives to report back 12
- 13 to me on a conversation that they would have.
- 14 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. But you do have the ability, if you had saw 15 fit to do so from the beginning, to implement 16
- a strategic communications plan where you 17
- would perhaps advise that this should be done. 18
- 19 Obviously, you can't force someone to -
- 20 MS. BONNELL:
- 21 A. I could have written the plan and I agree and
- I've indicated that the plan should have been 22
- written. Whether the plan would have been 23
- 24 followed to the letter, you know -
- 25 MS. NEWBURY:

Q. You can put it out there, but you can't

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- 2 control it. Sure.
- 3 MS. BONNELL:
- A. I can't speak to--you can't--I can't control
- 5
- 6 MS. NEWBURY:
- O. I appreciate that.
- 8 MS. BONNELL:
- A. I'm not the CEO, so you know, there's a limit
- 10 to the amount of control that I can have
- within an organization. I can make advice, I 11
- can consult, but there is a limit to the 12
- amount of control that I have. 13
- 14 MS. NEWBURY:

16

- 15 Q. Do you think, looking back on it, that perhaps
 - the communications department could have
- considered the Cancer Society's views in a 17
- 18 more positive light?
- 19 MS. BONNELL:
- A. That would indicate, I guess, by answering 20
- that question that we didn't consider the 21
- 22 Cancer Society's views in a positive light,
- which I don't think is -23
- 24 MS. NEWBURY:
- 25 Q. So you think you saw the Cancer Society's
- views in a positive light? 1
 - 2 MS. BONNELL:
 - A. I think that we saw the Cancer Society's 3
 - views, like the views of other advocates, you 4
 - 5 know, there are individuals advocating on any
 - They have important number of issues. 6
 - 7 perspectives to bring forward and it's not a
 - matter of viewing things in a positive or a
 - 8
 - negative light. You know, there were times 9
 - during this three-year period that I was 10
 - 11 frustrated, I was frustrated by the coverage
 - and, you know, what we're looking at are these 12 13
 - moments in time.
 - 14 MS. NEWBURY:

22

- Q. If I could have exhibit P-0196 please, page 14 15
- of that exhibit. This is not an e-mail that 16
- 17 you saw or received or had any involvement in
- that I'm aware of, I'm just going to show this 18
- to you, not to ask you anything about how that 19
- was generated or why, it's an e-mail from 20
- Darrell Hynes is the original message to Tansy 21
 - Mundon and attached is a transcript, you can
- see down here at the bottom, it's a transcript 23
- of December 11th, 2006 from CBC News and in 24
 - that there are some comments attributed to Mr.

	111111		<u>8</u> -	inquity of Hormone Receptor Testing
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	Dawe and Mr. Dawe at the end of that report	1		commitment in as much as we could until May of
;	says, "Not receiving this treatment could very	2		2006 when all the patients were finally
	well mean a life and death issue for people	3		notified of their changed test results. After
.	going through the process." And then he, in	4		that point, I did start advocating for and
	the next paragraph, "The lack of disclosure	5		you'll see indications that we were planning
١,	raises questions" said Dawe, "about what the	6		for a more public announcement at that point.
-	7 problem is and how it can be fixed." And in	7	MS. N	EWBURY:
:	forwarding this to Tansy Mundon, Mr. Hynes	8	Q.	That was after -
	says, "I hate to say it, but Peter has a	9	MS. B	ONNELL:
1	o point." And Ms. Mundon says, "He does	10	A.	I don't recall ever saying, you know,
1	indeed." Now I haven't seen any e-mails of	11		mentioning Mr. Dawe or the Canadian Cancer
1:	2 that sort or communication of that sort within	12		Society by name, but, you know, there are lots
1	the communications department itself or	13		of advocates, I understand that's the Canadian
1.	Eastern Health. Do you feel that in the	14		Cancer Society's role, but the physicians
1:	5 communications department there was also an	15		within the cancer programs are advocates for
1	appreciation that Mr. Dawe had a point, as Mr.	16		cancer patients and cancer as well, and so are
1	7 Hynes is saying here to Tansy Mundon?	17		others. And we certainly did feel, that is
1	8 MS. BONNELL:	18		the communications department certainly did
1	9 A. Yes.	19		feel that we would have liked to have released
2	0 MS. NEWBURY:	20		information faster than we did. I've
2	1 Q. Okay.	21		indicated that to Mr. Coffey repeatedly.
2	2 MS. BONNELL:	22	MS. N	EWBURY:
2	3 A. And I indicated yesterday in talking about our	23	Q.	Yes, you have, but you never thought, well
2	4 preparation for the briefing that certainly	24		let's use the fact that Peter Dawe is out
2	from the beginning of August, an e-mail you	25		there speaking on behalf of -
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	showed me moments ago, that it was my	1	MS. BO	ONNELL:
;	2 understanding that at the briefing we would be	2	A.	I didn't have to use the fact that Peter Dawe
	a position to talk about causative factors and	3		was out there because it was part of
.	4 that I did want to release more information	4		everybody's understanding that Mr. Dawe was
:	than we were able to do for that December 11th	5		pushing and that others were pushing.
	6 briefing.	6	MS. NJ	EWBURY:
'	7 MS. NEWBURY:	7	Q.	But some of the e-mails you would have to -
:	8 Q. Did you ever think of perhaps relying on the	8	MS. BO	ONNELL:
	fact that you've got an advocate for cancer	9	A.	I guess it's implicit that if you're pressing
1	patients out there in the media asking	10		that the pressure that the Canadian Cancer
1	questions and raising questions. Did you ever	11		Society was applying was part of that pressure
1:	think at anywhere along that continuum from	12		to make us, you know, to encourage us to
1	October, 2005, to recommend that listen, you	13		speak.
1.	know, we've got someone here who is an	14	MS. NI	EWBURY:
1:	advocate for cancer patients calling for more	15	Q.	But would you agree that perhaps some people
1	information and calling for it more quickly,	16		reading, you know, some of the e-mails which
1	7 to use that as support for trying to get out	17		didn't put a whole lot of credence into some
1	there with as much information as possible?	18		of the things that Mr. Dawe was saying, that
1	9 MS. BONNELL:	19		perhaps they don't appreciate that, this is a
2	•	20		reason why we should get out there with more
2	2	21		information, more quickly?
2	A • A			ONNELL:
2		23		My communication on ER/PR and on many issues
2	* *	24		is more than what is seen in e-mail and all I
	5 about it publicly and we stuck by that	25		can tell you is what I have said over the last

can tell you is what I have said over the last

about it publicly and we stuck by that

Page 49 1 couple of days in this regard, that we were applying pressure and that the organization 3 was struggling with other issues through the summer and fall of 2006, which distracted them from being able to move more quickly on the ER/PR issue. And I don't know what more I can say to you other than the fact that everybody 8 was aware that Mr. Dawe was anxious for there to be information presented publicly, as well 10 as others. 11 MS. NEWBURY: 12 Q. But was everyone aware that there's a very good reason why Mr. Dawe is anxious for it— 14 MS. BONNELL: 15 A. Yes. 16 MS. NEWBURY: 17 Q and what those reasons are? 18 MS. BONNELL: 19 A. Yes, I believe every— 20 MS. NEWBURY: 21 Q. You feel that everyone was aware of that? 22 mS. BONNELL: 23 A. Yes. 24 MS. NEWBURY: 25 Q. And notwithstanding some of the, I guess the	June 3, 2008 Mu	lti-Page TM Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
1 couple of days in this regard, that we were applying pressure and that the organization 3 was struggling with other issues through the 4 summer and fall of 2006, which distracted them 5 from being able to move more quickly on the 6 ER/PR issue. And I don't know what more I can 7 say to you other than the fact that everybody 8 was aware that Mr. Dawe was anxious for there 9 to be information presented publicly, as well 10 as others. 11 MS. NEWBURY: 12 Q. But was everyone aware that there's a very 13 good reason why Mr. Dawe is anxious for it - 14 MS. BONNELL: 15 A. Yes. 15 MS. NEWBURY: 16 Q. and what those reasons are? 17 Q and what those reasons are? 18 MS. BONNELL: 18 A. Yes. 19 MS. PONNELL: 19 A. Yes, I believe every - 20 MS. NEWBURY: 21 Q. You feel that everyone was aware of that? 22 MS. BONNELL: 22 MS. BONNELL: 23 A. Yes. 24 MS. NEWBURY: 25 Q. And notwithstanding some of the, I guess the concerns? 6 MS. BONNELL: 19 A. Yes. 20 And notwithstanding some of the, I guess the concerns? 6 MS. BONNELL: 19 A. Yes. 20 And notwithstanding some of the, I guess the concerns? 6 MS. BONNELL: 19 A. Yes. 20 And notwithstanding some of the legitimacy of those 5 concerns? 6 MS. BONNELL: 19 A. Yes. 20 And in terms of the issue of resources, you 10 had indicated that it was a resource issue in 11 2006 that prevented the organization from 11 2006 that prevented the organization from 11 2006 that prevented the organization from 12 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of Health perhaps to 11 role for the Department of He		
2 applying pressure and that the organization 3 was struggling with other issues through the 4 summer and fall of 2006, which distracted them 5 from being able to move more quickly on the 6 ER/PR issue. And I don't know what more I can 7 say to you other than the fact that everybody 8 was aware that Mr. Dawe was anxious for there 9 to be information presented publicly, as well 10 as others. 11 MS. NEWBURY: 12 Q. But was everyone aware that there's a very 13 good reason why Mr. Dawe is anxious for it- 14 MS. BONNELL: 15 A. Yes. 16 MS. NEWBURY: 17 Q. and what those reasons are? 18 MS. BONNELL: 19 A. Yes, I believe every- 20 MS. NEWBURY: 21 Q. You feel that everyone was aware of that? 22 MS. BONNELL: 22 MS. NEWBURY: 23 Q. You feel that everyone was aware of that? 24 MS. BONNELL: 25 Q. And notwithstanding some of the, I guess the 26 MS. NEWBURY: 27 Q. and what those reasons of your e-mails, you 28 feel that other people would know that you 39 agree with some of the concerns as expressed 4 by Peter Dawe and the legitimacy of those 5 concerns? 4 MS. BONNELL: 5 MS. BONNELL: 6 MS. BONNELL: 7 Q. You feel that other people would know that you 9 agree with some of the concerns as expressed 4 by Peter Dawe and the legitimacy of those 5 concerns? 6 MS. BONNELL: 6 A. I should have. I should have engaged a consultant much earlier, I should have engaged a consultant in 2005, I think. 9 MS. NEWBURY: 9 Q. And in terms of the issue of resources, you 10 had indicated that it was a resource issue in 11 2006 that prevented the organization from 12 or the Department of Health perhaps to		
4 summer and fall of 2006, which distracted them 5 from being able to move more quickly on the 6 ERPR issue. And I don't know what more I can 7 say to you other than the fact that everybody 8 was aware that Mr. Dawe was anxious for there 9 to be information presented publicly, as well 10 as others. 11 MS. NEWBURY: 12 Q. But was everyone aware that there's a very 13 good reason why Mr. Dawe is anxious for it- 14 MS. BONNELL: 15 A. Yes. 16 MS. NEWBURY: 16 MS. NEWBURY: 17 Q and what those reasons are? 18 MS. BONNELL: 19 A. Yes, I believe every - 20 MS. NEWBURY: 21 Q. You feel that everyone was aware of that? 22 MS. BONNELL: 23 A. Yes. 24 MS. NEWBURY: 25 Q. And notwithstanding some of the, I guess the Page 50 1 negative tones in some of your e-mails, you 2 feel that other people would know that you 3 agree with some of the concerns as expressed 4 by Peter Dawe and the legitimacy of those 5 concerns? 6 MS. BONNELL: 6 A. I should have. I should have engaged a a consultant much earlier, I should have engaged a consultant much earlier, I should have engaged a a consultant much earlier, I should have engaged a a consultant much earlier, I should have engaged a consultant of the Department of Health perhaps to	2 applying pressure and that the organization	2 release of the Markenstein report, we had a
5	was struggling with other issues through the	3 shortage in our pharmacists, we had a crisis
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	2006 that prevented the organization from	

- 13 to -
- 14 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, I didn't--if I did suggest that, I didn't 15
- 16 mean to suggest that.
- 17 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. So why didn't they get out earlier in 2006? 18
- 19 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Well in the summer of 2006 and into the fall, 20
- 21 I said that the organization was distracted by
- 22 other major issues that it was dealing with.
- 23 It wasn't a resource issue other than the fact
- 24 that there's only so much that any
- 25 organization can handle at one time from a

- 13 resources?
- 14 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No.
- 16 MS. NEWBURY:
- 17 Q. Okay, so it would have to be an external
- 18 consultant from your point of view?
- 19 MS. BONNELL:

- A. Or additional resources, but hiring a crisis--20
- 21 when you're looking at crisis communications
 - skills, you know, a publicly funded
- 23 organization is never going to be able to
- 24 afford to have a crisis communications expert
 - on staff. That's a financial issue.

	Tuge inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
Page 53	Page 55
1 MS. NEWBURY:	1 MS. BONNELL:
2 Q. Sure, so it would be more appropriate to hire	2 A. Yes.
an external consultant on an as needed basis.	3 MS. NEWBURY:
4 MS. BONNELL:	4 Q. And would you assume that the public would
5 A. For the times of need, yes.	5 include cancer patients?
6 MS. NEWBURY:	6 MS. BONNELL:
7 Q. If I could have exhibit P-0367 please? This	7 A. Of course.
8 is an e-mail from George Tilley to Peter Dawe.	8 MS. NEWBURY:
9 You are copied on it, as was Dr. Williams and	9 Q. Do you know what comments had triggered this
I understand you didn't get the original	10 e-mail?
message because of the typo in the e-mail	11 MS. BONNELL:
12 address.	12 A. No, I don't.
13 MS. BONNELL:	13 MS. NEWBURY:
14 A. Yes.	14 Q. Had you expressed any concerns about Mr.
15 MS. NEWBURY:	Dawe's media involvement prior to this?
16 Q. And in that particular instance, Mr. Dawe was	16 MS. BONNELL:
contacting you and states, "I understand there	17 A. No, I don't recall what triggered this.
were some concern about my call for more	18 MS. NEWBURY:
direct information. After speaking with Bob	19 Q. If I could have exhibit P-0348 please? This
20 Williams late yesterday afternoon, I am	is an e-mail, again October 2005, October 6th,
1	
21 pleased to hear that Eastern Health will be	21 2005. This is an e-mail from you to Mr.
having direct contact with all the women who	Tilley and this has to do with the Globe and
are being retested. Any perspectives put	Mail article and you had indicated that on
24 forward by me on this topic have been	October 6th, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. there's a note
25 reflective of the feedback CCS is receiving	25 there, "I thought the Globe piece was
Page 54	Page 56
Page 54 1 from the public. I believe that is the role	Page 56 accurate. Peter is referring to his own quote
	-
1 from the public. I believe that is the role	accurate. Peter is referring to his own quote
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1 MS. NEWBURY:

- O. And Mr Dawe's comments are down towards the 2
- 3 end of the article. "Peter Dawe, director of
- 4 the Newfoundland and Labrador chapter of the
- 5 Canadian Cancer Society warns that this has
- 6 the potential to be a big issue for the
- 7 province's health care system and patients.
- 8 It alters the treatment, you could be having
- 9 an inadequate treatment based on a test
- 10 result", Mr. Dawe said, "There is a group that
- 11 has the test result in question and our fear
- 12 is that they should have received treatment
- and didn't." What part of that might have 13
- lead you to believe that he wasn't informed? 14
- 15 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Just very general and I just wondered if we 16
- had given him a briefing. 17
- 18 MS. NEWBURY:
- O. Okav.
- 20 MS. BONNELL:
- 21 A. Which in fact I discovered we had not, which
- 22 he was then given.
- 23 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. So it's the lack of specific detail?
- 25 MS. BONNELL:

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24

1

2

- A. Yes. 1 2 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. And what about that article is negative? Very 3
- negative I think your e-mail had indicated. 4
- 5 MS. BONNELL:
- A. It isn't very negative. I don't know why I 6
- 7 said that. "Peter Dawe warns this has a
- 8 potential"--I don't know what I thought was
- negative about it. The coverage at that time 9
- was relatively positive, it was relatively 10
- 11 positive, so maybe in context of all the other
- coverage, this was a more negative comment, 12
- 13 but it's not very negative.
- 14 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. And there's nothing unwarranted in what he has 15
- said here? 16
- 17 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No. 18 19 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Do you think that the ultimate eruption, I 20
- think you have a reference to this being like 21
- 22 a volcano erupting, do you think that the
- ultimate eruption of this issue in May of 2007 23
- could have been less severe or less 24
- significant had the concerns expressed by Mr. 25

Dawe and other spokespeople, such as Mr.

Page 59

- 2 Crosbie, Ms. Rogers been heeded and addressed
- earlier than it was? 3
- 4 MS. BONNELL:
- 5 A. I think that's part of it, yes.
- 6 MS. NEWBURY:
 - Q. Okay, and what other parts would have made it
- less severe, less significant an eruption? 8
- 9 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. Well what would have made it less significant 10
- was our reaction to that, as opposed to just a 11
- matter of heeding the comments, it's the way 12
- in which we communicated information. 13
- 14 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. So it was a bit of a red flag that Mr. Dawe 15
- 16 threw out was saying this is what people want
- to know, they want to know causes, they want 17
- to know more information about the numbers 18
- 19 involved.
- 20 MS. BONNELL:
- 21 A. Yes, I suppose so, yes. We were aware of
- 22 that, though, I mean, I've indicated that we
- were aware that that's what people wanted to 23
 - know. I knew because I was in contact with
- the media myself and I listened to what 25
- - Page 60 individuals were saying and we knew that--we
 - knew what the public wanted and what Mr. Dawe
 - said reflected that. 3
 - 4 MS. NEWBURY:
 - 5 Q. Thank you, those are all the questions I have.
 - Thank you, Ms. Bonnell. 6
 - 7 THE COMMISSIONER:
 - Q. Thank you, Ms. Newbury. Mr. Pike?
 - 9 MR. PIKE:
 - Q. Just a few questions, Commissioner.
 - 11 MS. SUSAN BONNELL, EXAMINATION BY MR. MARK PIKE
 - 12 MR. PIKE:

- Q. Good morning, Ms. Bonnell. Mark Pike is my 13
- name, I'm the lawyer for the Newfoundland and 14
- Labrador Medical Association. There's just 15
- one point in reviewing your testimony last 16
- evening, during the meetings at Eastern Health 17
- about what you could or could not or should or 18
- should not disclose about this whole process, 19
- you mentioned or you brought up the concept of 20 21
- not commenting on an issue that's before the 22
 - Court or when a matter is being subject to
- litigation. You described it, I believe, and 23
- 24 correct me if I'm wrong, as a tradition in the
 - communications business or communications

1	profession.

- 2 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, what I think I--if I did say that, that's
- not what I intended to say.
- 5 MR. PIKE:
- Q. Well what did you intend?
- 7 MS. BONNELL:
- 8 A. That within our organization that was
- certainly the traditionally held belief and 9
- practice that when a matter was before 10
- litigation that we wouldn't speak to it, yes. 11
- 12 MR. PIKE:
- Q. So that's a tradition at Eastern Health, but 13
- 14 not in communications in general?
- 15 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No. 16
- 17 MR. PIKE:
- 18 Q. What's the reason for that concept of not
- 19 commenting?
- 20 MS. BONNELL:
- 21 A. Well my understanding of it is that you would
- 22 be concerned that anything that you could say
- 23 might in some way prejudice the case, and I'm
- not a legal person, but that's sort of my 24
- understanding of why you wouldn't speak. 25

 - Page 62
- 1 MR. PIKE: Q. That you might influence the judge you mean 2
- deciding the case? 3
- 4 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, that you may, in some way, prejudice the 5
- case that -6
- 7 MR. PIKE:
- Q. You might do harm to your case or -
- 9 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Things may be said that may, in some way, have 10
- 11 an impact on what was before the courts.
- 12 MR. PIKE:
- Q. So, it's part of the risk, managing the risk 13
- of litigation that you might give away 14
- something that would otherwise be unknown to 15
- the other party and put your client at a 16
- disadvantage. 17
- 18 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 19
- 20 MR. PIKE:
- 21 Q. Nothing to do with the concept of contempt of
- court? 22
- 23 MS. BONNELL:
- A. You'd have to explain to me what you mean in 24
- that sense. 25

- 1 MR. PIKE:
- Q. Well, I'm just asking you now.
- 3 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, no, I just thought--you know, it's always,

Page 63

Page 64

- it's just always sort of accepted that you 5
- don't talk about things that are before the 6
- courts. 7
- 8 MR. PIKE:
- Q. So, you said that sometimes this concept is 9 10 observed and sometimes not, is that what you
- said before? 11
- 12 MS. BONNELL:

13

- A. I think that there have to be exceptions and
- 14 that perhaps ER/PR by its very nature was one
- of those times when an exception should have 15
- been made to some degree. And in some degree 16
- it was, I mean, we did a briefing in December 17
- 18 of 2006 with the media which, you know, in the
- 19 middle of a typical litigation on an issue, we
- would not do that sort of media briefing and 20
- that most times, comment is very limited or 21
- 22 referred to the lawyer for comment on the case
- 23 itself, as opposed to talking about details or
- specifics of a court case. 24
- 25 MR. PIKE:
- Q. Well, in a given case, how would you decide 1
 - when to comment and when not?
 - 3 MS. BONNELL:

- A. Well, in the case of ER/PR we had to make a 4
- 5 decision based on the impact that it was
- 6 having on the public's trust of the
- 7 organization, in a sense. I mean, it was
- 8 clear to us that we were doing greater damage
- 9 to the organization by not speaking than would
- 10 ever be caused by any litigation.
- 11 MR. PIKE:
- 12 Q. So, it's when the stakes are higher and the
- 13 risk is greater that it overrides your concern
- 14 about harming your interests.
- 15 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 16
- 17 MR. PIKE:
- 18 Q. Thank you.
- 19 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Thank you, Mr. Pike. Mr. Simmons?
- 21 MS. SUSAN BONNELL, EXAMINATION BY DANIEL SIMMONS
- 22 MR. SIMMONS
- 23 Q. Good morning, Ms. Bonnell.
- 24 MS. BONNELL:
- 25 A. Good morning.

June 3, 2008 Mu	Ilti-Page Imquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
Page	65 Page 67
1 MR. SIMMONS	1 six or seven other years where there were
2 Q. You know who I am.	different results that weren't up to national
3 MS. BONNELL:	benchmarks and you were asked questions along
4 A. I do.	the lines of what difference would that really
5 MR. SIMMONS	5 make to the consideration at that time
6 Q. I'm going to have to go back again to July of	6 MR. SIMMONS
7 2005 for just a few points that I want to ask	7 Q. Yes.
_	_
8 you about. And you've told us before of the	8 MR. SIMMONS
9 events as they transpired through to the	9 Q. Now, first of all, the source of the
meeting with the minister on the 21st of July	information about the positivity rates, where
and then in the days after that. And just to	did that come to you from, who provided you
set the scene for the question that I wanted	12 with that?
to ask you, can I show you first document P-	13 MS. BONNELL:
14 0312, page five. You've been shown this e-	A. It would have been somebody involved in doing
mail before from Carolyn Chaplin to Mr. Cake	that work. So, either Mr. Gulliver or
on July 19, 2005, this is 2:37 in the	potentially Ms. Predham.
afternoon. This is the one where Ms. Chaplin	17 MR. SIMMONS
informs Mr. Cake that there won't be a	18 Q. Okay. Can I have Exhibit P-0514, please.
forthcoming announcement this week regarding	This is a message from Mr. Gulliver dated July
20 the ER/PR issue. And you've described to us	20. It is dated the following day after the
also that this was the time when some new	19th. I believe you've seen this before, have
information had come forward within Eastern	22 you?
23 Health -	23 MS. BONNELL:
24 MS. BONNELL:	24 A. Yes.
25 A. Yes.	25 MR. SIMMONS
Page	66 Page 68
1 MR. SIMMONS	1 Q. And I think you were shown it during the
2 Q that affected the evaluation of the issue at	2 course of your examination a couple of days
3 that point. You described it being a roller	ago. And it says, it's a review of ER/PR
4 coaster up and down with new information	stats from 2000 to 2004/5 and there are five
5 coming forward frequently.	5 columns there for different years with
6 MS. BONNELL:	6 statistics under those columns leading down to
7 A. Yes.	7 the second last row which is a total
8 MR. SIMMONS	8 positivity number.
9 Q. On the same day, if we can also go, please to	9 MS. BONNELL:
	10 A. Um-hm.
_	11 MR. SIMMONS
before, this is Mr. Tilley's note of speaking	
to you on that day and it says, "Susan B.,	12 Q. Actually, I'll go up to the middle, if you go
today's meeting revealed the potential that	to the middle, it says, number positive and
scope of problem restricted on basis of a	then it says percentage positive and if you
review of percent, positive results for 2003	follow across that row for 2003, 75 percent is
being 75 percent which is consistent with	there.
17 national benchmarks". And it says,	17 MS. BONNELL:
"discussion with Carolyn re: announcement and	18 A. Right.
19 concerns of minister".	19 MR. SIMMONS
Now, you were asked about this new	20 Q. Do you see that?
21 information concerning the percentage of	21 MS. BONNELL:
22 positivity of results and it was presented to	22 A. Um-hm.
you that the 75 percent results for 2003 which	23 MR. SIMMONS
Least the second second the second se	24 0 A 1 16 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 4 (1 4 1 -

24

25

Q. And if you look back at the other rows, there

are lower numbers there. The retesting is

were within national benchmarks, while that

information might be useful, there were still

23 24

June 3, 2	008 N	Iulti-I	Page	. TM	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Pag	e 69			Page 71
1 9	going to be for 1997 all the way to 2004 at		1 MS	. BONI	NELL:
2 t	his point. Were the positivity figures for		2	A. Tl	nat's right, yes.
1	1997, 1998, and 1999 known on the 19th and	d :			MISSIONER:
4 2	20th?		4	Q. O	kay, thank you.
5 MS. BO	NNELL:			R. SIMN	
6 A. I	don't believe they were. I believe that		6	Q. N	ow, a couple of days ago when you were
1	his was all the information that we had at	,	7		lking about the results of the meeting with
8 t	hat point in time.		8	th	e minister on the 21st of July.
9 MR. SIN	-		9 MS	. BONI	
10 Q. I	Right.	1	0	A. Y	es.
11 MS. BO	_	1	1 MR	R. SIMN	IONS
12 A. I	But the better person to ask that would be Mr.	1:	2	Q. Y	ou had some discussions with the Commissioner
1	Gulliver.	1:		-	out what was placed on hold -
14 MR. SIN	MMONS	1	4 MS	. BONI	_
15 Q. I	Right, okay. So, at the point on the 19th	1:	5	A. Y	es.
1	when there was a perception that maybe the	1	6 MR	R. SIMN	MONS
1	extent of the problem won't be so bad as we	1	7	Q a	as a result of that meeting. Now, at that
1	were thinking the day before, was were all the				pint, was a decision made that a public
1	positivity numbers for the entire period known			_	nouncement would be placed on hold in the
1 -	hen or where there still numbers to come?	20	0		nse that it was decided on the 21st that
21 MS. BO		2			ere would be no public announcement or was
22 A. I	would say there were still numbers to come	2:			hat happened on the 21st that the decision
1	as this clearly indicates 2000 to 2004/5.	2:			out what to do was placed on hold
24 MR. SIN		2			mporarily until more information was
I	Right, okay. So, at that point then on the	2:			ptained?
	<u> </u>	e 70			Page 72
1	19th and the 20th, was the thinking then that		1 MS	S RON	NELL:
1	we know the problem isn't as big as we though				was that there was noit was that the
1	t was a couple of days ago or was the		3		ecision was not made. It was that we went
1	hinking that it may not be as big and we need		3 4		way from the meeting on the 21st seeking more
1	o do more work in order to find that out?		•		formation with which to make a decision.
5 t			5 - MI		MONS
I					
1	I would say more the latter in that we really didn't know what we were dealing with now				kay. And that, by mid August though, that exision was made.
1	•		8 0. 1 46		
1	Γhere was some information that was pointing n a different direction.	·			INELL:
		10			es, that's correct. MONS
11 MR. SIN					
1	Okay.	1:			nd between the meeting with the minister on
1	OMMISSIONER:	1:			e 21st and mid August when the decision was
1	Pointing in a different direction from what?	14			ade, do I take it from your evidence that a
15 MS. BO		1:			ew factor that came to bear was the opinions
1	Just that -	10			the oncologists regarding contact with the
1	OMMISSIONER:	1		_	atients and the effect of contacting patients
18 Q. I	Did you know this information before that	1	ŏ	DE	efore their individual test results were

Q. Did you know this information before that 18 19

date? 20 MS. BONNELL:

21 A. No, ma'am, I don't believe I did, no.

22 THE COMMISSIONER:

23 Q. So, before that date you were working on the 24 information which was essentially about what

25 happened in 2002. 20 MS. BONNELL:

known.

19

21 A. Yes, that is one of the factors that came to 22 bear in that period of time, yes.

23 MR. SIMMONS

Q. Can I show you exhibit P-0566, please. These 24 25 were some notes you kept of a meeting of

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1 August 20 which you've been referred to	disclosure with one person who had an adverse
2 earlier, just in that time period we just	event that that person would be afforded
spoke of. And on the bottom there's an arrow	certain privacy and, you know, they'd be
4 there and a note written diagonally across the	4 handled in a certain way is what I'm trying to
5 bottom of the page. That's your note, is it?	say. And that we felt that regardless of the
6 MS. BONNELL:	fact that there were hundreds, potentially,
7 A. It is.	7 that they deserved the same opportunity.
8 MR. SIMMONS	8 MR. SIMMONS
9 Q. Okay. And I believe it says "striking balance	9 Q. Now, you've told us -
between waiting and giving patients good info	D. 10 MS. BONNELL:
or speaking publicly to soon and creating unde	o 11 A. But I think we knew, Mr. Simmons, that there
12 anxiety".	was inherent risk in that because of the size
13 MS. BONNELL:	of the numbers.
14 A. This is-	14 MR. SIMMONS
15 MR. SIMMONS	15 Q. Yes. You've told us that your role as a
Q. Why did you make that note there at that time	
on the 10th of August?	organization was to look outpart of what you
18 MS. BONNELL:	had to do was look out for the overall
19 A. Because I guess that sort of captured for me	interests of the organization, the way that it
what it was that we were trying to do which	was perceived in the public and communication
was find the appropriate place to be in which	of issues related to the organization to the
we're giving patients the right information	22 public.
about their own health and having that dealt	23 MS. BONNELL:
with in an appropriate manner which is in the	24 A. Yes.
setting between physician and patient. And	25 MR. SIMMONS
Pag	ge 74 Page 76
going out so soon that we create people who	1 Q. And that was part of your job?
2 don't need to be anxious about this, create a	2 MS. BONNELL:
level of anxietythat to us was the balance.	3 A. Yes.
4 MR. SIMMONS	4 MR. SIMMONS
5 Q. Was this just your personal view that you -	5 Q. And would you agree with me that that is a bit
6 MS. BONNELL:	of a different role from that fulfilled by
7 A. No.	7 most other people within a health care
8 MR. SIMMONS	8 organization like Eastern Health?
9 Q or was this a view and an issue that was	9 MS. BONNELL:
openly discussed in this way among the group	9? 10 A. Yes.
11 MS. BONNELL:	11 MR. SIMMONS
12 A. It was openly discussed. This is me trying to	12 Q. And the other participants in these
put words around the opinions that were being	
expressed by the group.	14 physicians.
15 MR. SIMMONS	15 MS. BONNELL:
16 Q. Okay. Was it clear to anyone in the group	16 A. Um-hm.
that it was obvious which way to go on this	17 MR. SIMMONS
18 issue?	18 Q. Correct? Administration people?
19 MS. BONNELL:	19 MS. BONNELL:
20 A. Yes, in that we knew that there was a risk	20 A. Yes.
inherent with not speaking publicly, but that	21 MR. SIMMONS
22 we felt that the weight of the belonge some	22 O Tachnical manufacture accommon 2

24

23 MS. BONNELL:

25 MR. SIMMONS:

A. Yes, and nurses.

Q. Technical people, quality assurance?

we felt that the weight of the balance came

down on the obligation that we had to the

patients. And the opinions expressed by the

experts were that if we were doing a

22

23

24

- Q. And nurses. From your familiarity with 1
- working with those peoples in their positions, 2
- do you have any observation about what their 3
- perspective would be on the issue of 4
- priorities of patient interests versus public 5
- interests? 6
- 7 MS. BONNELL:
- 8 A. It would be patient interest above all else.
- 9 MR. SIMMONS
- Q. Um-hm. 10
- 11 MS. BONNELL:
- A. It would be patient interest above all else 12 and their concern would be in doing what they 13
- felt was right from a patient perspective. 14
- 15 MR. SIMMONS
- Q. Yes. During these discussions in July and 16
- into August of '05, did you see anything 17
- different from them in their contributions to 18
- 19 those discussions?
- 20 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 21 Q. Are you asking the witness if she saw that any
- differently over time? 22
- 23 MR. SIMMONS
- Q. Yes, any differently during that time. 24
- 25 MS. BONNELL:

1

2

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- A. No. You know, when you're dealing with an
- issue like this, you have moments where you
- have heated discussions, you have moments of 3
- concern being expressed about, you know, 4
- 5 personal, professional, organizational
- reputation. But these are moments and at the 6
- 7 end of the day it's always put aside in favour
- 8 of what's right for the patient.
- MR. SIMMONS 9
- Q. Okay. Exhibit 0304 again, please, sorry to 10
- have to bring you back to this one, but I do 11
- have a question for you about it and we'll go 12
- 13 to page four please. This your memo of July
- 22nd written to Mr. Tilley and copied to Dr. 14
- Williams. And it followed the previous day, 15
- that meeting with the minister where you've 16
- 17 told us there was really no decision made
- about whether there was going to be or when 18
- 19 there was going to be a public announcement.
- The thing was just on hold as the 20
- investigation continued.
- 21
- 22 MS. BONNELL: A. Yes.
- 24 MR. SIMMONS

23

Q. And at the end of this memo, at the very 25

- bottom, in the last paragraph, second last
- 2 paragraph, you make some recommendations about

Page 79

Page 80

- 3 how to proceed.
- 4 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 5
- 6 MR. SIMMONS
- Q. And the first one says, "we notify patients of 7
- 8 the retesting either through formal letter or
- by some other means deemed appropriate by the 9
- 10 oncologists".
- 11 MS. BONNELL:
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 MR. SIMMONS
- 14 Q. Were you, at that point, recommending
- 15 contacting patients to inform them that their
 - samples would be retested or was this a
- 16
- 17 recommendation to contact them once the
- 18 results of their retesting were known?
- 19 MS. BONNELL:
- 20 A. No, I was of the belief that we should have
- 21 notified them of the retesting itself.
- 22 MR. SIMMONS
- 23 Q. And this, of course, is the 22nd of July which
 - is before the oncologists involved, what we
- 25 spoke of earlier-

1 MS. BONNELL:

24

- A. That's correct.
- 3 MR. SIMMONS
- Q. which influenced a change in the decision.
- 5 MS. BONNELL:
- A. That's right. 6
- 7 MR. SIMMONS
- Q. So, at this point, despite whatever else is 8
- said in this memo, your recommendation is by 9
- one means or another notify the people that 10
- 11 their samples are going to be retested?
- 12 MS. BONNELL:
- A. That's how I felt, yes. 13
- 14 MR. SIMMONS

18

19

22

- Q. Okay. Then you say in two, "we move fast to 15
- identify and retest the individuals". Three, 16
- 17 "contact oncologists and surgeons immediately
 - with new test results". And then it goes on
 - to four and five to make sure that measures
- are taken to make sure that patients are made 20
- 21 aware of the test results.
 - Now, the paragraph above that is the one
- you've been questioned on to some extent, 23
- which says, "a full public disclosure with a 24
 - press conference, information line, letters to

_	2	2000
Ju	ne 3,	2008 Mt
		Page
1		all impacted patients in support of
2		ministerial comment is not recommended".
3	MS. B	ONNELL:
4	A.	Today.
5	MR. S	IMMONS
6	Q.	Because you could read those and say it's a
7		contra diction.
8	MS. B	ONNELL:
9	A.	Yes.
10	MR. S	IMMONS
11	Q.	Because in point one below you say "notify the
12		patients either through a formal letter or by
13		some other means".
14	MS. B	ONNELL:
15	A.	Um-hm.
16	MR. S	IMMONS
17	Q.	But in the paragraph above you can read it as
18		saying, "letters to impact the patients are
19		not recommended".
20	MS. B	ONNELL:
21	A.	Yes.
22	MR. S	IMMONS
23	Q.	And your explanation is that in the paragraph
24		above, if I understand it, you've said your
25		recommendation was not to make that kind of

public announcement today.

Q. And to proceed as outlined below. 6 MS. BONNELL: A. That's correct because as you would recall, we 7 were in discussions with the minister at that 8 point in time, had just come from a meeting

9 with the minister, had certainly indicated a 10 11 conference. So, I was just making the point 12 13 that doing that right now is not what I would 14 recommend. 15 MR. SIMMONS

Q. Right, okay. 16

17 MS. BONNELL:

A. Mr. Simmons, if I may also -18 19 MR. SIMMONS

20 Q. Yes, go ahead. 21 MS. BONNELL:

A. - the amount of weight that has been put on 22 this memo is unbelievable. It's just one 23 memo. It's just not that important. 24

25 MR. SIMMONS

Page 83 Q. Did it surface again in the discussions that

2 followed during the course of that summer and into the fall? 3

4 MS. BONNELL:

A. No.

6 MR. SIMMONS

Q. Did anyone ever put it on the table at any

meeting and sit down and discuss it? 8

9 MS. BONNELL:

A. No, never.

11 MR. SIMMONS

Q. Did Mr. Tilley even get back to you afterwards 12

13

14 MS. BONNELL:

15 A. No.

16 MR. SIMMONS

Q. - to discuss any of this with you -

machinery to another -

18 MS. BONNELL:

A. Never.

20 MR. SIMMONS

Q. Okay. You were asked a number of questions 21 22 regarding your understanding of whether a change in technology was understood to be part 23

occurred. And I've understood you to say that

you learned through the course of this or

understood through the course of this that it

wasn't simply the change from one set of

Q. - that could be attributed to--and you've told

us about that quite a bit. But my question

is, did that change from the DAKO system to

the Ventana system, nevertheless play a part

in the story that had to be told about how

of the background reasons, I guess, for the 24

changes in test results that ultimately

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2 MS. BONNELL:

A. That's correct.

4 MR. SIMMONS

week before that we were going to do a press

15 MS. BONNELL:

6 MS. BONNELL:

A. No.

8 MR. SIMMONS

A. Yes, because it was--certainly, it was because 16 17 of the change from one technology to another

that the original changes were identified. 18

these retests came to be done?

19 MR. SIMMONS

20 Q. Um-hm. So, in commenting on this in -

21 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. I'm sorry, I thought you had said earlier that that was not the reason that the original

changes had been identified? If you go back 24

to the index case, for example, -

that---there was a point in time where we

wondered, where I certainly wondered if the 10

11 Ventana, being a more sensitive system was

doing a better job than the DAKO. There was a 12

point in time where we did wonder if that was 13

14 the case.

15 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Yes, I'd understood that. Okay, perhaps I 16

didn't understand your question, Mr. Simmons. 17

Why don't you try it again and it may be 18

clearer. 19

20 MS. BONNELL:

21 A. That would have been prior to us making the

decision to retest the Ventana as well.

23 MR. SIMMONS

22

25

24 Q. Even after that point, in order to tell the

story about what had led to retesting, story

altogether or the fact that there had been a

DAKO machine and a Ventana machine still have 10

11 played part in what he -

12 MS. BONNELL:

A. That's part of the story, yes. 13

14 MR. SIMMONS:

o. Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER:

17 Q. But was it a part of the story for the purpose

of saying if you're worried about what's 18

19 happening now, we have this new machine, or

was it the part of the story for another 20

21 reason?

22 MS. BONNELL:

A. Well at that point -23

24 COMMISSIONER:

Q. In the sense of is--did you view the Ventana 25

public about the current testing or was it for 11 12 another reason? 13 MS. BONNELL:

14 A. Prior to the story becoming public, prior to our decision to retest the samples that had 15 16 been done using the Ventana, as well.

17 COMMISSIONER:

O. Um-hm.

19 MS. BONNELL:

A. Because originally we were going to use the 20 Ventana to do the retest of the other numbers. 21

22 COMMISSIONER:

O. Yes, that's what I understood. 23

24 MS. BONNELL:

25 A. So prior to that decision being made we'll

Page 91 technology that ensured more consistency in results because of the lack of manipulation of the--I'm outside my league.

4 MR. SIMMONS:

5 Q. Yes.

1

2

3

6 MS. BONNELL:

A. Because of the lack of manipulation of the 8 test that it was one of these things that was being touted as something that would be--that 9 10 we were sort of leading the edge in Newfoundland because we had implemented this 11

new piece of technology. 12

13 MR. SIMMONS:

14 Q. Okay. I'm going to go on now to end of September, beginning of October, '05. And 15 16 you've told us that when the call came, or when you were told of the call from The 17 Independent, you were actually meeting with 18 Ms. Predham reviewing form of a letter? 19

20 MS. BONNELL:

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. SIMMONS:

23 Q. At that time. Now, we know that by mid August the decision had been made to obtain test 24 results and inform patients before making any 25

Page 90

certainly see drafts of press releases and 1 2

things in that nature where we sort of say,

you know, due to new improved technology, 3 because that's what we were thinking we could 4

5 be able to say at that point in time, whereas

following the decision to retest even those 6

samples that had been done on the Ventana, the 7 8

issue of reassuring individuals that we had

9 new technology didn't really, it wasn't really the issue in that we weren't doing any testing 10

11 in the laboratory at that particular time

anyway. All testing had been halted while 12 13

tests were being sent to Mount Sinai. Even new ones that were coming in were being sent 14

15 to Mount Sinai at that point. We weren't

using our technology in the laboratory at that 16

17 point in time, and that was certainly

indicated by Dr. Williams. But all along, I 18 19

think, the feeling was that the implementation

or the purchase of the Ventana was a positive 20 move for the organization. 21

22 MR. SIMMONS:

Q. Um-hm. 23

24 MS. BONNELL:

A. That is was being presented as a piece of

kind of a public announcement and before 1

making any kind of general communication to

people to say, you are going to be retested? 3

4 MS. BONNELL:

A. Yes.

2

8

6 MR. SIMMONS:

7 Q. That that had been changed. What had changed

by the 30th of September for you and Ms.

Predham to be sitting down essentially 9

revisiting that decision about a letter to all 10

11 the patients?

12 MS. BONNELL:

13 A. The fact that we were getting very close to the promised deadline for getting the test 14

15 results back and we weren't seeing them coming

in the fashion that we had hoped. 16

17 MR. SIMMONS:

Q. So how widely discussed at that point was the 18 19 idea of revising the decision about whether or not to inform patients that their tests were 20

going to be retested? 21

22 MS. BONNELL:

25

A. It wasn't widely in discussion at that, we 23 hadn't reached the point yet of sitting down 24

and saying this is taking too long.

10

1 MR. SIMMONS:

- Q. Right. It was known, certainly it was under discussion certainly between yourself and Ms. 3
- Predham at that point, was it? 4
- 5 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes, and others, as well. I think there was 6 some general--there hadn't been a meeting 7
- 8 where we all sat down and said we need to
- revisit this decision.
- 10 MR. SIMMONS:

13

- Q. Yeah, and I know this is hypothetical, but if 11 the call hadn't come from The Independent that 12
 - day, do you have any idea of what the--what
- your thinking was at that time about where to 14
- take this concept of revisiting notice to all 15
- 16 the patients that they were going to be
- retested? Because you'd started on it by 17
- talking to Ms. Predham about it? 18
- 19 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yeah. It would be extremely hypothetical. 20
- 21 MR. SIMMONS:
- 22 O. Um-hm.
- 23 MS. BONNELL:
- 24 A. And you know, we made decisions based on the opinions of a number of different groups of 25
 - Page 94
 - individuals.
- 2 MR. SIMMONS:

1

- O. Um-hm.
- 4 MS. BONNELL:
- A. And I was feeling uncomfortable, I was 5
- starting to feel like there's probably too 6
- 7 many disclosures being done that we can't
- anticipate that this is going to be able to 8
- wrap itself up in the way we originally 9
- envisioned. 10
- 11 MR. SIMMONS:
- 12 O. So-
- 13 MS. BONNELL:
- 14 A. But I don't think it had gone beyond that
- point. And where it would have gone, it would 15
- be difficult for me to suppose. I guess the 16
- next step would have been for the group to get 17
- back together and revisit it and talk about 18
- 19 what the implications would be of changing our
- minds. 20

25

- 21 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. And I presume there would have been no point 22
- in you and Ms. Predham looking at the letter 23
- unless there'd been some thought, at least 24
 - between the two of you, of suggesting that

such a meeting be convened to bring the group

Page 95

- 2 back together?
- 3 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes.
- 5 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Okay. Now, as October progressed, one of the
 - exhibits that you were shown was P-0092. This
- is an e-mail message from Ms. Predham to you, 8
- Dr. Williams and Ms. Pilgrim attaching a 9
 - message from Mr. Boone of October 18th. And
- at this point, if I recall correctly, the 11
- matter having become public, what's under 12
- discussion now is the form of a letter that 13
- would go to all patients informing them of the 14
- retesting being carried out or giving them 15
- 16 some information about it?
- 17 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Right.
- 19 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. And the e-mail starts, "My initial reaction is 20
- that I do not agree with sending this letter 21
- at this time." And that part was read to you 22
- earlier. It goes on then to say, however, 23
- "There are a significant number of people 24
- 25
 - whose results will not be changed. Notifying
- - these people may be seen as raising their 1
 - hopes for treatment possibilities. In most 2
 - cases these expectations or hopes will not be 3
 - satisfied." My question is, when you read 4
 - 5 this e-mail message, is the issue that's being
 - addressed here whether the letter is the right 6
 - 7 form of communication or whether there should
 - 8 be communication at all with people for whom
 - there's no test results back yet? 9
 - 10 MS. BONNELL:
 - A. Well, I guess you'd have to ask Mr. Boone 11
 - himself what he meant, but -12
 - 13 MR. SIMMONS:
 - 14 Q. Yes, but what do you understand it when you
 - read it? 15
 - 16 MS. BONNELL:
 - 17 A. - clearly when you read it, he says,
 - "Notifying people may be seen as raising their 18
 - 19 hopes for treatment possibilities," etcetera.
 - So in the end we made phone calls which is a 20
 - notification. 21
 - 22 MR. SIMMONS:
 - Q. Right. 23
 - 24 MS. BONNELL:
 - 25 A. So it's a letter or phone call, we did notify

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1	Page 97 Page 99
1 them.	by all the administrators, by all the support
2 MR. SIMMONS:	2 people, by everybody in the lab, by everybody.
3 Q. Right.	3 MR. SIMMONS:
4 MS. BONNELL:	4 Q. Okay. And also refer you to P-0189, please?
5 A. Regardless of what he says here.	5 This is, on the bottom of it there's an e-mail
6 MR. SIMMONS:	6 message from you to Mr. Tilley and others on
7 Q. So if the concern was notification, whether	by 7 December 9th when you sent them the materials
8 letter or by other means, was that view the	· ·
9 followed by Eastern Health?	9 the middle there's a reply from Mr. Tilley on
10 MS. BONNELL:	Sunday, December 10th about 3:00 in the
11 A. No.	afternoon. He says, "This is very
12 MR. SIMMONS:	comprehensive. I appreciate the efforts you
13 Q. No. And, in fact, within a couple of days	are all putting into this. In the end we need
phone calls were being made to patients t	
notify them that their samples were being	~
retested?	the media may choose to present. Good luck.
17 MS. BONNELL:	George." Is that a view that you heard Mr.
18 A. That's correct.	Tilley express on any other occasions, as
19 MR. SIMMONS:	19 well?
Q. Exhibit P-1402, please, second page? This	was 20 MS. BONNELL:
an e-mail message from Ms. Predham. And	this 21 A. I indicated to you or to Mr. Coffey a couple
is October 26th, 2006. By this point there's	of days ago now that when Mr. Tilley said in
been probably six days of phone calls bein	g August of 2005, "If we can help one patient,
24 made and a fairly intensive effort to make	then we need to do this retest and we need to
contact with patients by telephone. Ms.	deal with everything that comes out of it," I
1	Page 98 Page 100
1 Predham is doing a report to a number of	
2 people here, including you. You were refer	
a earlier to the last paragraph and you were	3 this issue did so with that in their, in the
4 read the first sentence and the last sentence	4 foremost.
5 but I'm going to read the whole thing for ye	ou. 5 MR. SIMMONS:
6 "This entire ER/PR review has been very	6 Q. Okay.
7 difficult and drawn out." This is Ms. Predh	m 7 MS. BONNELL:
8 speaking. "With constant hard and difficu	t 8 A. Part of their minds.
9 decisions being made. The only thing mak	ing 9 MR. SIMMONS:
it bearable at all is that we were doing what	10 Q. Good. Now, I have a couple of questions for
11 we had to do to make it right for our	you about that media briefing on the 11th of
patients. We were always doing the righ	December, in particular in relation to the
thing. Personally, this combined with the t	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
situations involving Dr. Ganguly in the pas	t disconversion rate for presentation to the media.
two weeks has left me totally and absolute	•
disheartened." Now, the middle sentence the	
about the only thing making it bearable w	
that we were doing the right thing by the	or raise as an issue that there was any
patients and always doing the right thing, w	
20 that a sentiment that you heard expressed a	
21 any other times by anyone else throughout	
entire process?	that was driving, defining a rate?
23 MS. BONNELL:	23 MS. BONNELL:
24 A. Yes, by everybody, Mr. Coffey (sic.), by a	
25 the doctors who spent their nights panelling	, 25 MR. SIMMONS:

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- Q. Okay. Did you have reports from time to time 1
- 2 from the people in quality concerning the
- types of things they were hearing from the 3
- patients that they spoke to, that the patients 4
- relations officer was, and others were hearing 5
- from the people they were speaking to? 6
- 7 MS. BONNELL:
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Was it ever reported back to you that there 10
- were requests from patients specifically for a 11
- rate or a percentage of change? 12
- 13 MS. BONNELL:
- 14 A. No.
- 15 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Okay. Now, from your point of view you've 16
- told us that you anticipated that the media 17
- would have an interest in such a rate? 18
- 19 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 20
- 21 MR. SIMMONS:
- 22 Q. Okay. In December of '06 would there have
- been any purpose calculating and settling on 23
- such a rate other than for the purpose of 24
- disclosing it to the media in response to 25

 - their request so that they could then
- communicate it more publicly? 2
- 3 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No.

1

- 5 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Okay. You've told us something about the 6
- 7 discussions that went into looking at the
- numbers that were known of the retest results 8
- and discussions about potential ways to 9
- calculate a rate? 10
- 11 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 12
- 13 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Would it be fair to say that there would be a 14
- range of rates that could be calculated 15
- depending on what tests were included and 16
- 17 excluded from both the numerator and the
- denominator? 18
- 19 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Absolutely, yeah, we did a lot of that, trying 20
- to figure out, yes. 21
- 22 MR. SIMMONS:

25

- Q. Would it be fair to say that those rates would 23
- range anywhere from 10 or 11 percent up to the 24
 - 42 percent that was eventually reported by the

- media in May?
- 2 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes, depending on what you exclude and 3

Page 103

- 4 include.
- 5 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Okay. Was there ever any consideration given 6
- to using a rate which would be viewed as 7
- 8 reflecting more favourably on the organization
- than any other rate?
- 10 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No. 11
- 12 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Was that part of the discussion?
- 14 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, absolutely not. 15
- 16 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. And at the media briefing on December 11th, I 17
- believe you've told us already that the media 18
- were informed explicitly that they were not 19
- being told the total number of changed tests? 20
- 21 MS. BONNELL:
- 22 A. Yes, and they reported it at that time.
- 23 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. At that time, right. Was any suggestion made 24
- to the media at all about what the rate of 25
- Page 102
- change for test results was? 1
- 2 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, never.
- 4 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. And are you aware that in May of '07 that
- there were media reports which said that in 6
- 7 December of '06 Eastern Health had predicted a
- 10 percent change? 8
- 9 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes, yes. I was aware of those. There was a 10
- 11 CBC story for sure I recall that being said
- in, and it certainly became part of the 12
- general discussion, I believe, in the House of 13
- Assembly as well, rate of error and 14
- percentages and that sort of thing. 15
- 16 MR. SIMMONS:
- 17 Q. And had Eastern Health made any such
- representation at the December press 18
- 19 conference?
- 20 MS. BONNELL:
- A. No, we did not.
- 22 MR. SIMMONS:
- Q. Since October of '05 when Dr. Williams had 23
- 24 said that it was possible that ten percent of 25
 - all the change--all the tests done could

Page 105 Page 107 change, had there been any public statements 1 MS. BONNELL: 1 2 from Eastern Health predicting any kind of A. Competing interests? Competing interests in that time, I guess, were principles of rate of change? 3 3 4 MS. BONNELL: confidentiality and the principle of 4 transparency and open accountability. I mean, 5 A. No, there had not. 5 there is some inherent contradictions in those 6 MR. SIMMONS: 6 Q. Okay. I'm going to ask you some look-back two values of the organization and trying to--7 questions now, and first, about the time 8 8 I'm back to the strike a balance, I guess. period, the first, what I'll call the first 9 MR. SIMMONS: 9 10 decision making period here, which for you 10 Q. Yes. would start when you were first involved in 11 11 MS. BONNELL: early July of 2005, late June? 12 12 A. Trying to strike a balance between knowing that you're communicating with good 13 MS. BONNELL: 13 information, that you're not going out and 14 A. No, I was involved in late May. 14 saying "we think we have an issue. We don't 15 MR. SIMMONS: 15 16 Q. In late May, and leading up to the decision in know what it is. We don't know how many 16 people it impacts." It's uncomfortable from mid August, which adopted the plan which was 17 17 no immediate public announcement, get test the perspective of making any kind of a public 18 18 results, inform patients first announcement. And also the other side of that 19 19 being, do patients have a right to learn about 20 MS. BONNELL: 20 their own health care and their own health in 21 A. Yes. 21 22 MR. SIMMONS: 22 a way that we would all want to learn issues Q. Looking back at that time period, what would 23 that may or may not impact our own individual 23 you identify as being the most difficult treatment? Would I want to hear about this in 24 24 questions or issues that were faced by the the media? No. I would not want to hear about 25 25 Page 106 Page 108 people making decisions about what information this in the media. And so we made a decision 1 1 2 to release publicly and how to inform the 2 based on that. Unfortunately, circumstances conspired against that principle and perhaps 3 patients? 3 we should have been--we should have predicted 4 MS. BONNELL: 4 A. Well, certainly the decision as to whether we 5 that more. We shouldn't have expected that 5 should make a public announcement ahead of the tests could get done in the timely fashion 6 6 making contact with anybody specifically was a 7 7 that we had expected they would. very difficult decision to make. What way to I think it's also, you know, the 8 8 9 go about making this public information was a organization was formed on April 2007. Going 9 very difficult decision to make. into this, we were half Health Care 10 10 11 MR. SIMMONS: 11 Corporation, we were--and six other boards and O. That decision at the time had to be made known half--Mr. Gulliver was a director of the lab 12 12 13 on the information--had to be made based on 13 in St. John's in May of 2005. He was not the the information known then. director of the labs across Eastern Health. 14 14 15 MS. BONNELL: Ms. Predham didn't know what her job was, and 15 A. Um-hm. in the midst of all this, had to apply for a 16 job. You know, of all of them, I was the only 17 MR. SIMMONS: 17 Q. Looking back now, with the benefit of one who knew how it was going to pan out for 18 18 19 everything we learned in the meantime, do you me. That can't be underestimated, the impact 19 have any comment on what sort of that restructuring and this having at the same 20 20 considerations you would now see that would be 21 21 time. useful to bring to bear if there were such a 22 22 We didn't have in place the kinds of situation to be confronted again? What would formalized plans and strategies. Ms. Newbury 23 23 some of the competing interests be that would asked me this morning about strategic 24 24 planning, and you know, those things--a have to be taken into account?

25

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	Page 109			Page 111
1	strategic plan for the organization was not in	1	THE	COMMISSIONER:
2	place. A plan for this wasn't developed.	2	Q.	I thought it was a 2005 one, but I'll just
3	Those are essentialif we look at an issue	3		double check now. Maybe you're right. P-
4	now, I can't think of an issue, certainly	4		1500. You might have been talking about that.
5	while I was director of strategic	5		It was in the context of looking at this
6	communications, that we dealt with that didn't	6		document, so we'll just double check. It was
7	have a communications strategy attached to it.	7		2006 memo. You're right, okay. So you were
8	I think it was the timing of this, the fact	8		saying, in the context of your discussion with
9	that there wasn't staff in place.	9		Ms. Newbury at that point that you thought
10	It's hard to look back and say with	10		that you were going to be in a position to
11	retrospect "I'd have done this differently and	11		talk about causative factors, but you never
12	I'd have done that differently." But I think	12		were, as I understand it.
13	what we do do is we look at this and say "what	13	MS. I	BONNELL:
14	can we learn from this? What did we learn	14	A.	No.
15	from the release of the Markenstein report?"	15	THE	COMMISSIONER:
16	Well, the way that we learned things from that	16	Q.	From the organizational point of view.
17	about how to effectively manage staff within	17	MS. I	BONNELL:
18	an organization, there were lessons learned in	18	A.	Yes.
19	that, and during the Commission of Inquiry,	19	THE	COMMISSIONER:
20	Eastern Health is doing a better job in that	20	Q.	And what I wanted to clarify was at what point
21	regard. I think you learn from these	21		it came home to you that that was not going to
22	experiences and you move forward.	22		be something that you could talk about?
23]	MR. SIMMONS:	23	MS. I	BONNELL:
24	Q. Okay. Ms. Bonnell, anything else that you	24	A.	When we started to prepare for the media
25	feel you'd like toyou've had to say quite a	25		briefing, which would have been in, I think,
	Page 110			Page 112
1	bit since you've been here, but if there's	1		probably late in that fall, maybe in October
2	anything else you feel you'd like to add,	2		sometime.
3	there's an opportunity now to do it.	3	THE	COMMISSIONER:
4]	MS. BONNELL:	4	Q.	So in the preparation leading up to the media
5	A. No, thank you very much. I thank you all for	5		briefing, somewhere around October, it came
6	the opportunity to speak to you.	6		home to you that you would not be in a
7]	MR. SIMMONS:	7		position to talk about causative factors?
8	Q. Thank you.	8	MS. I	BONNELL:
9 '	THE COMMISSIONER:	9	A.	That's right.
10	Q. Do you have anything arising, Mr. Coffey?	10	THE	COMMISSIONER:
11 (COFFEY, Q.C.:	11	Q.	And what was it that drove that home to you?
12	Q. I do, Commissioner.	12	MS. I	BONNELL:
13 ′	THE COMMISSIONER:	13	A.	Certainly conversations with legal counsel
14	Q. While Mr. Coffey is coming around, there's a	14		did, and also the fact that I was under the
15	point you raised this morning that I just	15		impression that we would probably release the
16	wanted to be sure that I'm clear on. It's	16		external reviews publicly, and was not aware
17	another one of those little details that I	17		that those were being protected under the
18	want to be clear about, because when Ms.	18		Evidence Act as peer reviews.
19	Newbury was asking you about certain events in	19	THE	COMMISSIONER:
20	July of 2005, you were responding by saying	20	Q.	Okay, and was it also around that period of
21	that, you know, "at that point, I thought we	21		time that you realized that that was the
22	were going to be talking about causation."	22		position in respect of the external reviews?
23	MS. BONNELL:	23		BONNELL:
24	A. That was inshe brought me to an e-mail of	24	A.	Yes.
٥-	2006 11 1	10-	TT TT	GOLD BEGGEOVED

25 THE COMMISSIONER:

2006, I believe.

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	Pa	age 113		Page 115
1	Q. All right. Mr. Coffey.	1	A.	Yes.
2	MS. SUSAN BONNELL, RE-EXAMINATION BY BERNARD COFFEY, (Q.C. 2	COFF	EY, Q.C.:
3	COFFEY, Q.C.:	3	Q.	And to be told privately what had gone wrong?
4	Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Exhibit P-0104,	4	MS. B	ONNELL:
5	please, page four please. Ma'am, Mr. Simmons	5	A.	Yes, or well, that itI mean, I guess the
6	was asking you questions about percentages and	6		primary thing is that it would be between the
7	Dr. Williams' usage of ten percent back in	7		physician and the patient to have that
8	October of '05 and then what, if any, thought	8		conversation.
9	was given to what percentages or figures were	9	COFF	EY, Q.C.:
10	to be released in December of '06. This is	10	Q.	But we looked at the adverse event -
11	the actual press release for December 11th,	11	MS. B	ONNELL:
12	2006, and when you look at the second	12	A.	Policy.
13	paragraph, the middle of the paragraph says	13	COFF	EY, Q.C.:
14	"939 of these test results were originally	14	Q.	- policy, you were shown that. And that
15	negative. These test samples were sent to	15		involves the patient being notified as to what
16	Mount Sinai Laboratory in Toronto for review."	16		went wrong, why it went wrong, if it's known.
17	And it goes on to say "however, 117 patients	17	MS. B	ONNELL:
18	have been identified as requiring treatment	18	A.	Yes, yes.
19	changes."	19	COFF	EY, Q.C.:
20	So although there's not a rate there, I	20	Q.	And what's proposed to be done about it, in
21	take it if one was to divide 117 by 939, my	21		terms of future treatment?
22	arithmetic gives me a figure of 12.4 percent.	22	MS. B	ONNELL:
23	MS. BONNELL:	23	A.	Yes.
24	A. Okay.	24	COFF	EY, Q.C.:
25	COFFEY, Q.C.:	25	Q.	So here, though, I take it that the whole of
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1	Q. Which bears more than a passing potenti	al 1		the group involved always understood that none
2	relationship with ten percent, doesn't it?	2		of these patients were going to be told why or
3	It's close. It's close to ten percent.	3		had been told why or what was known about why
4	MS. BONNELL:	4		things had gone wrong, so in doing right, I'm
5	A. It's close to ten percent, yes.	5		going to suggest to you, everyone involved in
6	COFFEY, Q.C.:	6		this knew full well that the patients had not
7	Q. And you were aware, I think you've told	us 7		been told what was known about what went
8	already, and remained aware that Dr. Willia	ams 8		wrong?
9	had, in October of '05, referred to ten	9	MS. B	ONNELL:
10	percent.	10	A.	I don't know that I can speak to that. I
11	MS. BONNELL:	11		agree with you that we certainly weren't
12	A. Yes.	12		talking publicly about causative factors.
13	COFFEY, Q.C.:	13		What was said by Eastern Health in terms of
14	Q. Ma'am, if we could look at, please, Exhib	it 14		the phone calls to the individuals who
15	1402, please? Page two, please. This is ar	n 15		remained negative would have to be addressed,
16	e-mail Mr. Simmons just asked you to look	at, 16		I guess, by the people who made those phone
17	and referring to, "we were always 'doing the	he 17		calls, but I don't think that they got into
18	right thing'" okay. I gather from your	18		causative factors. What happened in the room
19	evidence given in answer to questions by the	he 19		between an oncologist and their patient in
20	other lawyers here in the room that you	20		discussing if the patient were to ask what
21	understood that an individual patient who	0 21		happened, I guess the physician would have to
22	suffered an adverse event should be dealt w	ith 22		indicate to you what level of detail they
امما				

24

25

would have gotten into in that setting,

because I wouldn't know that, but I agree with you absolutely, we did not talk about those

in a particular manner. Would that be

23

24

correct?

25 MS. BONNELL:

3

5 MS. BONNELL:

2 COFFEY, Q.C.:

things publicly.

A. I have no reason to believe one way or the 6 other if they were or weren't. 7

they were talked about privately?

Q. And do you have any reason to believe that

8 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Okay, well we'll have to hear then from the 9 oncologists on that point, but I'm going to 10 suggest to you that it certainly wasn't talked 11 12 about openly within the group as to the reasons for test failure. 13

14 MS. BONNELL:

15 A. Not-

16 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Not like Dr. Banerjee set it out. 17

18 MS. BONNELL:

A. No.

24

1

2

20 COFFEY, Q.C.:

21 Q. When did the group last meet before September

22 30th, 2005, do you know? Mr. Simmons was

23 asking you about, you know, the phone call

that you received that day and what was done.

You made a reference to, in the context, the 25

Page 118

group and I'm just wondering do you recall 1

when it was that the group had last met? This

was in the context of Ms. Predham and you 3

looking at that letter again. 4

5 MS. BONNELL:

A. Uh-hm. 6

7 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. I'm just trying to get some sense for the 8

Commissioner when the group last met.

10 MS. BONNELL:

11 A. I don't recall there being any meetings in

September. I would probably have been August 12

12th or 10th or whenever. 13

14 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Before the August 15th meeting with the 15

Minister? There was a meeting with the 16

Minister on August 15th. 17

18 MS. BONNELL:

A. I didn't attend -19

20 COFFEY, O.C.:

22

21 Q. You didn't attend that ma'am, no, you didn't,

but it was around the time that you did that

August 12th pros cons list -23

24 MS. BONNELL:

A. Cons thing, yes.

3 would have met.

4 MS. BONNELL:

A. Yes, I think so. 5

6 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Okay. Just as a point of clarification,

8 ma'am, because I know when I asked certain

9 questions about it, you gave one answer and

10 then when I showed you another e-mail, you

11 acknowledged that that was in fact the state

of affairs, and then it came up with Ms. 12

13 Newbury. If I could look, please, at exhibit

P-0616. This has to do with the patient 14

15 letter and the NLMA in the fall of '05.

16 MS. BONNELL:

A. Yes. 17

18 COFFEY, O.C.:

O. This is this e-mail of October 4, 2005, 2:59

20 p.m. and this indicated an e-mail you drafted

21 potentially for Dr. Williams' endorsement.

22 MS. BONNELL:

23 A. Uh-hm.

24 COFFEY, Q.C.:

2

6

19

21

22

25

Q. And I think you, in responding to Ms. Newbury,

Page 120 she asked you some questions about it that it

had not actually been used, well if we look,

please, at exhibit P-0626? Now this is an e-3

mail of yourself, October 6th, two days later, 4

5 11:20 a.m. to Dr. Williams and others. It's

forwarding the letter from Dr. Williams re: 7

screening; in fact, even internally your

organization -8

9 MS. BONNELL:

A. I apologize.

11 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. No, no, and I appreciate that, you're not 12

13 alone, by far, on that, okay.

14 MS. BONNELL:

A. I apologize, it was posted, yes. 15

16 COFFEY, O.C.:

17 Q. It was actually posted as Lynn Barter had

advised you on that same day at 11:05 a.m. and 18

the actual letter, looking at it on page two

of this letter--page two of the exhibit, the 20

letter itself, when you look at the fourth

last paragraph, it says "From the results that

we have retested thus far, we are anticipating 23

that less than 10 percent of all breast cancer 24

patients will convert from a negative to a

```
June 3, 2008
                                                  Page 121
         positive and may experience a change or
 1
 2
         addition to their cancer therapy."
 3 MS. BONNELL:
     A. Uh-hm.
 5 COFFEY, Q.C.:
      Q. And if you can look back, please, that's the
 6
 7
         one that apparently went up on the NLMA
 8
         website, look back at P-0616, if you look at
         the corresponding part of that letter, there
 9
10
         are a couple of words changed in the beginning
         of the letter, but when we look down at that
11
12
         same paragraph, the fourth last paragraph, "We
         see from the results that we have retested
13
14
         thus far, we are anticipating that less than
         10 percent of all breast cancer patients will
15
16
         convert from a negative to a positive and may
         experience a change or addition to their
17
18
         cancer therapy."
19 MS. BONNELL:
20
      A. Uh-hm.
21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
22
      Q. So that that apparently was, at least as of
         October 4th, the letter that you had drafted
23
         for Dr. Williams?
24
25 MS. BONNELL:
      A. I apologize.
 1
```

1 MS. BONNELL: A. And I don't know if, I think Deborah would have done that and I don't know she would have 3 even spoken to a reporter because sometimes 4 5 information is posted on the website and you can--and there is an individual, well I guess 6 he's a reporter, but he's an individual who is 7 8 responsible for posting information on the web and that contact may have been made directly 9 10 with that individual, I'm not sure. 11 COFFEY, O.C.: Q. Okay. You, as well in a response to a 12 question indicated that, I believe your words 13 were to the effect "there are so many issues 14 that one can deal with at any one point in 15 time from an organization's perspective"? 16 17 MS. BONNELL: A. Yes. 19 COFFEY, O.C.: Q. I take it that's issues involving sort of bad 20 21 news issues? 22 MS. BONNELL: A. No, not necessarily. 23 24 COFFEY, Q.C.: 25 Q. In commenting on it, you did refer to, what Page 124

Page 122 2 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. That's fine, it's just a point of 3 clarification. You were also asked a question 4 5 concerning inaccuracies in media coverage in October of '05 and you were asked whether 6 7 reporters were contacted to correct such 8 inadequacies or inaccuracies, I'm sorry. Do you recall what reporters in October of '05 9 you or your department contacted? 10 11 MS. BONNELL: A. About an inaccuracy? 12 13 COFFEY, Q.C.: 14 o. Yes. 15 MS. BONNELL: A. The only inaccuracy that we corrected was one 16 17 that was on the CBC website in my recollection. 18 19 COFFEY, Q.C.: 20 Q. Okay, that's the one we looked at, one of the 21 e-mails here when I was asking you about -22 MS. BONNELL: 23 A. Yes. 24 COFFEY, Q.C.:

can only be seen as negative issues, the 1 2 Turner report, Markenstein's Turner report and 3 others, that you -4 MS. BONNELL: A. Those happened to be big news stories. I 5 mean, the pharmacy issue wasn't necessarily a 6 7 negative one. It began of, you know, in that sort of a way, but it's about capacity, I 8 think, and perhaps is the better word to use 9 10 than--and I certainly struggled with capacity 11 issues. I don't think in the last three years 12 I've worked less than 50 or 60 hours a week, 13 every week, you know. It just can't be done. 14 COFFEY, Q.C.: 15 Q. And if I could, Commissioner, and this is just for point of--well three different exhibits. 16 17 In my examination of Ms. Bonnell, we did refer 18 to them, but I'd like to just identify them 19 for your own purposes and counsel's purposes. 20 Exhibit P-1211 and I apologize, Ms. Bonnell, I 21 should have had them brought up when you asked about them in the first place, I won't ask 22 you--just to have you identify them. P-1211 23

please? This is a May 7th '07 media

statistics form, this would be the date, the

2425

Q. Okay.

1	contact	date for	Mark	Quinn in	volving	the

- court documents, I think you did refer to your 2
- conversation with Mr. Quinn and what happened 3
- as a result. 4
- 5 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes.
- 7 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. This is the form of that day.
- 9 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Yes. 10
- 11 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. And as well if we could, P-1212? And this is 12 a form dated May 14th, 2007 involving Heather 13
- 14 Barrett of The Current, CBC Radio, The
- Current, and this is again your record that 15
- day of your dealings with her. 16
- 17 MS. BONNELL:
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. Okay, and finally, Commissioner, there is an 20
- 21 exhibit, it hasn't been entered, but for the
- 22 sake of completeness, it's Ms. Bonnell's
- redacted calender and it's exhibit P-1565. 23
- 24 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 25 Q. And that's redacted by us?
- Page 126

- Q. Well -
- 3 MR. SIMMONS:

1 COFFEY, Q.C.:

- Q. By agreement.
- 5 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. By agreement.
- 7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. I don't know by agreement, but who physically 8
- did the -
- 10 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 11 Q. But we don't want a continuing redaction
- 12 problem.
- 13 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 14 Q. Okay, I will check that Commissioner and we'll
- 15
- 16 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 17 Q. Well why don't we just double check that
- before -18
- 19 MR. SIMMONS:
- 20 Q. We marked them with opaque--with transparent
- 21 markings, so if they're now opaque, it means
- they've been done here. 22
- 23 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 24 Q. We have done our own redaction.
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Thank you, Registrar. If we could have the

Page 127

Page 128

- 2 exhibit -
- 3 THE COMMISSIONER:
 - Q. So the number again is P-1565? All right,
- 5 entered.
- 6 EXHIBIT ENTERED AND MARKED P-1565
- 7 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Now before we break,
- 9 I have no further questions for Ms. Bonnell.
- 10 I have a comment, though, to the Commissioner,
- 11 if I could.
- 12 THE COMMISSIONER:
- O. About other business?
- 14 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 15 O. Yes.
- 16 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 17 Q. All right. Thank you, Ms. Bonnell very much.
- 18 As I've said it to other witnesses, we really
- 19 do need to get the perspective of a lot of
- 20 people on this issue and see how events
- 21 unfolded from a number of different
- 22 perspectives before I can even attempt to put
- 23 it together and I very much thank you for your
- 24 contribution to this process.
- 25 MS. BONNELL:
- A. Thank you very much.
 - 2 THE COMMISSIONER:
 - Q. Thank you. Now, Mr. Coffey?
 - 4 COFFEY, Q.C.:
 - Q. Yes, Commissioner, I'm going to ask, 5
 - Commissioner, that we adjourn until 2:00 at 6
 - 7 which point we would begin the evidence of Dr.
 - Ejeckam. He is, of course, had travelled from 8
 - 9 outside the country. I understand that he has
 - 10 met with his counsel yesterday and I gather
 - 11 again this morning, and -
 - 12 THE COMMISSIONER:
 - 13 Q. So I presume counsel and Dr. Ejeckam agreed to
 - 14 this change in scheduling?
 - 15 COFFEY, O.C.:
 - Q. Yes, we have and I've advised counsel--he was 16
 - 17 anticipated to be here tomorrow at 9:30
 - 18 anyway. I've advised counsel in the room
 - earlier this morning that that was going to
 - 20 happen.

- 21 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 22 Q. All right.
- 23 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 24 Q. So if we could begin, and rather than start a
- 25 witness now -

June 3, 2008	Mulu-Paş	ge inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
P	Page 129	Page 131
1 THE COMMISSIONER:	-	THE COMMISSIONER:
2 Q. And then have to interrupt.	2	Q. So are there a number that have to be entered?
3 COFFEY, Q.C.:	3 0	COFFEY, Q.C.:
4 Q. Yes, that was the -	4	Q. I apologize, yes, again, I'm ahead of myself.
5 THE COMMISSIONER:	5	If I could please, Commissioner, if I could
6 Q. All right then, we'll adjourn until 2:00.	6	have entered the following exhibits, I
7 COFFEY, Q.C.:	7	understand 1570 through 1603.
8 Q. Thank you, Commissioner.	8 T	THE COMMISSIONER:
9 (ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH)	9	Q. All right then, entered.
10 THE COMMISSIONER:	10 E	EXHIBITS ENTERED AND MARKED P-1570 THROUGH TO P-1603
11 Q. Thank you. Please be seated. Mr. Coffey.	11 C	COFFEY, Q.C.:
12 COFFEY, Q.C.:	12	Q. Thank you. Now, Doctor, if we could, please
13 Q. The next witness, Commissioner, is Gershon	13	Registrar, bring up exhibit 1601? Thank you.
14 Ejeckam, Dr. Ejeckam.	14	Doctor, this is your curriculum vitae, Doctor,
15 MR. GERSHON EJECKAM (SWORN) EXAMINATION BY BERNAR	RD 15	as well you do have, of course, a paper copy
16 COFFEY, Q.C.	16	available to you, and as well you will see at
17 dr. ejeckam:	17	times that the exhibits will come up on the
18 A. My name is Gershon Chukwuemeka Ejeckam. G-E	- 18	screen in front of you. If you need to refer
19 R-S-H-O-N C-H-U-K-W-U-E-M-E-K-A. The last	t 19	to it, I have it there for you, but what I am
20 name, E-J-E-C-K-A-M.	20	going to ask you is if you can give, perhaps,
21 COFFEY, Q.C.:	21	the Commissioner an overview of your
22 Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Good afternoon, Dr.	22	educational and professional background.
23 Ejeckam. Commissioner, just at the outside I	23 D	DR. EJECKAM:
24 wanted to say, I wanted to thank Dr. Ejeckam	24	A. Thank you, Commission. I attended the
for having come from Africa, as he's come	25	elementary school in Nigeria and after I did
p	Page 130	Page 132
quite a distance to testify. Myself and Ms	_	my high school and went to University of
2 Chaytor have had the opportunity via telep		Ibadan, that was one of the, I will say best
to interview him some time ago, but becau		medical schools in Africa at that time, and
4 travel arrangements and his own schedule		after my internship in 1972 to '73, then I
5 was convenient to have him testify at this		came down to Canada, came up to Canada in
6 point in time, and he, of course, is a	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$	Ottawa where I did my pathologic training. I
physician and a pathologist and will be th		did my anatomic pathology training in Ottawa
8 first pathologist testifying before you.	8	and at the end of my training, I passed my
9 There will, of course, be subsequently a		exams and I had a fellow of Royal College of
significant amount of pathology evidence v		Physicians of Canada and I am a member of
will come and laboratory evidence which		Royal College of Pathology, U.K. and diplomat
come from other witnesses, so Dr. Ejeck		of American Board of Pathology, I did do the
will, in that sense, be somewhat testifying		exams and passed all those exams. Then after
out of turn, as it were, but we did want to		that, I went back to Nigeria to start work in
take advantage of his recollection of past		theteaching in the university of Nigeria
16 events and his expertise and I gather in	16	there.
particular to a certain extent in terms of		COFFEY, Q.C.:
18 IHC.	18	Q. Go ahead, Doctor, from there?
19 THE COMMISSIONER:		OR. EJECKAM:
20 Q. All right.	20	A. From there I spent about 20 months, Enugu,
21 COFFEY, Q.C.:	20 21	that's University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital
22 Q. Doctor, I understand, DoctorI want to tha		and then I got invited to come to St. John's
23 you for providing your curriculum vitae		by Professor Kwan. I met Professor Kwan the
24 Registrar, please, if we could look at exhib		first time, he was a professor at McGill
25 1601.	25	University in Montreal. I spent some time
20 1001.	4.5	om retory in monutear. I spent some time

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1

2

Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing Page 135
DR. EJECKAM:
A. Yes.
COFFEY, Q.C.:
Q. And relating to pathology, pathology related
matters and other aspects of medicine
throughout your career?
DR. EJECKAM:
A. Yes.
COFFEY, Q.C.:
Q. Okay, Doctor, in terms of immunohistochemistry
or histochemistry and in particular
immunohistochemistry, have you had
professional experience in that regard?
DR. EJECKAM:
A. Yes.
COFFEY, Q.C.:
Q. Could you tell the Commissioner then about how
you got involved in it and what that
experience is?
DR. EJECKAM:
A. Madam Commissioner, I got involved with
immunohistochemistry quite early, I came in
from my residency, then it was
immunoflorescense that was being done and just
simple interest. In our residency you had a
Page 136
choice of having an elective and I spent one
month elective in immunology laboratory that
was based in civic hospital in Ottawa and then
from then on, when I finished my training,
even during the training, I tried to at any
time there was a conference who had college of
American Pathology Conference, it's called
CAP, then IAP, International Academy of
Pathology, then ASCP, American Society of
Clinical Pathology and then those were the

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month was ba from th even di time th Americ CAP, th Patholo Clinica 16

choice main conferences, amongst other things that I entered from the same--I always tried to enter for anything that had to do with immunological things, so immunochemistry. I had no florescence at that time. So I developed the interest and carried on that and when I finished and went to Doha, in fact, before then, one of my papers, one of my good papers in CASA (phonetic) was the work I did with Professor Kwan that was published in CASA. that was immunoflorescense then because immunochemistry wasn't hardly in use, but it had the same principle. Then, of course, I continued with that and I wrote a number of papers, immunoflorescense, immunochemistry

3 for an interview and I was selected, so I 4 started as an assistant professor of pathology 5 at Memorial University. And I was doing my 6 pathology practice at Grace Hospital, now 7 closed. I spent roughly three years and 8 returned to Nigeria in 1983 and went back to 9 the university that I left, University of 10 Nigeria, and I was there for awhile and later 11 on, about 1989, I moved to Doha, the capital 12 of Qatar in the middle east and I spent 13 years there, working as an anatomic 13 14 pathologist and held several positions within 15 the department. And then, year 2002, I came 16 back to St. John's and was re-hired as 17 clinical associate professor of pathology at 18 Memorial and then as staff pathologist at 19 Health Sciences, General Hospital, and I 20 remained there until I retired and went back 21 to Nigeria in year 2006. 22 COFFEY, Q.C.: 23 Q. And, Doctor, what are you doing--what have you 24 been doing since 2006? 25 DR. EJECKAM: A. I got involved with trying to help a new 1 medical school, University of Enugu State 2 3

doing some research with him on

immunoflorescense and he invited me, I came

Page 134 University of Science and Technology, Medical School, so I'm the chief pathologist and head 4 5 of clinical laboratories. So I teach, basically, I teach medical students. 6 7 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Even today, you're still teaching medical 8 students. 10 DR. EJECKAM:

11 A. Yeah. 12 COFFEY, O.C.:

13

come here to testify that you've prepared a 14 15 short slide presentation on basic immunohistochemistry. Before I have you take 16 17 us through that, looking at your CV, okay, and if we could, please, Registrar, page 9. 18

Q. Now, Doctor, I understand that in preparing to

19 Doctor, I'm not going to take you through it in detail, but I gather, Doctor, beginning at 20 21 page 9 of your resume through 10, through 11, 22 through 12, and 13 and 14 and into page 15 of

the exhibit, which is page 14 of your resume, 23 24 that you have published a number of articles, authored and co-authored a number of articles. 25

Ju	ne 3, 2008 M	lulti-H	Pag	ge TM	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page				Page 139
1	later on and then I continued with my		1	pat	hologist, but I was head of anatomic
2	interest, attending conferences in		2	_	hology division.
3	immunohistochemistry. But when I got into			OFFEY,	
4	Doha, that's an opportunity because they had		4		d as part of your duties in that regard, the
5	initially had a small corner where we were		5		procedures were within your area of
6	doing it, but we found that it was not		6		ponsibility.
7	particularly good enough, so we created a good			R. EJECI	•
8	atmosphere, had a separate room and we had		8	A. Ye	
9	proper equipment, whereas it was DAKO part		9 C(OFFEY,	
10	equipment and we developed a good	10			d so I understand you got a separate
11	immunohistochemistry and as head of anatomic				ility or a portion of a facility devoted to
12	pathology, that department was under my	12			c, particular technologists devoted to it.
13	supervision. And so my interest in this			R. EJECI	
14	subject grew and during that time, I was	14		A. Ye	
15	developing the subject, I sent some of my			OFFEY,	
16	technologists to go to Florida to observe	10			d you arranged for education, for example of
17	where a good immunohistochemistry laboratory				m in the United States, in Florida.
18	is. I did that because for Dr. Nadji, whom I			R. EJECI	
19	attended some of his conferences, was in	19		A. Ye	
20	Florida and he was a good immunohistochemis	'		OFFEY,	
21	then and some of my staff went over there,	2			ay. And then over time, as the 90's went
22	spent, I think two of them went to spend one	22			you developed, from your perspective what
23	month each and that helped them to see the	23			d of quality lab did you develop?
24	scope where a big laboratory and how it's			R. EJECI	
25	done. So we developed a good laboratory and a				e developed a very good laboratory because
	Page				Page 140
	good diagnostic (unintelligible) there and of		1	hox	ing identified a structure and got
$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	course, when I came over -		1 2		ipment in, we trained our staff and in
	COFFEY, Q.C.:		3	•	t, we also encouraged them to go for
$\frac{1}{4}$	Q. So this was in Qatar.		<i>3</i> 4		ferences, so we worked hard on that and
	DR. EJECKAM:		5		r a period, we developed a good laboratory
6	A. In Qatar.		6		we also were registered with the CAP,
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:		7		lege of American Pathologists for a
8	Q. In your area of time there.		8		ndard of quality assurance. Later on we
	DR. EJECKAM:		9		b hooked up with the British one, but the
10	A. Yes.	10			t was the CAP, so we had a kind of quality
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:	1			urance going on and my supervisor, my
12	Q. So when you went to Qatar, I take it, when you				nnical supervisor encouraged hard to work
13	arrived there, do I understand you correctly	13			d and shewe developed a manual for
14	that immunohistochemistry was not really	14			nunohistochemistry and also a manual for the
15	developed within the laboratory -	1:			tomic pathology generally, quality
	DR. EJECKAM:	10			arance manual.
17	A. Yeah, it wasn't fully developed.			OFFEY, Q	
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:	18			thin your ownfor your facility.
19	Q. Fully developed within the lab there.			Q. WI R. EJECK	
1	DR. EJECKAM:	20		A. Yes	
20 21	A. Yeah, it was being done, but it wasn't, we had			A. 1 e. OFFEY, Q	
$\begin{vmatrix} 21 \\ 22 \end{vmatrix}$	toI had to take part in ensuring the overall	22			d, Doctor, and you say eventually when the
23	development there, myself and ProfessorDr.	23			tish or the United Kingdom, UKNEQAS program
23	A talla (phonotia) who was the chairman of the	2.		DII	asir of the Officer Kingdom, UKNEQAS program

24

25 DR. EJECKAM:

stated it, you became part of that as well?

Atalla (phonetic) who was the chairman of the

department, but incidentally also an anatomic

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Page 141

A. Yeah, but that was the tail end, I was about 1 2 leaving by the time they hooked onto it, but I

participated in encouraging them to hook up to 3 that because seemed to have a fairly better 4

program than the CAP one. 5

6 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. So, Doctor, if I could then, please, if we 7 could bring up exhibit P-1603? Now this is 8 just, of course the title page, "Basic 9 10 Immunohistochemistry, IHC". If we could go to, please, to page 2, Registrar. Now I'm 11 going to ask you then to take us through this, 12 13 Doctor, and you can, of course, expand upon it as you see fit. You go ahead, sir. 14

15 DR. EJECKAM:

8

21

16 A. The first slide has three lines on it, three sentences, "IHC, Immunohistochemistry 17 harnesses, the immunological mechanism in 18 human beings in cold virus." What happens is 19 we all have cold one time or the other and 20 this is due to viruses. Now when the virus 21 22 enters our body, it causes disease, but the body will recognize the virus as a foreign 23 material. Now those whom we call immune 24 competent, that's people whose immune system 25

been injected, has excited the production of 25

is okay, as opposed to, let's say, Aids 1 patients whose immune system is depressed, 2

3 will mount defence against that virus and the

process of defending themselves, the body will 4 5

not develop antibodies against those viruses.

Now, the antibody is not developed against the 6 7

whole virus, there are molecules within that virus will call antigens sites where the, that

9 will excite the production of antibody. Now these antibodies would then combine with the

10 11 virus at the sites, through complex processes

we kill the virus and that is the way the 12

body's defence mechanism goes, and the cells 13 that are responsible for providing these 14

antibodies are lymphoid cells, lymphocytes and 15

plasma cells, but we'll call them lymphoid

16

cells. So the antibodies are manufactured as 17 18

in the last line there, they are biologically manufactured by these cells to target the

19 foreign object that has the virus, which is 20

the foreign object within us. So our body

that way is able to defend itself. Now what 22 has happened that the immunochemistry has now 23

used the same principle, because what we try 24 25

to do in immunochemistry that we want to find

within cells. Now those molecules, we can not--if you have a tumor that has some molecules in them, I may not be able to tell what it is, but if I can pick up a molecule there and develop antibody to it, then I might then be able to combine that antibody to that site and then look at it under a microscope, then I can now tell. oh, that's what is in there, and each cell has its own peculiarities. So when I pick a cell that is from the skin, there are some peculiarities there that if I use it, I will develop antibodies that will tag onto that and tell me it's from the skin. If I take some molecules from the liver, and produce antibodies, it will tag onto it and I will know that this is from--because the way you combine that

antibody produced will combine with the

antigen that made it to be produced. It's not

going to combine with some, you have

background problem, okay, so when this

combination takes place, it tells you that

that antigen or that foreign stuff that had

out, we want to target certain molecules

Page 142 Page 144

the antibody. So this is exactly what we do 1 2 in the immunochemistry--my people, the

companies take cells from different parts of 3 the body and inject it in mice or rabbits, 4

5 because we have to make sure that molecules is

injected in a different species of animal,

7 which will recognize that as foreign, that's

important. If you recognize that as foreign, 8 then to mount a defence against it and that 9

defence is producing antibodies. So when 10

injected in rabbit or mice, antibodies are 11

produced. 12

13 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Go ahead, Doctor, I'll show you right here, do 14 you see that? 15

16 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Okay, okay. The antibodies will be produced and these antibodies will be combining specifically with those antigens. So what we've done now is we've taken a molecule from human beings, injected it in mice, it will produce antibodies. So now immunochemistry, what we now do is we have this antibodies marketed so that if I'm looking for a tumor

from the skin or liver and if I get antibody

Multi-Page TM June 3, 2008 **Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing** Page 145 Page 147 against liver cell, I can then react it to the this, if you try to do the stain to show those 1 antibodies antigen sites that early, because 2 tumor. And if I do, if it attaches onto it, 2 of formalin fixation, you may have destroyed then I will know that tumor is from liver. 3 3 Now, the process doesn't end there because some of those sites or it may have been masked 4 4 that reaction you cannot see it, visualize it by reaction. So when what you call antigen 5 5 6 at the first stage, then you have to go retrieval is to put the sections and heat it 6 7 further to amplify that. Now, just back to up, there are many methods, either you boil 7 what you're saying, this is valuable to do them up in pressure cooker or use microwave, 8 8 with estrogen receptors here, that in breasts, different methods in different laboratories. 10 the same type of molecules in the breast 10 What you are trying to do is to unmask those cells, when we start them, we inject them in 11 sites, those molecules that were used to 11 rabbit, we get antibodies against estrogen and 12 12 produce antibodies. So once you unmask it, progesterone. So when we get those antibodies 13 then the antibodies that you using now will 13 in the rabbit tumor that we have in the lab, combine with it. 14 14 15 then we try to react that and see whether Now, after the combination you need to 15 16 there is presence of estrogen or progesterone 16 now visualize it. The reaction has taken receptor on that tumor because if they are place. So in this diagram here, the flat area 17 17 there, that antibody produced will then where you have the small, small squares or 18 18 triangles--squares, those are the sites of the combine with it. Then after the combination, 19 19 then you need to highlight so they can see antigen on the tissue. Now, the other figure 20 20 that. on top of it is the antibody. The antibody 21 21 has two light chains and two heavy chains, but 22 Now, because you fix the tissues in 22 formalin, normally if you get the tissue 23 we'll not go into that. 23 fresh, if you don't fix it, the cell membrane, Now, in our reaction we get an antibody, 24 24 because every cell had a cell membrane, once we'll call it the primary antibody and put it 25 25 Page 148 Page 146 you take it from the body, the mechanism on the tissue so it will react with the 1 1 2 keeping that cell membrane intact while in the 2 antigen, but you will still not be able to see 3 body would be removed, and if you don't fix it. Then you go to the next stage where you 3 it, the enzymes will elute out and destroy the now add a second antibody. Now, in the first 4 4 5 cell. So we fix it in formalin. Now, this 5 stage you can try to see by using a dye, but fixation in formalin sort of binds the protein because it's limited, then what you see may be 6 6 and sort of marks the sites where these also limited, so we expand it by using 7 7 antigens are. secondary antibody. And secondary antibody 8 8 9 So we go through the process of 9 will now contain material that will help us to processing the tissue and after we finish visualize this reaction. So that is second 10 10 processing tissue, we use the number dye we 11 11 stage. use for staining histology, we call it HNE 12 Then you go to the next stage after the, 12 hematoxylin and eosin. Hematoxylin will stain everything has done, the reaction has been 13 13 done, then you want to visualize it. This the nucleus and eosin will stain the cell 14 14 15 15

cytoplasm. Now, when you then look at those slides and pick the best one, that best one 16 will contain the tumor that you want to 17 examine, it should also contain no more tissue 18 as an internal control for you. Then that, 19 when you choose it, then you ask the 20 technologist to pick the block from which that 21 particular slide was produced to do the 22 immunohistochemistry. And so what they would 23 do is to cut sections and do what you call 24 antibody retrieval, and the reason for this is 25

shows the antigen, antibody reaction already done there with the two antibodies there, but you cannot see it. Then all this Avidin, the one in green on top of there and the biotinylated peroxidase, the one in the red and blue, they need to combine to this antibody for us to see it. So the next stage is when this reaction goes on, you see what has happened, it has combined and is tightly attached to it. You still won't be able to see it under microscope because you need a

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Page 149 dye. So what you, what DAB, it's called 1 1 2 diaminobenzidine, this is a compound that when 2 you react it with hydrogen peroxide and this 3 3 complex, it will turn brown. So what's 4 4 happened that at this stage, then you get the 5 5 6 brown colour that we see 6 7 immunohistochemistry. Now, the brown colour 7 has to be properly interpreted because this 8 8 antigen we're talking about the molecule of 10 taking (unintelligible) antibody can be in 10 three different places. It can be on the 11 11 nuclear material, so certain antibodies, 12 12 certain like estrogen and progesterone, the 13 13 staining will be inside the nucleus. If there 14 14 is any staining in the cytoplasm, that is not 15 15 16 a positive reaction. Now, some other tissues 16 will be cytoplasmic, within the cytoplasm. 17 17 The nucleus will be free, the cell membrane 18 18 will be free and the reaction within the 19 19 cytoplasm. The third point will be membranous 20 20 like leukocytic common antigen which we use to 21 21 identify lymphoid cells, it stains only the 22 22 membrane. So if it's staining the cytoplasm 23 23 when it is supposed to be staining membrane, 24 24 then that's not an expected reaction. So this 25 25 Page 150

undifferentiated carcinoma, you then say lymphoma.

Then of course you go further to classify the lymphoma, is it a B-cell lymphoma or a Tcell lymphoma because the treatment the oncologist will use will depend on what type. And there are also molecules in these lymphomas, lymphoid cells that are being used to produce antibodies. So for B-cell lymphomas will have antibodies like CD20, CD19, these are specific for B cells. For T cells you have CD3, so, or CD5. So you use this panel again to tell the oncologist that this tumor is a lymphoma and then give to them then, depending on if it's large or small or what type, and I say B-cell lymphoma because the treatment will be different if you said a T-cell lymphoma.

Then we look for original invasion of cancerous cells. Example, if someone has a tumor on his skin and I look at it and it's an a petalia (phonetic) tumor and it's not arising from the skin, then we need to find the primary. And the way it looks on the HNE, because that's the first thing you got to look

is basically the, what we need to, what you do.

Now, what is the use of immunohistochemistry? I've listed here one, the differentiation of tumors. Sometimes you get a biopsy that has small tumors in it, call it small or like cell tumors. Under a microscope you cannot tell whether it's coming from lymphoid origin or from a particular origin or from stromal origin, that's connective tissue origin. There is malignant, all right, but treatment would be different depending on what you call it. So for differentiation what they use antibodies produced against a particular molecule, lymphoid molecule, then stromal molecule because you should have a panel, it's not just doing one. Then that panel outside the staining, then you look at it and it tells you, oh, that tumor is of lymphoid origin, then leukocyte common antigen will be positive. A particular antigen like cytokeratin will be negative.

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at, the HNE will be the first thing you look 1 at, the way it looks will make you now 2 determine which panel to use. Then if it's a 3 petalia, it could be coming from the prostate, 4 5 if it's a man. If it's a woman, it could be

7 the endometrium, it could be coming from the cervix, it could be coming from liver, if it's 8 9 either sex. So, what you do now from the way it looks on HNE, then you review the panel to 10

coming from the ovary, could be coming from

see what antibody that will react with this antigen inside the cells. And when you do that, you may end up saying, oh this tumor in

the skin here came from the lungs, came from the prostate. So, the oncologist will know that they're dealing with a metastatic tumor.

16 That is not the primary tumor in the skin 17 because if it was a primary tumor on the skin, 18

the treatment is a lot easier, they just

excise it or do a (unintelligible) whatever they wish to do. But it is metastatic, he

needs to know that the tumor has left the site of origin and spread. And for it to go to the

skin from the liver or prostate, it has 25

travelled some distance.

(unintelligible) for stromal will be negative.

So you now have a diagnosis instead of saying

Jun	e 3, 2008 Mul	u-r	ge Inquiry on Hormone Recepto	or resung
	Page 153	3		Page 155
1	So, the immunohistochemistry is useful in	1	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
2	this area and then, of course, down to the	2	Q. In terms of, for example, in your period	od in
3	problem we have, the diagnostic and prognostic	3	Qatar.	
4	proteins of ER/PR. So, the antibodies	4	DR. EJECKAM:	
5	reaction will help in telling the oncologists,	5	A. Yeah.	
6	treatment modalities. As in breast, if you	6	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
7	have a breast tumor, we go through the same	7	Q. Which would be effectively the 1990s?	
8	process, cut sections, process it, pick a	8	DR. EJECKAM:	
9	section, go through the process I've just	9	A. Yeah.	
10	described and then use antibodies to estrogen	10	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
11	and progesterone. Now, if it is positive and	11	Q. Before the 1990s and just afterward,	but
12	there's a nuclear stain, you have to know it's	12	effectively in your case throughout the	1990s,
13	a nuclear stainsorry, a cytoplasm stain, if	13	this approach to usage of IHC, was that	t, in
14	it's positive then, you will report that this	14	effect, within your hospital at the time?	•
15	is positive. Now, the reporting system will	15	DR. EJECKAM:	
16	probably go into that later, because there is	16	A. I mean, the immunohistochemistry?	
17	notyou know, it's not completely agreed on	17	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
18	what the cut off line is, but if it's	18	Q. Yes, this approach.	
19	positiveand what does it tell to the	19	DR. EJECKAM:	
20	oncologist? It tells the oncologist that this	20	A. Yes.	
21	tumor is estrogen positive, therefore, he	21	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
22	could use anti-estrogen to treat the patient.	22	Q. Okay.	
23	If it's negative, he or she may not waste the	23	DR. EJECKAM:	
24	time to give this therapy. Having say that,	24	A. That's what we used, that's what we us	ed.
25	we know that 10 percent, about, of positive	25	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
	Page 15 ⁴	1		Page 156
1	cases do not respond to anti-estrogen	1	Q. Now, Doctor, again, to help put this in son	ne
2	treatment, and 10 percent of tumors that are	2	perspective for the Commissioner, I take i	t
3	negatives will respond. So, it's a question	3	when you began, as you say, it was	
4	of putting everything on balance. So, I think	4	immunoflorescense?	
5	that will summarize the use a what	5	DR. EJECKAM:	
6	immunohistochemistry stands for and where we	6	A. Yes.	
7	use it. Thank you.	7	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
8 0	COFFEY, Q.C.:	8	Q. Was the precursor at the time to IHC?	
9	Q. Now, Doctorno, thank you, Doctor. Could you	9	DR. EJECKAM:	
10	tell us, please, what you've just described	10	A. Yes.	
11	here, at what stage in your training or by	11	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
12	what stage in your training would you have	12	Q. When you first got involved in IHC,	
13	come to the understanding you just gave us?	13	approximately how many stains would ther	e have
14 г	DR. EJECKAM:	14	been available when you first got involved	
15	A. Well, it came on long over a period of time.	15	DR. EJECKAM:	
16	There's no particular point where you can say,	16	A. Oh, very few, very few, probably cytokerat	in,
17	here I've got it, but this was being done	17	S100 and very few of them.	
18	along the line and I was doing	18	COFFEY, Q.C.:	
19	immunoflorescense before. And the process is	19	Q. Very few.	
20	the same thing. But as you do it, you then	20	DR. EJECKAM:	
21	look atI mean, with years of experience then	21	A. But now probably, depending on how much	n money
22	you will be able to gather some more	22	the laboratory has, some up to 150, some 2	200
23	information. I mean, it's a question of how	23	antibodies in the market now. So it depend	ds
24	much time you have been with it and how much	24	on the practice in the laboratory.	
25	you've been doing, working on it.	25	COFFEY, Q.C.:	

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Pa	ge 157	Page 159	
1 Q. So in the early days there would have been	·	int of money to do it?	
2 certainly less than a dozen?	2 DR. EJECKA	•	
3 DR. EJECKAM:	3 A. Yes.	The process works this way, whatever you	
4 A. Yeah.		ed and you requested for it, you will be	
5 COFFEY, Q.C.:		red to justify that. If you justify it	
6 Q. In the very early days?	_	this is for patient care and of	
7 DR. EJECKAM:		ostic use, most of the times the budget	
8 A. Yes.		nittee will approve that and within three	
9 COFFEY, Q.C.		hs, six months, they will send out for	
Q. And now it's 150, 160 and rising, I take it?		er to procure that for you.	
11 DR. EJECKAM:	11 COFFEY, Q.	-	
12 A. Yeah.		Doctor, when you were here, and I gather	
13 COFFEY, Q.C.		vere here in the 19between about 1980	
14 Q. Could you tell the Commissioner, please, ag			
with your experience, during what period the		M:	
number of stains that have come onto the			
market, has it come faster and faster as time	17 COFFEY, Q.	C.	
has gone on? And if so, what period saw th		John's, or at St. Clare's.	
19 greatest develop?	19 DR. EJECKA		
20 DR. EJECKAM:		e Hospital.	
21 A. I would say '80s, late '70s, early '80s, a lot	21 COFFEY, Q.	-	
of antibodies were being pushed into the		orry, the Grace. I apologize. Was there	
23 market, some of them weren't complete		sage of IHC here at the time, that you	
useful. It's a question of when they come	24 recal	-	
out, you buy it and try it in your laboratory	25 DR. EJECKA		
	ge 158	Page 160	
and that's if youdepend on your practice.	-	or diagnosis purposes.	
2 If you want to be identifying certain	2 COFFEY, Q.C.		
particular type of lesions, then you had to		. And when you returned to Newfoundland	
buy antibodies that will help you do that.		22, what did you findwell, first of	
5 And depending on your budget, too.		here did you go to work first, in -	
6 COFFEY, Q.C.	6 DR. EJECKAN		
7 Q. Now, on that point, talking about budgets ar		ral Hospital.	
8 money, in Qatar during the beginning of '89		_	
gather, when you moved there and through	l l	ral Hospital?	
the '90s as you developed the IHC portion o	l l	_	
the lab there, was money a concern?	11 A. Yeah		
12 DR. EJECKAM:	12 COFFEY, Q.C.		
13 A. No.		your position there at the time was what,	
14 COFFEY, Q.C.:	14 exact	_	
15 Q. At the time?	15 DR. EJECKAN	•	
16 DR. EJECKAM:		r. pathologist.	
17 A. We had no problem with money. It's a rice		-	
country. But it's not just being rich, I		pathologist.	
think there's the proper management of th			
20 funds.		hen a title, titled university associate	
14 GODDEN O G	20 A. Allu t	non a due, dued differently associate	

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22 COFFEY, Q.C.

24 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes.

clinical professor.

Q. Did you do any teaching?

Q. And so you had, in terms of your vision for

the development of IHC within your hospital

there, you had a vision and your fellow staff

did in management and access to a significant

21 COFFEY, Q.C.:

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1	COFFEY, O.C.	

- 2 Q. And what sorts of level of students did you
- 3 teach?
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- 5 A. Pathology, pathology students. They do
- 6 pathology one time, I think, third or fourth
- year student, but pathology students end with
- 8 (phonetic).
- 9 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 10 Q. Doctor, when you--that would be on the General
- Hospital site. Who was the clinical chief
- when you arrived?
- 13 DR. EJECKAM:
- 14 A. Dr. Don Cook.
- 15 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 16 Q. And was there a discipline chair at the time,
- do you recall?
- 18 DR. EJECKAM:
- 19 A. Chairman of the -
- 20 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 21 Q. Yes.
- 22 DR. EJECKAM:
- 23 A. Doctor Robb.
- 24 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 25 Q. And so you arrived, how was IHC--first of all

- that I knew before coming in. And then Doctor
 - 2 Fernandez and Dr. Chital (phonetic), those

Page 164

- were colleagues when I was there before.
- 4 COFFEY, Q.C.

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- 5 Q. Could you tell the Commissioner, please, as a
- staff pathologist at the time when you first
 - arrived, I mean, how did your, kind of, normal
- 8 routine work go, in the sense of who did
- 9 report to if anybody, how was work assigned?

10 DR. EJECKAM:

- 11 A. My job then was to work as a staff pathologist
- and what we did was to diagnose tissues that
 - were sent from the surgeons, whichever
- 14 orthopaedic or general surgeon or
 - dermatologist and then secondly to do
- autopsies if any time that a request was
- obtained, and there was scheduling, so I
- 18 worked on the day that I was scheduled to work
- and I was a site chief and effectively would
- 20 report to the site chief and then to the
 - clinical chief.
- 22 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 23 Q. And your work, I take it would be whatever was
 - assigned to you -
- all 25 DR. EJECKAM:

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- when you arrived in Newfoundland in 2002, do
- 2 you recall what month of year that was?
- 3 DR. EJECKAM:
- 4 A. I think I came in in August and started
- 5 working in September.
- 6 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 7 Q. Okay. When you arrived, who, if anyone on the
- 8 medical staff did you already know?
- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- 10 A. I know Don, I knew -
- 11 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 12 Q. So, you know Doctor Cook from the -
- 13 DR. EJECKAM:
- 14 A. Yeah, because when I was--then the agency--the
- residents training then and descendant with
- 16 Avis, those were residents.
- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 18 Q. Who?
- 19 DR. EJECKAM:
- 20 A. Doctor Avis.
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 22 Q. Okay. Dr. Simon Avis.
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- 24 A. Yeah, Simon, yeah. I think both of them were
- 25 residents in those days, these are the ones

- 1 A. Yes, whatever comes the day I'm on.
 - 2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
 - 3 Q. At the time you arrived in Newfoundland in
 - 4 2002, where in Newfoundland was IHC testing
 - 5 being done or processing being done?
 - 6 DR. EJECKAM:
 - 7 A. At the General Hospital.
 - 8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
 - 9 Q. When you first arrived and would have gone to
 - work, I take it, in September of 2002, where
 - was the IHC lab located?
 - 12 DR. EJECKAM:
 - 13 A. Within the laboratory, anatomical pathology
 - laboratory, within the open laboratory.
 - 15 COFFEY, O.C.:
 - 16 Q. And how would what you found there compare to
 - what you had left in Qatar, the facility
 - there?
 - 19 DR. EJECKAM:

- 20 A. Well, what they had then was what you had
- 21 initially in Qatar, before we moved to
 - separate structure, separate room. So you
- 23 know, it was--by the time I left Qatar, the
- 24 institution was different.
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

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- Q. Yes, I appreciate that you said when you went 1
- 2 to Qatar in the beginning, it was all -
- 3 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah, same situation.
- 5 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. So what you found in St. John's in 2002 was
- similar to what you'd found in Qatar in 1989? 7
- 8 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah.
- 10 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. In the sense of the layout? 11
- 12 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes.
- 14 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And the position or lack of isolation from the 15
- 16 rest of the lab?
- 17 DR. EJECKAM:
- 18 A. Yeah, that was in the open laboratory.
- 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. What is the--why is it desirable to have IHC 20
- portion of the lab separate from the general 21
- 22 lab facility?
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Well, for a number of reasons. 24
- Immunohistochemistry, I contend that it's not 25
 - Page 166
- just ordinary special stains. It is very 1
- 2 sensitive stain and if you do this in open
- laboratory where you have fumes of formalin, 3
- xylene and things like that, you may never be 4
- 5 sure what may affect it. That's one, and two,
- you need a room that has--that's air-6
- 7 conditioned and has good humidity for the
- 8 machines to work properly. If you leave them
- open laboratory, they may or may not be 9
- working properly. But that may not have been 10
- 11 a problem, because, you know, it wasn't an
- issue. But to have an optimum place, you need 12
- 13 to have it isolated.
- 14 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- O. Isolated and -15
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- 17 A. From the general open laboratory and also have
- dedicated technologists to work there. 18
- 19 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Now when you had shown up in Qatar first in 20
- 1989, were the technologists who were doing 21
- IHC dedicated? 22
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. No. 24
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

- Q. And how did that change over time?
- 2 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. It changed when we moved to the new structure 3
 - and the new laboratory and we also noted that

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- if we didn't put people there permanently, 5
- then it would be difficult to master the 6
 - technique and also to be able to do trouble
- 8 shooting. We also realized that if we
- dedicate staff, we would be able to send them 9
 - out periodically for additional training. So
- this was what we did and it worked out fine 11
- for us. 12
- 13 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. So in 2002, in September when you arrived, 14
- what did you find with respect to which staff 15
- 16 were doing the IHC work in St. John's? Were
- there any dedicated staff at the time? 17
- 18 DR. EJECKAM:
- 19 A. I wouldn't say there was dedicated staff. The
- senior people then, Ken Green, Mary Butler. 20
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 22 Q. Mary Butler.
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. And I think Les were all assigned to this. I 24
- think Les came later on, because I think he 25
- Page 168 was at St. Clare's. He came over later. 1
 - These two guys were responsible for this and
 - they were also responsible for other duties in 3
 - the laboratory. 4
 - 5 COFFEY, Q.C.:

2

- Q. I'm sorry, they were also?
- 7 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. They were also responsible for other duties in
- 9 the laboratory.
- 10 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 11 O. Other duties?
- 12 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah.
- 14 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Okay, and in the fall of 2002, did you have 15
- any particular interaction with IHC portion of 16
- 17 the lab, in the fall of 2002, any more so than
- other pathologists? 18
- 19 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. No, not really. Well, I looked in once in a 20
- while, but not in particular. 21
- 22 COFFEY, O.C.:

- Q. Okay. Did you have any--now bearing in mind 23
- what you'd seen and done in Qatar throughout 24
 - the 1990s, did you have any thoughts or

pathologist in Newfoundland?

College of Physicians of Canada.

get certified here, you know, to carry on as a

A. I already have--I'm already a Fellow Royal

A. I trained in Canada, so that qualifies me to

Q. And if we could, please, Exhibit P-1570, in

particular, I'm just going to go to--just a

second. Actually, Doctor, just so you have some sense of this, this is a performance

goals and objectives for clinical chiefs for

at page three of the exhibit, one of the

objectives for Dr. Cook is to oversee the

start up of a surgical pathology review

chairperson, yourself?

committee, and the goal as of January 1, 2003

was the committee would be set up under the

2002-2003 for Dr. Cook, but there's a--looking

work and then the sponsoring body sponsored me to the Newfoundland Medical Board for license

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4 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah, well, I mean, in my mind, I thought that 5 it would be nice to have the same situation as 6 we finally achieved in Oatar. 7

8 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Did you communicate that to anybody initially? 10 DR. EJECKAM:

A. No, because I mean, I wasn't particularly 11 involved with this, so I didn't discuss that 12

with anybody. 13

14 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Doctor, if we could, again, if we could look, 15 16 please, at Exhibit P-1600? And Doctor, this is--this will come on the screen in fact as 17 well in front of you there, and now this is 18 just a listing, Doctor. It relates to 19 pathologists staff turnover, but it shows the-20 -there's a list of incumbents, as it were, or 21 list of pathologists. You'll recognize a 22 number of names. 23

24 DR. EJECKAM:

25 A. Yeah.

Page 170

1 DR. EJECKAM:

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3 DR. EJECKAM:

6 COFFEY, Q.C.:

8 DR. EJECKAM:

13 COFFEY, Q.C.:

o. Yes.

to practice.

A. Yes. 3 COFFEY, Q.C.:

O. You chair it?

5 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes. 6

7 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. And they're hoping to have their first meeting 8 by May or June of 2003, and there's a note 9

here that by April 1st 2003, the committee had 10 11 been operationalized or started or organized

by that time, and by October 1st 2003, the 12

committee was meeting on a regular basis and 13

issues were referred to the clinical chief and 14

VP Medical Services to follow up. So could 15

you tell us, please, first of all, have you 16

confirm, you did chair that committee? 17

18 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes.

20 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. Could you tell the Commissioner how the 21 committee came about? 22

23 DR. EJECKAM:

A. During some of my discussions with Dr. Cook, 24 because he would come over when I arrived and 25

1 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. You'll see the cursor right here?

3 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah.

5 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Gershon Ejeckam.

7 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah.

9 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. And it has the start date, September 16th 2002 10 11

and what they refer to as the termination

date, April 30th 2006, your retirement. 12

13 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah. 14

15 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Okay, so that would bracket more or less the 16

17 time you worked in St. John's?

18 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes, that reflects the time I was there. 19

20 COFFEY, O.C.:

21 Q. At least the second time around. Just a moment, please. Just a moment, please, 22

Commissioner. When you came to work in St.

23 John's in 2002, is there any particular 24

process you had to go through to apply and to 25

Page 169 - Page 172

Ju	ne 3, 2008 Multi	i-P	Page TM Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 173		Page 175
1	we would have general chatting about the	1	
2		2	was no particularI don't remember of any
3		3	
4	audit, then based on that, I would suspect he		4 COFFEY, Q.C.:
5		5	
6		6	6 DR. EJECKAM:
7		7	A. It was based on general discussion.
8		8	8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
9		9	
10		10	0 DR. EJECKAM:
11	formed the composition of the committee and I	11	1 A. Yeah, yeah.
12		12	2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	5 DR. EJECKAM:
16		16	6 A. Yes.
17	kind of conduct basically tissue audit and	17	7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
18	quality assurance process among the	18	8 Q. In the '90s in particular?
19		19	9 DR. EJECKAM:
20	and as well as the reports going out of the	20	0 A. Yeah.
21	laboratory.	21	1 COFFEY, Q.C.:
22	COFFEY, Q.C.:	22	Q. And it's your understanding that Dr. Cook,
23	Q. And you say that when Dr. Cook, I take it,	23	having listened to you talk about it, was
24	would come over to the General Hospital site,	24	interested in having you get involved in it?
25	because he was at St. Clare's?	25	5 DR. EJECKAM:
	Page 174		Page 176
1	DR. EJECKAM:	1	Y 1 12
2	A. Yes.	2	2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
3	COFFEY, Q.C.:	1	Q. Yes. Tissue audit, because you referred to
4		4	that, could you tell the Commissioner, please,
5		5	what a tissue audit is?
6	DR. EJECKAM:	6	6 DR. EJECKAM:
7	A. Well, I can't put a date to that, but you	7	A. Well, it may have different meaning to
8		8	
9	meetings or whatever.	9	
10	COFFEY, Q.C.:	10	
11	Q. And the subject of quality control, quality	11	
1		1	

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24

25

Q. And the subject of quality control, quality 11 assurance would come up? 12

13 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah. 14

15 COFFEY, Q.C.:

O. And the need for that?

17 DR. EJECKAM:

18 A. Yeah.

19 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Do you recall how that came about? I mean, 20 21 the discussion about that.

22 DR. EJECKAM:

A. There was nothing other than, I believe, just 23 24 he would come to my room chatting about the 25 work process and I would probably have tell

12 sent into the laboratory by the surgeons.

Now first of all, to see somebody may 13 14 remove normal tissues, where they're so often,

then of course, if there is no pathology in 15

this, for instance, an appendix, a surgeon may 16 17 be having a lot of appendixes removed and then

if we keep saying no pathology in that 18

appendix, then that may--we tend to flag it to 19

see is he making a proper diagnosis before 20 21 removing the appendix. The same things goes

with people who may be doing hysterectomies.

These are things that you look at.

Then of course, looking at the request for the surgical material when it comes down,

Multi-Page TM Page 177 we would look at the forms, whether they were 1 1 DR. EJECKAM: 2 properly completed, whether the information A. No, not that I--none that I know of. required by the pathologist were there or not, 3 3 COFFEY, Q.C.: and then again, you should also look at the 4 Q. Because you were about to start or embark upon reports by the pathologist because the 5 5 clinician may be unable with a report. This 6 6 DR. EJECKAM: 7 committee should be able to deal with that A. Yes, yes. 8 kind of complaints. 8 COFFEY, Q.C.: 9 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. You were being asked to do that. How about Q. And when you -10 this issue of reports, written requests, 10 requisitions coming in from surgeons for 11 THE COMMISSIONER: 11 example, okay, and I will be referring you to 12 Q. It worked both ways? 12 13 DR. EJECKAM: some of that because there's material here on 13 what you did about it, but did you have any A. Yes. 14 15 THE COMMISSIONER: concerns when you first arrived and started--15 16 Q. The things that you could--your committee 16 you know, and got into the work here in 2002 could look at what came from the surgeons who as to deficiencies in that regard? 17 17 would be either sending samples or requests to 18 18 DR. EJECKAM: you to see whether or not things were going 19 19 A. This is not peculiar. Surgeons are notoriouswell from that end, and the surgeons, if they -well, I shouldn't use the word--surgeons are 20 20 had a problem with the information they were known--when you--most laboratories world over, 21 21 22 getting back from the pathologists, could 22 if you talk to pathologists, they will tell raise that in this context as well? you that they don't receive enough clinical 23 23 details with the sample. So it's nothing 24 DR. EJECKAM: 24 peculiar, but it has to be cured. I mean, you 25 A. Yes, Commissioner, yeah. 25 Page 178 1 THE COMMISSIONER: 1 Q. Okay. 2 2

Page 180

Page 179

3 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Now Doctor, when you arrived in St. John's in 5 2002 and went to work, what, if any, quality assurance or quality control programs did you 6 7 see or understand the pathology department was involved in, from the perspective of 8 9 anatomical pathology? Were they participating in anything, and if so, what do you recall? 10

11 DR. EJECKAM:

A. I don't recall any particular quality 12 assurance process, but I would suspect that 13 the laboratory was already registered with the 14 CAP, College of American Pathologists. I 15 don't know if that time they registered, so 16 they could have registered before I came in, 17 and that's a quality assurance process. 18 19 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. And do you know, at the time again you arrived 20 and got involved in this surgical--or after 21 you arrived and you got involved in this 22 surgical pathology review committee, was there 23 at that point any tissue audit process in 24 place? 25

have to pursue it, but it wasn't anything peculiar to St. John's or Memorial Hospital.

3 COFFEY, Q.C.:

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Q. Okay, and your concern in that regard was to do what? I take it look for better--more and better information from the surgeons or requesting physicians?

8 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes, because some of the diagnosis that were made would depend on the clinical information given. I maintain that when a surgeon sends sample to the laboratory, it's a consultation, and when you consult a fellow physician, you should write and they do that, write the clinical history, and so that that would be a guidance for the physician that's going to come and look after your patient.

The same way, we would explain that if somebody sends a piece of bowel or uterus or keratin to the laboratory, they will also be some information because that may help in final evaluation of that tissue. In some instances, it may not matter what information he give, but in some areas, it may be very critical and every sample ought to come with

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1	Page 181		Page 183
1	that clinical information.	1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
2	COFFEY, Q.C.:	2	, 1 5
3	Q. And so at least as part of the duties or	3	
4	activities of this surgical pathology review	4	
5	committee, the committee set out to remedy any	5	5 DR. EJECKAM:
6	deficiencies that they could?	6	
I	DR. EJECKAM:		7 COFFEY, Q.C.
8	A. Yes.	8	5 5
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:	9	Č
10	Q. Okay. What about the reports going out from	10	1 3
11	pathology? Because you referredthe	11	•
12	Commissioner asked you about that. You	12	1
13	referred to it and she asked you to confirm	13	ž –
14	that was the case.	14	•
15	DR. EJECKAM:	15	
16	A. Yes.		6 DR. EJECKAM:
l	COFFEY, Q.C.:	17	, ,
18	Q. What were the concerns in the beginning when	18	*
19	you got involved about that? What were the	19	•
20	complaints, as it were, or concerns about what	20	1 1 1
21	was coming out of the pathology department in	21	• • •
22	terms of their reports?	22	± ·
23	DR. EJECKAM:	23	•
24	A. I'm not aware of any concerns about the	24	
25	reports, but if you have a surgical review	25	statement said, even one set as positive,
	Do 100		
	Page 182		Page 184
1	committee, you don't review only the things	1	
1 2	6	1 2	that's an indication for trial of Tamoxifen,
	committee, you don't review only the things		that's an indication for trial of Tamoxifen, anti-estrogen medication. So, it's a question
2	committee, you don't review only the things that are coming in. You also set up to review	2	that's an indication for trial of Tamoxifen, anti-estrogen medication. So, it's a question of the oncologist and the laboratory coming
2 3	committee, you don't review only the things that are coming in. You also set up to review what is going out. There was no concerns	2 3	that's an indication for trial of Tamoxifen, anti-estrogen medication. So, it's a question of the oncologist and the laboratory coming together to now have a cut off or the
2 3 4	committee, you don't review only the things that are coming in. You also set up to review what is going out. There was no concerns right then, but it was the surgeons' duty to	2 3 4	that's an indication for trial of Tamoxifen, anti-estrogen medication. So, it's a question of the oncologist and the laboratory coming together to now have a cut off or the laboratory will report what they see and then
2 3 4 5 6	committee, you don't review only the things that are coming in. You also set up to review what is going out. There was no concerns right then, but it was the surgeons' duty to now complaint or bring up case to the	2 3 4 5 6	that's an indication for trial of Tamoxifen, anti-estrogen medication. So, it's a question of the oncologist and the laboratory coming together to now have a cut off or the laboratory will report what they see and then
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2 3 4 5 6 7	committee, you don't review only the things that are coming in. You also set up to review what is going out. There was no concerns right then, but it was the surgeons' duty to now complaint or bring up case to the committee and there was none. COFFEY, Q.C.:	2 3 4 5 6 7	that's an indication for trial of Tamoxifen, anti-estrogen medication. So, it's a question of the oncologist and the laboratory coming together to now have a cut off or the laboratory will report what they see and then the oncologist decides what he wants to do. THE COMMISSIONER: Q. So, would it be normal for aperhaps it is
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A. I interpret it as negative or interpret it as 1

2 positive, but in terms of cut off -

3 THE COMMISSIONER:

o. Um-hm.

5 DR. EJECKAM:

7

10

21

5

A. - then it's a question of a comment to say, 6

we're a part of this as positive or negative

and oncologists say that if it's positive, 8

treat, or we'll say we have ten percent or 9

twenty percent, the oncology will then

determine what they want to do, or they come 11

12 together, pathology and oncologists, have a

merger and say, report as positive, give the 13

percentage or ten percent or five percent, but 14

that has to be agreed upon. 15

16 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Um-hm, okay. 17

18 COFFEY, Q.C.

19 Q. Now, in that regard, Doctor, what was the

practice when you left Qatar in that regard, 20

do you recall?

22 DR. EJECKAM:

A. We were reporting percentages.

24 COFFEY, Q.C.

1 DR. EJECKAM:

3 COFFEY, Q.C.

A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. Percentages, whatever the percentage was -

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24

25

11

19

25

Page 188 in terms of, look, I'm getting myself involved 1

3

report to? 4

Q. - you would give that figure and that would be

The surgical pathological review

committee, I take it, had surgeons and 6

7 pathologists on it?

8 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes, radiologists, clinical medicine and 9

gynecologists. 10

11 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Okay, so, the surgical pathology review 12

committee wasn't limited to surgeons and 13

pathologists, there were other disciplines on

15 it.

14

16 DR. EJECKAM:

17 A. Yes.

18 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. I just want to clarify that because that can 19

be misleading, you know, in a sense of you 20

just see surgery and pathology and you assume 21

it's--so, there were people from other 22

disciplines. 23

24 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes. 25

1 COFFEY, O.C.

Q. Medicine, oncology.

3 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Radiology.

5 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Radiology. 6

7 DR. EJECKAM:

8 A. Gynecology.

9 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. And so, Doctor, when you arrived again in the 10

Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing

fall of '02 and this would be early '03, the 11

12 committee, was there any particular mandate

given that committee initially. 13

14 DR. EJECKAM:

A. The mandate, I know, is the terms of reference 15 16

that are written to me, copied to members by

the clinical chief. 17

18 COFFEY, O.C.

Q. Okay. And it is in there, it's not in that 19

material there, it is in the larger material 20

and I'll refer you to that, but leaving aside 21

22 any--because some times things that are

written are not necessarily descriptive of 23

what, in fact, the people involved understand,

okay. So, from your perspective at the time

2 in this surgical pathology review committee,

I'm going to chair it, who were you going to

5 DR. EJECKAM:

A. The way it was set up, our reports go to vice 6

7 president of clinical--Dr. Williams and then

copied to each clinical chief. 8

9 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Okay. And that would be each clinical chief 10

of each of the disciplines?

12 DR. EJECKAM:

A. No, no, our own clinical chief, Don Cook. 13

14 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. And the VP medical at the time was Dr. 15

Williams. Had you known Dr. Williams? 16

17 DR. EJECKAM:

A. I know him, but not very well because I must 18

have seen him when I was there in the Grace

Hospital, but we didn't have any interaction 20

21 as such.

22 COFFEY, O.C.

Q. Okay. When you arrived, in St. John's in the 23

fall of '02, what, if any, committees or 24

groups did you observe pathologists to be

Centre, St. Clare's and out-of-town hospitals.

25

there any such understanding that you could

June	3, 2008 Mult	i-Page [™]	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 193		Page 195
1	It's from yourself, described as a pathologist	1 DR. I	EJECKAM:
2	at the Health Sciences Centre. The subject is	2 A.	The Qatar organization, I believe, is a lot
3	immunohistochemical stains. It's dated April	3	better because the situation where the
4	4th 2003, and it'ssorry, Doctor, just go up	4	laboratory manager and the program manager
5	a bit, and it's signedinitialled by yourself	5	reported straight to the vice president of the
6	and copied to Barry Dyer and all technical	6	hospital, bypassing the pathologists in the
7	staff on immunohistochemistry.	7	laboratory, because they never reported to the
8	Doctor, when you came into St. John's in	8	site chief or to the clinical chief, I think
9	2002, who was the non-clinician person in	9	was flawed because you're going to have
10	charge of the lab, the non-doctor, who was	10	parallel thinking here. But in Doha, a
11	how was the lab organized in terms ofyou	11	pathologist was in charge. We had we call
12	referred to Mr. Green and Ms. Butler, Mary	12	them supervisors, they call them manager here.
13	Butler. Who did they report to?	13	They report to the head of the anatomy
14 D	R. EJECKAM:	14	pathology who is a doctor, who is a consultant
15	A. When I came in, there was a laboratory manager	15	pathologist and that was me, and then I
16	and the laboratory manager was Barry Dyer.	16	reported to chairman who is a doctor who is
17 C	OFFEY, Q.C.:	17	also a pathologist. So there was no way that

18 o. Yes.

19 DR. EJECKAM:

- 20 A. And all the technologists reported to him, and 21 also the clerk, the clerical staff. Then
- 22 there was a program manager, Terry Gulliver.
- 23 I believe Barry reported to him, okay, and
- 24 then we have site chief who looks sort of if
- 25 there's problem among the pathologists.

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Q. And the site chief at the time was?

3 DR. EJECKAM:

1 COFFEY, Q.C.:

- A. Dr. Parai.
- 5 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Parai?
- 7 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah, Sushil Parai, because there are two 8

Parai's.

10 COFFEY, O.C.:

- 11 Q. Yes, I was going to say, yes, there are two of 12 them. So administratively then, you would
- 13 have reported to the site chief, Dr. Parai,
- 14 yourself?
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes, yes. 16
- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And he would have reported to Don Cook, the 18 clinical chief? 19
- 20 DR. EJECKAM:
- 21 A. Yes.

25

- 22 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 23 Q. That kind of an arrangement or organization,
- 24 how did that compare with what had existed in
 - Qatar? How was Qatar organized?

- rganization, I believe, is a lot use the situation where the
- nanager and the program manager
- aight to the vice president of the
- passing the pathologists in the
 - because they never reported to the
- to the clinical chief, I think
- because you're going to have
- nking here. But in Doha, a was in charge. We had we call
- visors, they call them manager here.
- t to the head of the anatomy
- who is a doctor, who is a consultant
- and that was me, and then I
- chairman who is a doctor who is
- also a pathologist. So there was no way that
- 18 anything that happens in that division, you as
- 19 the clinician person, you needed to know about
- it and take it on further if you think it was 20
- 21 necessary. So it's a different system that
- 22 was there. 23 COFFEY, Q.C.:
 - Q. Yes.
- 25 DR. EJECKAM:

A. I wouldn't say it's bad or good. Actually it 1

was a different system.

3 COFFEY, Q.C.:

2

5

- 4 Q. And the advantage that you saw in the
 - situation at Qatar, the reporting situation
- 6 was what, in terms of yourself in your
- 7 position?

8 DR. EJECKAM:

- 9 A. It was--well, my advantage for me that was
- 10 ease of operation and then it was a lot better
- 11 actually from my standpoint that I knew what
- 12 was going on in my laboratory because if my
- 13 supervisor didn't report to me, the equipments
- 14 would be bought without my knowing and -

15 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. I'm sorry, what? 16

17 DR. EJECKAM:

18 A. Equipments would be bought without my knowing

- 19 about it.
- 20 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 21 O. Would or would not be?
- 22 DR. EJECKAM:
- 23 A. Would be bought.
- 24 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 25 Q. Would be bought.

June 3, 2008 Mu	ulti-Page Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
Page 1	97 Page 199
1 DR. EJECKAM:	1 A. Yeah, in the actualyeah.
2 A. If not reporting to me.	2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
3 COFFEY, Q.C.:	3 Q. And it's addressed to pathologists, Health
4 Q. Yes.	4 Sciences Centre I take it is the General
5 DR. EJECKAM:	5 Hospital and -
6 A. If they reported to somebody else, then the	6 DR. EJECKAM:
7 supervisor would have the freedom to do	7 A. Yes.
8 whatever he or she wanted, and you are the	8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
9 person in charge. In our operation, you would	9 Q the pathologists at St. Clare's. The out-
be held responsible. So you are being held	of-town hospitals, who were you trying to
responsible as site chief or consultant in	communicate with there?
charge and yet, you don't have any authority	12 DR. EJECKAM:
over what's going on.	13 A. Immunohistochemistry in Newfoundland is done
14 COFFEY, Q.C.:	only at Health Sciences. So we would receive
Q. That's here in St. John's you mean?	material for immunohistochemistry from Gander,
16 DR. EJECKAM:	16 Corner Brook, Clarenville. So those
17 A. Yes, St. John's, yeah. But in Qatar, it was	17 Carbonear, all those other pathologists that
completely different. I mean, as head of the	are not within St. John's, they send material
unit, I have to agree to any equipment that	when they wish to. So this was to inform them
needs to be bought. I have to sit down with	about this.
21 the supervisor and decide that we need that.	21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
Then for staff too, all the staff under my	Q. Now, Doctor, at the time this was prepared and
department, at the end of their contract,	you initialled it, who did you give this to
24 which is every three years, the secretary of	24 havehow did you expect this would be
25 the chairman will call me and ask me if I	25 distributed?
Page 1	98 Page 200
wanted to renew anybody's contract and I will	1 DR. EJECKAM:
2 say to renew that, and if mine came up, then	2 A. This would be typed by one of the secretaries
the medical director would ask the chairman	3 in thewe have a secretarial pool and one of
4 whether he wanted to renew my contract and he	_
5 would say renew. So it worked that way. So	5 they would distribute it. That is the way it
6 you knew that somebody was in charge of any	6 worked.
7 particular section at that time.	7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
8 COFFEY, Q.C.:	8 Q. Okay, and the idea, for example, sending a
9 Q. Now Doctor, could you tell us, please, how it	9 communication to all the pathologists in
was that you came towell, first of all,	Newfoundland, which is really what this is?
we'll get into that. You have copied this to	11 DR. EJECKAM:
Barry Dyer and all technical staff on	12 A. Yes.
immunohistochemistry. Well, Mr. Dyer, you've	e 13 COFFEY, Q.C.:
explained who he was. Who were the "all	Q. Do you know if there was any process or system
technical staff"?	in place to ensure that everybody actually got
16 DR. EJECKAM:	a copy of it?
17 A. I think Mary Butler and -	17 DR. EJECKAM:
18 COFFEY, Q.C.:	18 A. No, I don't know of any process. I had to
19 Q. Okay, it's the technologists that you're	rely on the secretary that it was sent out.
20 referring to?	20 THE COMMISSIONER:
21 DR. EJECKAM:	21 Q. Mr. Coffey, wherever you can find a convenient
22 A. Technologists.	place, we'll break and I was just going to
23 COFFEY, Q.C.:	suggest if you're going to get into the letter
Okov who are actually involved in doing HIC2	24 hafara than

before then.

25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

25 DR. EJECKAM:

Q. Okay, who are actually involved in doing IHC?

Page 201	Page 203
1 Q. So in terms of that, there was one thing I	1 THE COMMISSIONER:
wanted to ask you about, Doctor. You, at the	2 Q. Yes, okay then. We'll take 15 minutes.
3 time you prepared this, and there's another	3 (BREAK)
4 one following and there may be others for all	4 THE COMMISSIONER:
5 I know, okay, in terms ofif you wanted to	5 Q. Please be seated. Mr. Coffey.
6 communicate with all pathologists in	6 COFFEY, Q.C.:
7 Newfoundland, you would just askyou'd	7 Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Doctor, just looking
8 prepare the memo. The secretarial, somebody	8 at this April 4th 2003 memo, you've had an
9 in the group there would type it for you.	9 opportunity to read this, of course, preparing
10 You'd review it and be satisfied you wanted to	in coming here today?
sign it. You would sign it.	11 DR. EJECKAM:
12 DR. EJECKAM:	12 A. Yes.
13 A. Yeah.	13 COFFEY, Q.C.:
14 COFFEY, Q.C.:	14 Q. Okay. Doctor, could you tell us please about
15 Q. And you would give it back to him orwell,	15 how this came to be written?
her, I suspect.	16 DR. EJECKAM:
17 DR. EJECKAM:	17 A. This came into being, Commissioner, during the
18 A. Yeah, right.	tail end of 2002 going to 2003, like I said,
19 COFFEY, Q.C.:	we usually have in-house conferences.
20 Q. And you expected then that they somehow would	Tuesdays we had slide reviews with residents
21 have a system in place to distribute it?	and anybody who had any difficult case would
22 DR. EJECKAM:	bring it for review. Then Wednesdays we had
23 A. Yes.	23 lymphoma rounds, and these two conferences, we
24 COFFEY, Q.C.:	24 would use stains done by immunohistochemistry,
25 Q. And were you ever told, was it ever suggested	25 especially in the Wednesday one where we were
Page 202	Page 204
to you that we have no means of sending this	looking at lymphoma.
to you that we have no means of sending this out?	 looking at lymphoma. Now if you look at the second line there,
to you that we have no means of sending this out? 3 DR. EJECKAM:	looking at lymphoma. Now if you look at the second line there, the CD 3, CD 5, CD 20, CD 79, these are what
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1 to you that we have no means of sending this 2 out? 3 DR. EJECKAM: 4 A. No. 5 COFFEY, Q.C.:	looking at lymphoma. Now if you look at the second line there, the CD 3, CD 5, CD 20, CD 79, these are what you would do for lymphoma panels, and then the other ones arethe first one is for prostate.
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I	Page 205	Page 207
1 DR. EJECKAM:	-	1 DR. EJECKAM:
2 A. Usingdoing the stain and not using them	for 2	2 A. Yes.
diagnosis. So I had to stop the process of		3 COFFEY, Q.C.:
this antibodies. Now there are still lots of		4 Q. Kind of get together and look at particular
5 other antibodies that were being done. So	we 5	5 cases and people would present difficult cases
6 didn't shut down the immunohistochem		and so on, and discuss things?
7 laboratory. What we did was to stop som	- 1	7 DR. EJECKAM:
8 the antibody stains to make sure that the		8 A. Right.
9 arewe are having reproducible and	•	9 COFFEY, Q.C.:
interpretable results.	10	
11 COFFEY, Q.C.:	11	
Q. Now who is the "we" in this context?		2 DR. EJECKAM:
13 DR. EJECKAM:	13	
14 A. The pathologist.	1	4 COFFEY, Q.C.:
15 COFFEY, Q.C.:	15	
16 Q. Okay. So you say on these Tuesdays a		
Wednesdays, you'd have meetings?		7 DR. EJECKAM:
18 DR. EJECKAM:	18	
19 A. Yes.		9 COFFEY, Q.C.:
20 COFFEY, Q.C.:	20	
21 Q. Would they be at the General Hospital?		21 DR. EJECKAM:
22 DR. EJECKAM:	22	
23 A. Yes.		23 COFFEY, Q.C.:
24 COFFEY, Q.C.:	24	
25 Q. Okay. Would they involve the St. Clare		
		<u></u>
	Page 206	Page 208
1 pathologists?		1 DR. EJECKAM:
2 DR. EJECKAM:		2 A. Pardon?
3 A. Yes.		3 COFFEY, Q.C.:
4 COFFEY, Q.C.:		4 Q. Which of these are lymphoma related?
5 Q. So these meetings -		5 DR. EJECKAM:
6 DR. EJECKAM:		6 A. The CD 3, CD 5, CD 20, CD 79a.
7 A. The St. Clare's would be in on Wednesd	·	7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
8 Lymphoma rounds was done at the He		8 Q. They're lymphomas, or they're lymphoma related
9 Sciences and they would come in for th		9 stains?
10 discussion.		0 DR. EJECKAM:
11 COFFEY, Q.C.:	11	
12 Q. On Wednesdays?		2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
13 DR. EJECKAM:	13	,
14 A. Yes.	14	J 1
15 COFFEY, Q.C.:		5 DR. EJECKAM:
16 Q. And on Tuesdays?	16	3 3 1
17 DR. EJECKAM:		7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
18 A. Tuesdays would be residents and the		
pathologists at Health Science. They ha		9 DR. EJECKAM:
20 their own conference. All residents rotat	1	• •
21 through that too.	21	2 1
22 COFFEY, Q.C.:		22 COFFEY, Q.C.:
Q. So Tuesdays, the conferences would be w		
pathology residents and the local Gener		24 DR. EJECKAM:
25 Hospital pathologists?	25	25 A. Yes.

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	Page 209	Page 211
1 COFFEY, Q.C.:	1 COFFI	EY, Q.C.:
2 Q. Then there's aI believe it'swell, it's	2 Q.	And at the time perceived to be potential
3 CKHMW-34BE12, but I gather it's CK34 is?	3	problems with the CK BetaI'm sorry, 34 Beta
4 DR. EJECKAM:	4	12, was thatthe fact that there was such a
5 A. Yeah, that's (unintelligible), that's what	5	problem or potential problem existing with
6 that means.	6	that, was that your conclusion, your own
7 COFFEY, Q.C.:	7	personal conclusion?
8 Q. Yes.	8 DR. E.	TECKAM:
9 DR. EJECKAM:	9 A.	Not my personal, this was the consensus
10 A. CK (unintelligible) attach beta 12. This was	10	because other pathologists will do this, will
used for prostate cancer.	11	request the same stain, okay, and then if they
12 COFFEY, Q.C.:	12	couldn't be sure that it was positive or
13 Q. And is that referred to in any shorthand way,	13	negative, it wasn't then helpful.
14 CKis that called CK34 in shorthand or is	14 COFFI	EY, Q.C.:
thatdo you always spell it all the way out	15 Q.	And with respect to the four lymphoma stains
when you're referring to that particular -	16	that are listed here, was itagain, was that
17 DR. EJECKAM:	17	a consensus opinion?
18 A. Yeah, the way we write in the laboratory, just		
19 34 Beta 12	19 A.	Yes.
20 COFFEY, Q.C.:	20 COFFI	EY, Q.C.:
21 Q. 34 Beta 12?	21 Q.	There was a problem with those stains?
22 DR. EJECKAM:	22 DR. E.	
23 A. Yeah.		Yes.
24 COFFEY, Q.C.:	24 COFFI	
25 Q. Okay. When in the discussions on Tuesdays	and 25 Q.	The CEA stain is for -
	Page 210	Page 212
1 Wednesdays did the problem with that come	up? 1 DR. EJ	ECKAM:
2 DR. EJECKAM:		That is carcino embryonic antigen. This is
3 A. The same process that were in Tuesdays when	n we 3	also an antigen that's present in colon
4 review cases, we will have biopsies that	4	cancers, stomach cancer. You can also find it
5 people will bring in to get second opinion or	5	in other primary sites. So the stain has to
6 to show the residents and then this stain	6	be right. So it helps us to determine the
7 would be helpful because what happens wit		presence of tumor from a particular site.
8 this stain, like I explained initially the		EY, Q.C.:
9 cancer cellcancer glands in prostate are not	9 Q.	And so this again was identified, I take it,
10 curtailed by external cells. In the normal	10	in relation to probably the Tuesday meetings?
gland, you have the normal inner layer; they	11 DR. E.	
have the outer layer. That's normal prostate		Yes.
gland. This antibody will stain the outer	13 COFFI	· -
layer of the normal gland. So if it's		And again, was that a consensus view?
malignant, it's going to be absent.	15 DR. E.	
So if you now have a few glands, normally		Yes, that's my understanding.
three or four glands that you see in a corner	17 COFFI	
and you are not 100 percent sure whether it is		And the ER and PR, both the ER and PR, which
malignant or not, that's when you request for		are two different stains?
20 this stain. Now if it'sif it comes out okay	20 DR. E.	
and if it's negative, then that gives you an		Yes.
22 additional factor to say this is malignant.	22 COFFI	· -
23 If it is positive, then that will tell you no,		Okay. Relate to breast cancer, I take it,
this is a benign gland. That's where we used	24	primarily?
125 i+	25 DD E1	IECV AM.

25 DR. EJECKAM:

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- 1 A. Yes, yeah.
- 2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 3 O. How did the concern about them arise?
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:

- 5 A. The same process that we noticed that possibly
- 6 you would have the stains done and when you
 - want to use it to make an interpretation of
- 8 being positive or negative, the stains were
- 9 not crisp enough or they were not immediately
- interpretable. We needed to have nuclear
- stain to say it's positive and if the stain is
- done and you start finding lots of cytoplasmic
- stain, then you start wondering what went
- wrong. So it happened--and then sometimes,
- 15 you know, you get a good stain today and
- tomorrow, the same block may not show the same
- thing. So we thought we needed to look at it
- and be sure what we're dealing with.
- 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 20 Q. And was this a consensus view?
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:
- 22 A. That's my view, it was consensus. Yeah,
- 23 that's my view. We didn't take any vote at
- 24 the meeting.
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

1

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- Q. Oh no, I appreciate that. I appreciate that.
- 2 Doctor, the problem--and you've indicated, I
- believe, that this would be in late 2002,
- 4 early '03, the initial recognition that this
- 5 was a problem?
- 6 DR. EJECKAM:
- 7 A. Ongoing from the moment--I meant, from the
- 8 fall. I joined in September and then from
- 9 then on, when we were sort of seeing slides as
- we had our conferences, we went on and the
- 11 reviews identified this problem over a period
- of time and then I said, okay, since I have
- been identified and have an interest in this
- area, best thing is to work more closely to
- see what you can do with it.
- 16 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 17 Q. Well -
- 18 DR. EJECKAM:
- 19 A. But I cannot tell you that this was at a
- 20 particular time that decision was taken.
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.:

25

- 22 Q. Was there any vote, as it were, taken though
- in terms of your getting involved and taking
- 24 kind of, you know, intervening and proceeding
 - at this point?

1 DR. EJECKAM:

- A. No, I think my colleagues appreciated that I
- 3 showed interest in this, in the subject.
- 4 COFFEY, Q.C.:

5

7

- Q. With respect to that, and based upon the
- 6 meetings on these Tuesdays and Wednesdays
 - weekly, was it your--did you have any sense as
- 8 to whether or not any other pathologists at
- 9 St. Clare's or the General Hospital had any
- particular interest in IHC, in the same way
- that you did?
- 12 DR. EJECKAM:
- 13 A. I can't say because every--they were doing the
- test before I arrived, so obviously somebody
- 15 had interest in these things, but you know,
- the test was being done before I came in.
- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 18 Q. Oh yes.
- 19 DR. EJECKAM:
- 20 A. So there must be somebody who, a group of
- pathologists who have interest in the subject.
- 22 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 23 Q. But I take it when you offered yourself up as
 - potentially getting involved, there wasn't a
- lot of competition for the position, I take
- Page 216
- 1 it?

24

- 2 DR. EJECKAM:
- 3 A. There was no position to be taking care of it.
- 4 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 5 Q. Yes, okay, so you offered to get involved and
- 6 you saw--you encountered no resistance to
- 7 that? Everybody was there, you understood
- 8 agreed?
- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 12 Q. There was no one that voiced any objections to
- 13 you -
- 14 DR. EJECKAM:
- 15 A. No, no.
- 16 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 17 Q. getting involved? Did your colleagues, do
- you think--did you ever tell them about or
- explain to them the fact that you had had--you
- did have some experience with IHC?
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:

- 22 A. Well, I didn't think I needed to explain that
- to them because it was obvious during our
- 24 meetings that I showed some interest and
 - showed some degree of knowledge of what was

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	Page 217	7		Page 219
1	going on, so you know, they decided that well,		COFFE	EY, Q.C.:
2	if you have this interest, why don't you look	2		Specifity problems?
3	at this much more closely. That's my view.			ECKAM:
4	That's what I thought.	4		Well the same way that it stains only that
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:	5		particular antigen that raised the antibody,
6	Q. Oh yes, and that's again what I'm asking you	6		because if it's now staining other things,
7	for, in terms of that. So you're advising	7		then it's not very specific because it could
8	everybody to whom this memo is directed that	8		stain other stuff.
9	"staining with these antibodies will stop			EY, Q.C.:
10	forthwith until we can solve the reliability,	10		Doctor, you go on to say "efforts are under
11	sensitivity and specifity problems." Can you	11	ν.	way, and hopefully a solution will be found
12	explain to the Commissioner what reliability	12		within the next four to six weeks. You will
13	problem? What are you talking about there?	13		be duly informed when such stains can resume."
1	DR. EJECKAM:	14		Now Doctor, at the time you decided to do
15	A. Well, I give an example, Commissioner, like	15		this, would all of the pathologists who had
16	the prostate one. If I have a benign gland	16		attended theseI'll back up a bit. Who knew
17	that I can identify-mind you,	17		that you were sending out this memo?
18	immunohistochemistry is a secondary thing.		DB EI	ECKAM:
19	You must look at initial hematoxylin and eosin	19		You mean before it was sent?
20	slide and make a judgment. You are looking at			EY, Q.C.:
21	this to help you to get across the line. So	21		Yes. Was anybody aware that you were going to
22	if I have a benign gland, I know that in a	22	Q.	do this? "I'm actually going to write a
23	benign gland, the stain should be positive and	23		memo."
24	then I do the stain and I find that benign		DD EI	ECKAM:
25	glands are not picking up the stain, then it's	25		No. Well, definitely during the discussion,
١.	Page 218			Page 220
$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	unreliable because it's supposed to be	1		we sort of agreed that the best thing to stop
2	positive and then maybe todayand I use that benign gland as a control. Tomorrow it will	2		doing them until we are able to come up with
3		3		something better.
4	stain positive, next day may not stain. So			EY, Q.C.: And whom, if anyone, did you report to to tell
5	it's not showing what it's supposed to show	5		· · · · ·
6	and that's what I mean by unreliable.	6		them that "I'm going to stop the staining on
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:	7		these eight stains"? Did you tell Dr.
8	Q. Sensitivity problem, what are youbecause you	8	DD E	Williams, for example?
9	do differentiate between reliability,			JECKAM:
10	sensitivity and specifity.	10		Bob Williams?
	DR. EJECKAM:			EY, Q.C.:
12	A. Yeah, well -	12		Yes.
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:			JECKAM:
14	Q. So sensitivity in this context means what?	14	A.	I didn't need to tell him. I mean, this is
1	DR. EJECKAM:	15		laboratory issue. He didn't need to know
16	A. Then it's supposed to be, in this context, in	16		about it.
17	terms of prostate, supposed to stain prostate			EY, Q.C.:
18	outside cells on the gland, outer layer. Now	18		Within the laboratory, who had to know?
19	if, in that case, you find it staining other			JECKAM:
20	things, a number of other things, then it	20	A.	This was sent to all the pathologists, so
21	becomes a problem. Mind you, if you look at	21		including site chiefs, clinical chiefs and all
22	the literature, this antibody may stain other	22	ge==	my colleagues.
23	things, but in the context of evaluating a			EY, Q.C.:
24	prostate section, then that's where we have to	24	Q.	During the intervening period, during what you then anticipated to be the next four to six
1/7	CONSIDER WHETHER II IS SENSITIVE OF NOT	1 /~		DELIABLICIONIECHO DE DE DESTADIT IN CIV

then anticipated to be the next four to six

consider whether it is sensitive or not.

1 weeks -

2 DR. EJECKAM:

3 A. Yeah.

7

4 COFFEY, Q.C.:

- 5 Q. what did you expect or anticipate would
- 6 happen with respect to any tests that had to
 - be done using these sorts of stains that would
- 8 normally be done in the General Hospital?
- 9 What did you expect would happen?

10 DR. EJECKAM:

- 11 A. That wasn't any big problem. There was no
- patient danger here at all, because as far as
- you were talking for the first one, if you
- found three or four glands that were
- suspicious for malignancy and we did the tests
- and it didn't show what we expected, it wasn't
- interpretable and has been shown around and
- there's a concern that it couldn't be
- interpreted, Commissioner, what we would do is
- 20 to--and it's accepted report, to write to the
- urologist, "there are four slides (phonetic)
- of two or three suspicious looking glands,
- suspicious for malignancy. Please repeat
- 24 biopsy at that quadrant that you cite."
- That's accepted standard. You could do that.

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- 1 So there was no question of saying somebody
- 2 had cancer when he didn't have or something
- 3 like that.
- 4 Then for this lymphoma group who had
- 5 another test, flow cytometry, which was done
- by one of the pathologists, so if this didn't
- work, flow cytometry usually will work, and
 - then you know, again, diagnosis would be
- given. And of course, for the other, the rest
- of them, the ER/PR, if it didn't work, then we
- 11 didn't report anything -
- 12 COFFEY, O.C.:

8

- 13 Q. If the stain -
- 14 DR. EJECKAM:
- 15 A. If the stain didn't work out the way it's
- supposed to work or that, you know, you
- couldn't interpret it, if we didn't have--it
- was only four to six weeks, you send it out.
- 19 So there was again, no danger to anybody, in
- 20 terms of this stoppage.
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 22 Q. During the four to six-week period?
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

- Page 223

 1 Q. But in any case, there'd be no report, no
 - slides, for example, ER/PR slides produced
 - during that four to six-week period?
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- 5 A. We were (unintelligible) for diagnostic
- 6 purposes, no.
- 7 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 8 Q. No, for--and you were telling everybody in the
- 9 meantime, the next four to six weeks, we will
- not be processing ER/PR -
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 14 Q. new cases?
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- 16 A. Yes.

19

- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 18 Q. And presumably the pathologists would make
 - their own decisions then about whether they
- wanted to go to Halifax or wherever?
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 COFFEY, O.C.:
 - 4 Q. Okay, and you understood that would happen?
- 25 DR. EJECKAM:

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- 1 A. Yeah, and in any event, within that period, we
- 2 may not have received more than one or maybe
- 3 none of the breast cancers.
- 4 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 5 Q. And with respect to that, Doctor, could you
- 6 tell us, please, what--because you say here
- 7 "efforts are under way." What was done with
 - respect to the ER/PR stains? "Efforts are
- 9 under way," I take it they're efforts to
- 10 correct the problems?
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- 12 A. Yes.

8

22

- 13 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 14 Q. What was done with respect to the ER/PR, could
- 15 you tell the Commissioner what happened?
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- 17 A. Commissioner, what we did was to look at the-
- first of all I had to source good controls.
- We went through the archives and found breast
- lesion that were positive and then after
- 21 assessing that, we now looked at the
 - methodology and then tried to titrate a time
- of antigen retrieval. So, that's probably
- 24 where the problem might come in. You use to
 - talk about fixation, but I think that come to

Ju	ne 3, 2008 Mu	ulti-P	age TM	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 2	225		Page 227
1	origin (phonetic) by good antigen retrieval.	1		with them about the fact that the problems
2	So, what we do was to change to titration	2		existed.
3	with, say, I think we use three or four	3	DR. EJ	ECKAM:
4	different times. We heat this tissue, ten	4	A.	I didn't invite them and I don't know that
5	minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes, in this	5		they came, but if they discussed with the
6	order. We are trying to see which of the time	6		techs, because they could call them on the
7	give the best reaction. And when we are	7		phone if there's a problem. So, if they
8	satisfied that we picked a particular time,	8		communicated with them, I have no knowledge of
9	which I can't remember right now, but give the	9		it.
10	best reaction and was producible (phonetic)	10	COFFE	ey, Q.C.
11	then we now say that this resume.	11	Q.	Okay. And there is, we're going to see a fax
12	COFFEY, Q.C.	12		that, at least a fax anyway between a DAKO
13	Q. Do you recall -	13		representative and some of the technologists
14	DR. EJECKAM:	14		and I believe Mr. Dyer. But if that happened,
15	A. And the same thing was done with the rest of	15		you weren't involved in that?
16	the antibodies.	16	DR. EJ	ECKAM:
17	COFFEY, Q.C.	17	A.	No, they didn't let me know that.
18	Q. Okay. Now, which antibodies did you deal with	n 18	COFFE	Y, Q.C.
19	first?	19	Q.	All right. So, your involvementso, I take
20	DR. EJECKAM:	20		it you knewand I'll just concentrate first
21	A. ER/PR.	21		of all on the ER and PR. To go about
22	COFFEY, Q.C.	22		addressing the concerns, you first of all
23	Q. ER/PR was the first one.	23		addressed what?
ı	DR. EJECKAM:			ECKAM:
25	A. Yeah.	25	A.	I said ER/PR.
	Page 2	226		Page 228
1	COFFEY, Q.C.	1		EY, Q.C.
2	Q. And that would have been in April of '03.	2	Q.	Yes, ER/PR, no, no, but what about ER for
3	DR. EJECKAM:	3		example. I'll just use ER, was it the time,
4	A. Pardon?	4		the amount of time -
5	COFFEY, Q.C.	5		JECKAM:
6	Q. That would have been in April of '03?	6	A.	Yeah, time offirst, get credible controls
7	DR. EJECKAM:	7		and then we looked at the timing of antigen
8	A. Yeah.	8		retrieval.
9	COFFEY, Q.C.	9		EY, Q.C.
10	Q. Okay. So, do you recall who the technologist-	10		Okay.
11	-was there any particular technologist			JECKAM:
12	involved in this?	12		And there wasI think weit was to change
ı	DR. EJECKAM:	13		the dilutions of the secondary or primary
14	A. I think Mary Butler took most of it. They	14		antibodies.
15	worked together, but I think Mary Butler did			EY, Q.C.
16	most of it, the titration.	16	Q.	Yes, okay. So, it was the controls first and
ı	COFFEY, Q.C.	17		foremost becausethe purpose of that is what?
18	Q. And do you recall whether or not DAKO was	18		What's the importance of that?
19	involved or DAKO's representatives were			JECKAM:
20	involved in any way?	20	A.	Well, I mean we need to have a credible

22

23

25

24 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Yes.

interpret this?

control because if we cannot say that this is

the positive control, then how can we now

A. Not with this; I didn't involve them. If they

Q. Not so much came into the lab as communicated

came into the lab in my absence, I -

21 DR. EJECKAM:

24 COFFEY, Q.C.

22

23

1 DR. EJECKAM:

- A. So, it was necessary to have a case that was
- positive as control and then, of course, we 3
- know that you can use tissue that are not 4
- breast as negative control. 5
- 6 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. And so you would be looking to, first of all 7
- 8 identify a good positive control tissue.
- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 10
- 11 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. You would also utilize non breast tissue for, 12
- suitable non breast tissue for negative 13
- 14 control.
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. You could do that or you can use breast, but 16
- omits (phonetic) the primary antibodies. 17
- 18 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 19 o. Okay.
- 20 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Because if you don't put the primary 21
- 22 antibodies as explained, then the secondary
- 23 will have nothing to latch onto. So, nothing
- will show. 24
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.

1

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24

- Q. Sure. And so you would address your minds to the controls first, positive and negative. 2
- You then looked at the antigen retrieval time. 3
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah. 5
- 6 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. Varying that, you experimented with that, I 7
- take it, varying amounts of time and would use 8
- a particular period of time, as an example, 9
- like eight minutes or so. 10
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah, yeah. 12
- 13 COFFEY, Q.C.
- 14 O. And see what that looked like on a slide.
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes.
- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. And then you perhaps, at ten minutes and see 18
- what that looked like that. 19
- 20 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 21
- 22 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. And maybe six and got to go back and forth 23
- until you got, from your perspective, the 24
- best? 25

- 1 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes.

7

- 3 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. Okay. As well, the dilution?
- 5 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah, I think we changed that dilution so 6
 - either primary or secondary antibody, but I

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- don't remember which right now, but one of the 8
- dilutions was changed to see because sometimes 9
- if it is too diluted or over-concentrated, you 10
- may have problem with that. So, have to 11
- titrate that. 12
- 13 COFFEY, O.C.
- 14 Q. And again, this was done in a systematic way,
- 15 I take it -
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes, yes. 17
- 18 COFFEY, Q.C.
 - Q. in terms of you go about it--and it was
- under whose direction? Was it your direction? 20
- 21 Your -
- 22 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes, I will discuss with them and write down 23
 - what dilution would try and what time would
- 25 try.

1 COFFEY, Q.C.

- Q. And the actual work then, in terms of
- utilizing, doing the heating, doing that 3
- dilution -4
- 5 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. That done by the technologists. 6
- 7 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. The technologists would do that, they'd 8
- follow--your understand was that they would 9
- follow your instructions and -10
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. I believe they did.
- 13 COFFEY, Q.C.
- Q. And this process then in terms of ER/PR went 14
- on for approximately how long? 15
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- 17 A. I can't tell you that, but it took most of the
- time within the first six weeks because within 18
- that period, I was happy that we had something 19
- that was credible, could go back to doing the 20
- 21 stain.
- 22 COFFEY, Q.C.

- Q. Now Doctor, we do have written record for the 23
- ER/PR because we'll see it subsequently, but 24
 - the other six stains that are listed here in

Q. If we could, please, I want to go to page two,

Doctor of the--I'll just go ahead there. Now,

this is a memo dated May 2, 2003 again, it's

on Health Care Corporation of St. John's

Health Sciences Centre, St. Clare's and out of

letterhead, this one to pathologists of the

town hospitals from yourself. That, I take

Q. The subject is ER/PR immunohistochemical stains. It's dated May 2 of 2003 and it goes

initials and it's copied to the site chief of

Barry Dyer and to all technical staff on

immunohistochemistry. So, I take it this is

on for some three pages with your signature,

the Health Sciences Centre and St. Clare's to

it, is your initial?

the technologists?

Page 233 this memo, you've told the Commissioner that 1

2 they also go dealt within, I take it, in due

3 course.

4 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah. 5

6 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Okay. Was the same process followed for them?

8 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yes, but not--mainly for antigen retrieval, we didn't change the dilutions on those ones and 10

11 that was also okay.

12 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. And how were people notified that the other 13

14 six stains were re-instituted, do you recall?

15 DR. EJECKAM:

A. What? Putting them back into use? 16

17 COFFEY, Q.C.

O. Yes. 18

19 DR. EJECKAM:

20 A. I mean, I did mention these at the conference,

21 I don't think I put these in the second memo,

22 but the ER/PR, was definitely a memo to cover

23 that because of the nature of it. But the

24 other ones, during a conference again will

25 show the slides, showing that everything was

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2 COFFEY, Q.C.

11 DR. EJECKAM:

13 COFFEY, O.C.

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. So, these conferences, you're able to

bring out, kind of, your brand new, most 4

okay and so, you know, we resume then.

recently produced slides as a result of this -5

6 DR. EJECKAM:

2 COFFEY, Q.C.

A. Yes.

1

3

8 COFFEY, O.C.

Q. - effort you--and be able, in effect, show 9

them off. 10

11 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah, yeah, I would say that, yes. 12

13 COFFEY, Q.C.

14 Q. Okay. Doctor, at the time, from your

perspective as a pathologist, your knowledge 15

of IHC, how did you feel about the quality of 16

17 the slides that you were producing, the lab

was producing in the beginning of May of '03, 18

after your effort?

20 DR. EJECKAM:

19

21 A. After we rectified the problem?

22 COFFEY, Q.C.

23 Q. Yes.

24 DR. EJECKAM:

A. I was satisfied with it. It was as good as

1 DR. EJECKAM:

22 DR. EJECKAM: A. Yes.

24 COFFEY, Q.C.

A. Yeah.

3 COFFEY, Q.C.

O. And the site chiefs were Doctor Parai and -

Q. Mr. Dyer is their boss, immediate boss.

5 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Don Cook was -6

7 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Don Cook was St. Clare's site chief as well as 8

9

14

19

25

10 DR. EJECKAM:

11 A. Yeah.

12 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Now, you would have had the opportunity to 13

review this before coming here today.

15 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah, I looked at it. 16

17 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Doctor, you begin by saying, "I'm glad to 18

inform you that we have rectified the

difficulties related to the immunostain or 20

ER/PR. Therefore, we can now resume regular 21

requests for these antibody stains. I will, 22

however, like to bring the following 23

information to your attention". And then you 24

have a list beginning with paragraph one,

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Jui	ne 3, 2008 Multi	-Pa	
	Page 237		Page 239
1	"results of the immunostains may be affected	1	\mathcal{E}
2	by (a) delayed fixation, (b) over fixation,	2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3	(c) under fixation, (d) uneven fixation, (e)	3	3
4	inadequate tissue dehydration, and (f) tissue		DR. EJECKAM:
5	reprocessing". Now, you then go on at some	5	3 1 3 1
6	length then about that, Doctor. Paragraph two	6	1 , &
7	though goes on to note "ER/PR false negative	7	
8	results increase in core biopsies therefore,	8	1 ,
9	where possible, restrict request to excision	9	, , , ,
10	biopsies. Three is check normal breast	10	, ,
11	acini".	11	all I provided.
12	DR. EJECKAM:		COFFEY, Q.C.
13	A. Yes.	13	Q. Did you ever write any other memo with similar
14	COFFEY, Q.C.	14	1 &
15	Q. Okay, "in your sections as internal controls.	15	Newfoundland?
16	This is a second level control, nuclear	16	DR. EJECKAM:
17	staining in normal breast tissue is	17	•
18	heterogeneous and varies with menstrual	18	COFFEY, Q.C.
19	cycle". And then you point out, "in carcinoma	19	Q. No, you didn'tfor example, for the other
20	of the breast, most PR positive tumors are	20	•
21	also ER positive", and you go on and explain	21	instituted those.
22	that further. "Reporting of ER/PR" and you	22	DR. EJECKAM:
23	talk about different reporting criteria or cut	23	A. No, I didn't do that because I mean, what I
24	off points, I'll refer to it as. And then you	24	have here covers every other stain, not ER/PR
25	note that higher staining intensity does not	25	only.
	Page 238		Page 240
1	reflect better results and you go on and talk	1	COFFEY, Q.C.
2	about that. And then ER positive tumors, you	2	Q. Yes. And I appreciate it has a wider
3	list a number of them, four of them here and I	3	potential, some aspects of it do have a wide
4	take it as well that the fifth which would be	4	application than just ER/PR, don't they?
5	listed here would be lobular.	5	DR. EJECKAM:
6	DR. EJECKAM:	6	A. Yeah.
7	A. Yes, this an exhaustive list.	7	COFFEY, Q.C.
8	COFFEY, Q.C.	8	Q. And I'll just deal first of all with the
9	Q. Yes, and I appreciate that, Doctor. And	9	
10	number eight you finally note, "low nuclear	10	
11	grade tumors are usually positive for ER/PR	11	for all types of stains.
12	and negative for Her2Neu, while high grade	12	DR. EJECKAM:

and negative for Her2Neu, while high grade 13 tumors tend to be positive for Her2Neu and 14 negative for ER/PR". And you note finally, 15 "we are working on the remaining antibodies and hopefully all normal immunostains will 16

17 resume soon". Okay?

18 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah. 19

20 COFFEY, O.C.

25

21 Q. Now Doctor, other than the obvious which is to 22 point out to everybody that you've resumed 23 ER/PR testing in St. John's or processing in 24 St. John's, why did you write this memo?

Because you could have stopped it right here

A. Yeah. 13

14 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. And "inadequate tissue dehydration", (e) and 15 "tissue reprocessing" as well could apply to, 16

17 if not all, certainly most other stains.

18 DR. EJECKAM:

19 A. Yeah.

20 COFFEY, Q.C.

21 Q. Did anyone else know that you were going to 22 draft and send this memo, this May 2 one?

23 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Before it was sent? 24

25 COFFEY, Q.C.

were reprocessed and people were quite happy

doing the conferencing or were not getting

good stain. There was no letter from anybody

and I wasn't suspecting any letter, but during

the period we are discussing that there was,

again, happiness that we are getting something

16 now that is useful. 17 COFFEY, Q.C.

10

11

12

13

14

15

18 Q. Now the memo at page two of the exhibit, P-19 0113, the May 2nd, 2003 memo, did you get any, having prepared this, initialled it and sent 20 21 it, did you get any feedback on this one? 22 DR. EJECKAM:

23 A. No, Again, it's an information memo, so they didn't need to make any further contact. 24 25 COFFEY, Q.C.

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Q. Now you weren't asking here for any feedback, 1 I appreciate that in your -2

3 DR. EJECKAM:

A. Yeah.

5 COFFEY, Q.C.

6

7 having taken it upon yourself to prepare it 8 and to send it out, there is no one came back to you, one way or the other, saying great 9 job, Gershon, what are you talking about; or 10 anything like that? There was no feedback one 11

Q. Well, I'm just asking you, in terms of that,

way or the other on this? 12

13 DR. EJECKAM:

14 A. No, not the way you put it.

15 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. Well, any other way on this one?

17 DR. EJECKAM:

A. No, I said that the people were happy, that 18 19 during the discussion, that we now have stain that work and for me that was some kind of 20 21 feedback. I wasn't expecting a letter or congratulations from anyone. 22

23 COFFEY, Q.C.

24 Q. Well, Doctor, if we could, please, just on some of this because you have to appreciate, 25

of course, we're not physicians, I don't think

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there's a physician in the room, but -

3 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Only the one on the stand.

5 COFFEY, Q.C.

Q. The Commissioner has got a good vantage point.

Other than the doctor himself, I don't think

any of the rest us are physicians. So, if I

could just, Doctor, several questions related

to this. You've pointed out in paragraph one 10

11 on page one of the memo itself, results of the

immunostains may be affected by delayed, over, 12 13 under and uneven fixation. How significant

14 can the problems be for immunostains that can

15 be caused by fixation problems?

16 DR. EJECKAM:

2

17 A. Initially, it could be a problem, but with 18 good antigen retrieval you can override the 19 problem of fixation. So, you know, but if you fix it right and did antigen retrieval right, 20 21 then you get optimal result. But if you had 22 problem with the fixation and by any reason 23 your retrieval time is not optimal, you may 24 have problem. So, in as much as you can 25 override this fixation--mind you, these memos,

1

these--what you have here, in the text book and there are research going on trying to

modify what might affect that. So, at a time 3

these things are in the text book, fixation 4

5 was a big problem and we can testify to that

because with delayed fixation, then the 6

7 tissue, the cell membrane will kind of lose 8

its integrity and enzymes will diffuse out,

those antigen will diffuse out and that will 9 cause background staining. So you then have 10

11 what you have (unintelligible) original

background staining and maybe create a problem 12

13 for interpretation. So but now with antigen retrieval, if you do it with proper timing and 14

then you could override those fixation 15

16

problem.

17 COFFEY, Q.C.:

18 Q. The reference to inadequate tissue dehydration, what is that referring to? 19

20 DR. EJECKAM:

21 A. Now when you process tissue in the tissue 22 processor, it goes through gradient alcohol and trying to extract water. If the water is 23 24 in there by the time it gets into the xylene, 25 the next solution, and try to impregnate with

- wax before you cut it, you can imperforate, 1
- you cannot get a good impregnation and that is 2
- going to affect the stain. But this is 3
- chemical reaction and if it's not properly 4
- processed, then that area will be soft and 5
- well, I'll put it--well, not necrose, but it's 6
- 7 going to be soggy in a way, you know,
- 8
- (unintelligible) and going to be soggy, and
- when it's soggy, you can't--the stain will not 9
- 10 have paculation of stain and that area may be
- darker than the stain than what you expect, 11 and then they were thinking it's real, but 12
- it's not real because of this problem.
- 13
- 14 COFFEY, O.C.:

1

- Q. Okay, and the problem with inadequate tissue 15
 - dehydration, if that was to--if that is to be
- addressed, that is addressed where physically? 17
- Who has to do that? Is that within the 18
- 19 laboratory itself?
- 20 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah, laboratory, that would be a thing that 21
- any technologist will have to deal with in the 22
- tissue processor. So that means that we 23
- should be changing the solution in the tissue 24
- processor fairly regularly, depending on the 25
 - Page 246
 - volume that you put through it. Again, this
- 2 is something that it will depend on the volume
- of the tissue that go through it. 3
- 4 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 5 Q. Now the problem, the reference to delayed,
- over, under and uneven fixation, who or what 6
- 7 sort of individual or professional would be
- expected to deal with those problems? 8
- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Now the delayed fixation will come from the 10
- 11 OR.
- 12 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. OR. 13
- 14 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. When they take it and they don't put it in 15
- formalin quickly, that may be delayed 16
- fixation. Then over fixation, of course, if 17
- it is already in formalin and left in the 18
- 19 laboratory for a long time. Now like I said,
- the optimal period we said 18 to 24 hours. 20
- Now there are information in the literature 21
- 22 saying that you can fix for six hours, seven
- hours and still get a good result. So it's a 23
- question of the experimentation is going on 24
- and to shorten this time, so it depends on how 25

much effort you put in it and which laboratory

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- 1 2 you are in. But generally speaking, most
- people will tell you that optimal period of 3
- 4
 - fixation will be 18 to 24 hours.
- 5 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. And so that's over and under. Uneven fixation 6
 - is a problem, who would have to attend to
- that? 8

7

- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- 10 A. If you put in an big tissue in formalin in a
- container, some areas will fix, some areas 11
- will not fix, so that's why he needs to cut 12
- clean section and then immerse the tissue 13
- completely in formalin. 14
- 15 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 16 Q. You do go on to point out "The optimum
- fixation time for immunostains is 18 to 24 17
- hours." 18
- 19 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 20
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 22 Q. Now, you knew that at the time, why, where
- would get that figure? 23
- 24 DR. EJECKAM:
 - A. In the literature.

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- 1 COFFEY, Q.C.:
 - Q. And was that literature readily available to
 - pathologists? 3
 - 4 DR. EJECKAM:
 - A. I believe so.
 - 6 COFFEY, Q.C.:
 - 7 Q. Now, you've underlined "In 10 percent neutral
 - buffered formalin." Why is that? 8
 - 9 DR. EJECKAM:
 - A. Well, that is the usual--you see 10 percent 10
 - 11 formalin is what we use for fixation. Some
 - people may use alcohol and alcohol fixation 12
 - will destroy the antigen. And there are other 13
 - fixatives, so I just wanted to highlight the 14
 - fixative of first choice. 15
 - 16 COFFEY, O.C.:

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- 17 Q. You say, "It is advisable to maintain a
- regular check on the pH of the buffered 18
 - formalin even if it is procured commercially.
- Regular check and change of grades of alcohol 20
 - in the tissue processor will eliminate
 - inadequate tissue dehydration." You spoke to
- us about that. Why did you feel it necessary 23
- to refer to a regular check of the pH of 24
 - buffered formalin, even commercial?

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- Commercially procured should be checked. Why 1
- 2 would you have to point that out?
- 3 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Well, it is again offering information that
- may be of practical use, of practical 5
- importance. If you buy a gallon of radiant 6
- and leave it on the desk where it's supposed 7
- 8 to be in the open lab and if it has not been
- used up, there's a possibility if it's been 9
- 10 there for quite awhile that the pH may change,
- so it's necessary to monitor those. 11
- 12 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And what can be the possible effect of that 13
- 14 be, if the pH is not being monitored and
- maintained properly, what's the down side? 15
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah, fixation capability of the formalin. 17
- 18 COFFEY, O.C.:
- O. It'll lessen, I take it?
- 20 DR. EJECKAM:
- 21 A. Yeah, it would lessen, yeah.
- 22 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. Now, there's a reference there to tissue 23

A. Yeah, we do that to--now, if you process

take the tissue and put it in the cassette

tissue and it's cut and you find that maybe

the time it was being embedded, it was not

corridor (phonetic) and then pour the molten

arraigned (phonetic) then you may not see all

the layers of the tissue when they cut it, and

when you get your slide, I find that this has

you have to re-embed it, sorry. Now,

happened, you have to reprocess that tissue or

reprocessing comes when like we said, if you

had dehydration problem and there's a lot of

dehydrated. You cannot remove that water in

that block. The only way you can do is to

reprocess the tissue, go to the--start afresh.

And of course, when you do this, these

are able to retrieve them, but if you have to

do it over and over again, definitely you're

site that antibodies are supposed to attach

going to lose some antigen, I mean, molecule

chemicals are harsh to the antigen inside. We

water in it, that's where it wasn't properly

wax on it, if the tissue hasn't been properly

embedded properly. Embedded, I mean when they

- reprocessing, what is that? 24
- 25 DR. EJECKAM:

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1 COFFEY, O.C.:

- Q. So tissue reprocessing in terms of
- immunostains -3
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- 5 A. But in immuno, you're going to create problem
- 6
- 7 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. Immuno, yes.
- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. But generally speaking, it causes 10
- interpretative problem when you do that. 11
- 12 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. It's something, if possible, to be avoided? 13
- 14 DR. EJECKAM:

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19

- A. Yes. It's not done very commonly, actually. 15
 - This again is information from literature, but
- in most laboratories they don't do any more 17
- reprocessing because poor (unintelligible) if 18
 - you have good solution and everything, you
- don't have to run into that kind of trouble. 20
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 22 Q. Now, how much tissue reprocessing did you
- observe as going on at the General Hospital? 23
- A. None. None?

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1 COFFEY, Q.C.:

- Q. Oh, one word, none, okay. Do you know if 2
- there was any going on elsewhere, like, for 3
- example, at St. Clare's? 4
- 5 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. No, I have no information to that, but I don't 6
- 7 believe they were doing it.
- 8 COFFEY, O.C.:

11

17

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25

- 9 Q. Sir, in terms of the slides, because I take it
- having made this fairly lengthy reference to 10
 - fixation and related matters here on this
- 12 first page, was there anything that you'd seen
- 13 that caused you to believe that fixation was a
- 14 problem at the time, in 2003?
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. No. This memo was simply to provide 16
 - information to my colleagues. It wasn't based
- on any findings of any stains. 18
- 19 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 20 Q. Now, up to this point in time, which would be,
- well, April and May of '03, in terms of ER and 21
 - PR slides, okay, you would have had occassion
- to read whose ER and PR slides, what sorts of 23
- patients? Would you just read your own 24
 - patients' slides?

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1 DR. EJECKAM:

- A. I would look at my own.
- 3 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Yes.
- 5 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. And then I would look at the--during the time 6
- we were trying to optimize the stain, I would 7
- 8 look at it with a technologist before they
- pass them on, especially those that came in 9
- 10 from outside of St. John's. But you have to
- send the slides back to the pathologist, so I 11
- 12 would look at it with them to satisfy that it
- is a good stain before they send them out. 13
- 14 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And when was that occuring? 15
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Within the--it wasn't a particular period, but 17
- during--it was a process that was going on. 18
- 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. This is during April and May, I take it? 20
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. For ER/PR?
- 25 DR. EJECKAM:

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- A. Yeah. 1 2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Okay. So after that did you have occassion to 3
- review ER and PR slides for pathologists from 4
- 5 outside St. John's?
- 6 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. The word "review", I mean, I didn't have to. 7
- Just if--after the staining, I would look at 8
- it with the technologist to satisfy that it's 9
- okay. I wasn't reviewing to make any report. 10
- 11 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 12 Q. Yeah, and it's -
- 13 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. If it was technically okay, then I would ask 14
- them to send it on. 15
- 16 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 17 Q. How long did that continue for in terms of ER
- and PR slides that you would -18
- 19 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. It continued, that continued until we stopped 20
- doing it. It was--a (unintelligible) would 21
- 22 come into my room with it, I would look at it.
- It wasn't a formal type of thing, they will 23
- 24 bring sections of stain to my room to look at
- and I would look at it and say that's fine, 25

then they will go ahead and send them out. 1

- 2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Was there any procedure in place that they--3
- requiring them to come, requiring them to come 4

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- to you with all ER and PR slides? 5
- 6 DR. EJECKAM:

10

13

15

2

- A. I don't remember it was mandatory for them to 7
- 8 do, but they knew that they needed to show
- them to me before they go out. The in-house 9
 - pathologists would look at theirs and it's not
- a problem there, they needed to consult me, 11
- they would come to me, but there was probably 12
 - no need for it. But since we were sending the
- 14 slides out to people outside St. John's and
 - they are not here physically, I thought that
- 16 was necessary to look at the section before
- they go. 17
- 18 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 19 Q. So what would you be looking for in relation
- to the ER and PR slides? 20
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:
- 22 A. The controls.
- 23 COFFEY, O.C.:
 - Q. So what type of controls?
- 25 DR. EJECKAM:

Page 256 A. If I'm doing internal controls and external 1

- controls, internal controls that mean when I
- 3 say look at asini, the asini in normal breasts
- will stain positively and if the stain was 4
- 5 done and it's negative, then it has to be
- repeated before we send it out. It has to be 6
- 7 positive.
- 8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 9 Q. So and would you look at the external controls
- 10
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 14 Q. Okay. To make sure that they were staining
- positive, external positive controls -15
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. were staining positive? Was the fact that 19
- you had looked at those, was that recorded in 20
- 21 any way?
- 22 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. No, we didn't keep logbook about any of those. 23
- 24 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 25 Q. And in terms of the ER and PR slides for the

- local pathologists, say at the St. Clare's and 1
- the General Hospital pathologists, ER/PR and 2
- slides, would you be asked by the 3
- technologists to review them? 4
- 5 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Not really. You know, it was mainly the ones 6
- going out. 7
- 8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Out. Anything that was going out of town?
- 10 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah. 11
- 12 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. You'd have a look at. And that would involve
- 14 Mary Butler and Ken Green?
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. And when Les joined -16
- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And when Les joined?
- 19 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah. 20
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 22 Q. Les would, as well. If we could, please, the
- 23 ER/PR false negative results at paragraph 2,
- "Increase in core biopsies, therefore, were 24
- possible, restricting ER/PR requests to 25

 - Page 258
- excision biopsies." Could you explain that to 1 2
 - the Commissioner generally what that was
- 3 about?
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Commissioner, the core biopsy is obtained by 5
- needle approach. And sometimes the needle 6
- 7 goes through the tumor and obtains good volume
- 8 of tumor. Sometimes it may glance through a
- 9 fibrous tissue and then it doesn't obtain
- enough cells and they may obtain only fibrous 10
- 11 tissue or necrotic tissue. Or they may obtain
- some tumor cells that may biologically be 12
- 13 negative. So if you did the stain and find that you don't have so much of tumor volume 14
- 15 and those tumor cells that you've done show
- negative, then you report it as negative, in 16
- 17 actual fact the bulk of the tumor, if you
- excised it, may show positivity. So unless it 18
- 19 is imperative--have, I've seen publications
- now where people are saying core biopsy no 20
- problem, (unintelligible) no problem, but at 21
- 22 this time we know this can happen, you know,
- the person who is taking it and how much 23
- 24 volume of the tumor that was obtained and this
- tumor may have estrogen 80 when it comes out. 25

- So it may just look negative and then the
- 2 positive ones are back in the patient.
- 3 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. So I take it the overall idea then was the
- 5 more tumor tissue, the better?
- 6 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes, the variety -
- 8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. From your perspective?
- 10 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 11
- 12 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. To be able to analyze it?
- 14 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 15
- 16 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Okay. Paragraph 3 refers to, you pointed out, 17
- internal controls, normal breast acini. Now, 18
- 19 this usage of internal controls in relation to
- ER/PR. which is what this is about, isn't it? 20
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes, yes, yes.
- 23 COFFEY, Q.C.:

25

- Q. How long had you known about this, the idea of
- using internal controls for ER/PR?

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- 1 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. I don't know the time, but if you do
- immunohistochemistry of breasts, then it's 3
- important that you recognize that quite early. 4
- 5 Now, we did that in Doha, so you know, it
- wasn't something I recognized here. 6
- 7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. No. So this, you knew this back in the '90s 8
- in Doha? 9
- 10 DR. EJECKAM:
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 13 Q. That would be when your laboratory was
- involved in this? 14
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes.
- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. You were aware of it. How did you become 18
- 19 aware of the necessity to have internal
- controls? 20
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:

22

- A. Well, I mean, if you--again, when you choose
- the block, that's why when you get several 23
- sections on the HNE, then you look at it first 24
 - before you choose the block that will work for

- immunohistochemistry. In the process, part of
- 2 it is that you choose a good block, and what
- makes a good block is that that section should 3
- contain tumor and no more tissue. 4
- 5 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. Yeah, and I appreciate that, Doctor. But you 6
- learned that when, yourself? 7
- 8 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Again, before I came here, I mean, we were 9
- doing this as routine, so we knew that it 10
- wasn't something new for anybody taking 11
- 12 section of a breast biopsy, I mean, breast
- sections for immunohistochemistry. 13
- 14 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. So from your perspective, back in the 1990s in 15
- 16 Doha that as anybody doing ER/PR tests, any
- pathologists picking a block for that would 17
- know to be aware to pick the block with normal 18
- 19 tissue, normal breast, asini, in the block and
- look for the staining or non-staining of the 20
- internal controls back in the '90s? 21
- 22 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. I wouldn't say any pathologist. The way I 23
- look at it that if you are doing 24
- immunohistochemistry -25
- Page 262

- 1 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. If you're going to order -
- 3 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. If you are working with immunohistochemistry,
- then you needed to know this. 5
- 6 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Yes. 7
- 8 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. But a pathologist who doesn't work with it,
- then you see the sample, they simply look at a 10
- 11 section and give you a section that contains a
- lot of tumor and believe that you probably 12
- 13 would have the external control. But if your
- 14 formalin is not control, but on a different
- slide may not affect what is in the tumor bad, 15
- so the best thing is to have a second level of 16
- 17 control and that really is more critical for
- me, that even if the slide control is okay, 18
- 19 and internal control contained in a slide
- negative then that doesn't go because there's 20
- something wrong there. That's more critical 21
- 22 in evaluating the controls than the external
- 23 one.
- 24 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. So from your perspective--I'm sorry, go ahead, 25

- Commissioner.
- 2 COMMISSIONER:
- Q. I want to make sure I understand how many 3

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- levels of control there are. There's an 4
- 5 external control?
- 6 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. Yes, that's true, Commissioner.
- 8 COMMISSIONER:
- Q. And the slide you would have a piece of
 - material which you would choose as having been
- tumor? 11
- 12 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes.

10

16

- 14 COMMISSIONER:
- Q. And you would have a piece of normal tissue 15
 - taken from that same block?
- 17 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. No. It is one section.
- 19 COMMISSIONER:
- 20 Q. Um-hm.
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:
- 22 A. When you taken the section of the tumor, maybe
- two millimetre, when you section it, you 23
 - should (unintelligible) that tumor with normal
- 25 tissue both ways.
 - Page 264
- 1 THE COMMISSIONER:
 - Q. So, you have the piece of material, for want
 - of a better word, that you are looking at, you 3
 - are confident has on it both normal and -4
 - 5 DR. EJECKAM:
 - A. Tumor. 6
 - 7 COMMISSIONER:
 - O. normal material?
 - 9 DR. EJECKAM:
 - 10 A. Yes.
 - 11 COMMISSIONER:
 - Q. And material which you're trying to determine 12
 - 13 whether or not it is malignant?
 - 14 DR. EJECKAM:
 - A. Well, no, I would have notice malignant before 15
 - doing immunohistochemistry. 16
 - 17 COMMISSIONER:
 - Q. Okay, all right. 18
 - 19 DR. EJECKAM:
 - A. You look at HNE and that tell me it's 20
 - 21 malignant.
 - 22 COMMISSIONER:
 - Q. Okay. So you have something you know is 23
 - malignant? 24
 - 25 DR. EJECKAM:

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1 A. Yes.	Then when you havewhen you've satisfied
2 COMMISSIONER:	2 yourself that internal control is okay and
Q. Just looking atyou're right, yes, I wasn't	3 that the slide is okay, then that's when you
4 thinking. And you have attached to it normal	should go assessing the tumor for positivity
5 material?	5 or negativity.
6 DR. EJECKAM:	6 COMMISSIONER:
7 A. Yes.	7 Q. Okay. So you have external control, you have-
8 COMMISSIONER:	8 -which would be outside of the slide and
9 Q. And in addition you have on that same slide	9 within the slide you have -
something that you know should stain positive,	10 DR. EJECKAM:
11 correct?	11 A. Not outside the slide. Outside of the
12 DR. EJECKAM:	diagnosive tissue.
13 A. Yes, yes.	13 COMMISSIONER:
14 COMMISSIONER:	14 Q. External control?
15 Q. And you also have one that you know should	15 DR. EJECKAM:
stain negative?	16 A. Yeah. Let me put it this way.
17 DR. EJECKAM:	17 COFFEY, Q.C.:
18 A. Yes. But not all of them on the same slide.	18 Q. Sure.
I introduced having the positive control on	19 DR. EJECKAM:
20 the same test slide. Initially we used to	20 A. If that is slide.
have two slides, one is the diagnostic slide.	21 COMMISSIONER:
22 COMMISSIONER:	22 Q. Yeah.
23 Q. Yes.	23 DR. EJECKAM:
24 DR. EJECKAM:	A. Then you go from there to there. And I would
A. The patient slide. Then on the second slide	put the diagnosive tissue here.
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is the control. That is fine, but I found	1 COMMISSIONER:
that over a period in Doha, you may get a	2 Q. Um-hm.
better handle of the control by having both	3 DR. EJECKAM:
4 sections on the same slide, so it's that one	4 A. It has tumor and it has normal tissue.
slide goes through the same process.	5 COMMISSIONER:
6 COMMISSIONER:	6 Q. Yeah.
7 Q. Um-hm.	7 DR. EJECKAM:
8 DR. EJECKAM:	8 A. Then I put my control here, external control.
9 A. Then you're much more confident that they are	9 This is a piece of tissue that I know is
underthey went through under same	10 positive.
11 conditions. So what we are doing now is to	11 COMMISSIONER:
put the piece of tumor within that tumor and	12 Q. Okay.
the size of it to contain normal tissue.	13 DR. EJECKAM:
14 COMMISSIONER:	14 A. But they're all on the same slide.
15 Q. Um-hm.	15 MR. BROWNE:
16 DR. EJECKAM:	Q. Commissioner, I think the external control is
17 A. That is the diagnosive tissue. Then few	actually from another case, a known case of -
millimetres away there's another breast tissue	18 COMMISSIONER:
that is positive, we already know is positive	19 Q. I understand that.
for whatever we're trying to check out, then	20 MR. BROWNE:
21 that would beso when we put it under	21 Q. Okay.
100	22 COMMISSIONED.

23

24

Q. I'm just trying to figure out whether I'm

dealing with three controls or two controls.

22 COMMISSIONER:

25 DR. EJECKAM:

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microscope, you go through to the

(unintelligible) control is not on the section

of the tumor, look at it, then you go back to

the tumor and look for the internal control.

22

23

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	Page 269
1 A. Two controls, just two controls. The	slide is
2 there and that's the diagnosive tissue	e, the
3 tumor is there, and then this is not	rmal
4 (unintelligible) -	
5 COMMISSIONER:	
6 Q. Yes, and that's -	

- 7 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Then that -
- 9 COMMISSIONER:
- Q. what you call the secondary control, is it? 10
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah, this is secondary control or internal 12
- 13 control.
- 14 THE COMMISSIONER:
- o. Yeah. 15
- 16 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Then this is the external control. 17
- 18 THE COMMISSIONER:
- o. Yes.
- 20 DR. EJECKAM:
- 21 A. Which is not in this tissue, but on the same
- 22 slide.
- 23 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Okay.
- 25 DR. EJECKAM:

1 THE COMMISSIONER:

- Q. Went through exactly the same process as the
- tissue that you are trying to determine 3
 - whether or not is positive or negative?
- 5 DR. EJECKAM:

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2

- A. Yes, Commissioner.
- 7 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Thank you.
- 9 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And the purpose and the importance of that
- internal control is what, from your 11
- 12 perspective, you know, as a physician?
- 13 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. I think it is more critical for me than the 14
- external because it's within the tumor itself 15
 - and if it's negative, then it is difficult to
- interpret what is being stained on the tumor, 17
- so I think it's a critical portion of this 18
- 19 evaluation.
- 20 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 21 Q. And you've known that for many years, I take
- 22 it, long before you came to St. John's?
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes, yes.
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

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- A. Then I know this is positive.
- 2 THE COMMISSIONER:
- O. Yes, I understand that.
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. That if I need a negative control, I'll do the 5
- same thing, then I will put either on the same 6
- 7 known positive case, then I will do one of two
- things, I will mix the primary antibody. 8
- 9 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Okay. 10
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. But see if I do that, there'll be no reaction 12
- 13 or I will just take stain or something that I
- know is -14
- 15 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Is going to be negative.
- 17 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. React with ER/PR and put on another slide as a 18
- negative control. 19 20 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 21 Q. And the purpose of doing that is because that
- is the best way of ensuring that what you're 22
- looking at is your controls -23
- 24 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 25

- Q. And I take it then that that knowledge from 1
 - your perspective, any pathologist who was
- looking at interpreting an ER slide or a PR 3
- slide, interpreting it and making a report, 4
- 5
- should have that level of knowledge?
- 6 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Not necessarily. 7
- 8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Okay, well how much should they know?
- 11 A. Well they should be able to know that what is
- positive control nuclear stain, that is 12
- variable, they are able to evaluate it and 13
- then know that cytoplasmic stain is negative 14
- and they would be able to see what the 15
- background, but in terms of knowing that 16
- 17 internal control has to be positive or
- negative, it's something you acquire when you 18
- 19
- are a little bit more associated with the process. I am not going to quarrel with a
- colleague who doesn't do breasts all the time 21
- and who doesn't know this information. 22
- 23 COFFEY, Q.C.:

- Q. And the purpose in drafting paragraph 3 was, I 24
- take it to, for informational purposes to let 25

the pathologists throughout Newfoundland know 1

- that internal controls, usage of them in this 2
- context was a good idea? 3
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 5
- 6 COFFEY, O.C.:
 - Q. And was that information, other than being in
- your memo here, was that readily ascertainable 8
- from the literature?
- 10 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes. 11
- 12 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- O. And had it been so for awhile?
- 14 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. I don't know what they got in the books, but 15
- 16 most immunohistochemistry literature textbooks
- or those who do recite on this subject will 17
- recognize this. 18
- 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. Okay, and Doctor, if I could move on, you then 20
- talked about the relative positivity of PR and 21
- 22 ER for different or certain types of tumors or
- certain--well you do point out, I'm sorry, 23
- that carcinoma of the breast, most PR positive 24
- tumors are also ER positive, however ten 25
 - Page 274
 - percent of PR positive tumors are ER negative.
- 2 Those figures, that ten percent figure, you
- would have gotten that from where at the time? 3
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:

1

- A. Literature.
- 6 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. At the time.
- 8 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah.
- 10 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 11 Q. Then the reporting, Doctor, and you do then,
- you say for several formula are in the 12
- literature, what was your purpose in having 13
- this here, because the different categories 14
- for positive results, you've got ER positive 15
- greater or equal to five percent nuclear 16
- staining, ten percent of tumor staining, one 17
- percent shown to benefit. Why would you point 18
- 19 out the three of them and give this consensus
- statement? 20
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:

25

- A. My intention here was, like I said from the 22
- beginning, to provide information to my 23
- colleagues. They may have known this, so 24
 - probably wouldn't be necessary for them, but I

didn't know who knew that or who didn't know.

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- 2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And you got this information from where? 3
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. From the literature, Babb's.
- 6 COFFEY, Q.C.:
 - Q. Could you spell that please?
- 8 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. B-A-B-S.
- 10 COFFEY, O.C.:

13

- Q. Thank you. And then you point out that 11
- "higher staining intensity does not reflect 12
 - better results and this is a function of
- staining procedure and may alter all 14
- cytoplasmic staining in ER and PR immunostain 15
- 16 are to be considered as negative." I take it
- that's particular to ER and PR? 17
- 18 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah.
- 20 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Or one of the things that's -21
- 22 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. The nucleus stain.
- 24 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. And you were alerting people to this for
- informational purposes. 1
 - 2 DR. EJECKAM:
 - A. Yes. 3
 - 4 COFFEY, O.C.:
 - 5 Q. The idea that "higher staining intensity does
 - not reflect better results", what were you 6
 - 7 cautioning against there, Doctor?
 - 8 DR. EJECKAM:

12

- A. All the immunohistochemistry for breasts, you 9
- find a differentiates of positivity, so 10
- sometimes you have very dark nucleus, then 11
 - sometimes brown, sometimes faint and maybe if
- you're not familiar with this, somebody may be 13
- waiting to have very dark stain to call it 14
- 15
 - positive. So my, again, given information
- that it doesn't have to be that dark and that 16
- 17 being dark doesn't mean it's a better stain,
- all you need to do is to identify nuclear 18
- stain, that it crisp, it may be faint and in 19
- actual fact, you should not have a uniformed 20
- stain, you should have a variation of stain 21
- 22 because each of those cells is in a different
- stage of activity; therefore, they should not 23
- have uniformed dark stain. Some may be light, 24
 - some may be darker.

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	Page 277	\neg			Page 279	
1	COFFEY, Q.C.:	1			carcinoma and I know it ought to be positive	
2	Q. And then on the next page, Doctor, if I could,	2			and I find a negative, that helps me to say	
3	you list a number of ER positive tumors and	3			no, there's something going on here, but if I	
4	you've got four of them there and as well	4			didn't have that information, I may just let	
5	you've pointed out that lobular would be one	5	i		it go and say nothing as a result of the test.	
6	that would normally be included -	6	тн		OMMISSIONER:	
7	DR. EJECKAM:	7	,	Q.	Okay.	
8	A. Yes.	8			EY, Q.C.:	
9	COFFEY, Q.C.:	9			And, Doctor, just to finish this particular	
10	Q. And in fact, as you've pointed out, this was	10			memo, you've noted in paragraph 8, low grade	
11	not meant to be an exhaustive research paper	11			low nuclear grade tumors are usually positive	
12	at the time.	12			for ER/PR and negative for HER2/neu and you go	
13	DR. EJECKAM:	13	;		on about that. I take it was thiswhy was	
14	A. Right, right.	14			this here? Was this for the same purpose as	
15	COFFEY, Q.C.:	15	i		your reference in paragraph seven?	
16	Q. Why would you be pointing that out to the	16	DR	. EJ	ECKAM:	
17	pathologists, even listing any of them?	17	,	A.	Yes.	
18	You've listed four and you could have listed	18	СО	FFF	EY, Q.C.:	
19	five?	19)	Q.	Okay.	
20	DR. EJECKAM:	20	DR	. EJ	ECKAM:	
21	A. Well again, is process to give them	21		A.	Because the information that most of those	
22	information because if someone has tubular	22			listed on seven are low grade tumors anyway.	
23	carcinoma, for instance and the stain is	23	СО		EY, Q.C.:	
24	negative, like I say, you will look at HNE,	24		Q.	Doctor, in other places that you've worked, do	
25	many diagonals of malignancy anyways, this	25			people keep track of, the lab keep track or	
	Page 278	3			Page 280	
1	doesn't help you to make that judgment and if	1			the pathologist keep track of the ER and PR	
2	you see a tubular carcinoma with a low grade	2			positivity rates for different types of tumors	
3	malignancy, ought to be positive and then you	3			or just generally within the lab?	
4	find it negative, then you show, it really				ECKAM:	
5	doesn't, not controlled, thereby it probably	5			I don't understand the question.	
6	is time to have a consultation. So this	6			EY, Q.C.:	
1 7	again, process of -	1 7			Okay, and I apologize. In other laboratories	
8		8			where you have worked outside of St. John's -	
9	Q. With a view to doing what, a consultation with	9	DR		ECKAM:	
10	a view to doing what?	10			Yes.	
ı	DR. EJECKAM:				EY, Q.C.:	
12	A. To repeat the test, to repeat it. It could, a	12			Did they keep track of ER and PR positivity	
13	the end of the day, it may be negative but you	13			rates?	
14	have to satisfy yourself that that was a				ECKAM:	
15	spurious result.	15			I wouldn't know that.	
1	THE COMMISSIONER:				EY, Q.C.:	
17	Q. So in the process of doing what pathologists	17			Okay, so if they were doing it, they weren't	
18	do and assessing the results of your process,	18			letting you know.	
19	you had to think about the particular kind of				ECKAM:	
20	tumor you're dealing with and the likely	20			They would not send us any feedback on that,	
21	result, as well as what you see, is that	21			we just did the test and sent it to them to	
	micht?					

22

24

25

evaluate.

Q. Okay, and that was, I take it in Qatar as well, is what I'm asking you about, in Qatar

23 COFFEY, Q.C.:

A. Yes, it makes life easier if I know that, my

HNE says a tubular carcinoma, or lobular

22

24

25

right?

23 DR. EJECKAM:

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- you weren't keeping track of the statistics?
- 2 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. No, we would keep at the end of it, what our 3 own year, you can then do your statistics, but 4
- you don't keep track, I mean, the results are 5
- final and if you wanted to get them and do a 6
- statistics on them, then you can do that. 7
- 8 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Okay, and you'd do that, I take it, by 9
- accessing the computer system and -10
- 11 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yeah, and I would get a copy or go to the 12
- 13
- 14 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. And, Doctor, with respect to the reference in 15
- 16 paragraph one here, you referred to over and
- under fixation, is either of those types of 17
- fixation problem more associated with the 18
- 19 possibility of a false negative? Is either
- more apt or likely to give you a false 20
- negative if the tissues was -21
- 22 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Possibly over fixation.
- 24 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 25 Q. I'm sorry?

8 DR. EJECKAM: A. Yes.

there?

1 COFFEY, O.C.:

3

4

5

6

7

- 10 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 11 Q. And you say as a reference point, I take it as

Q. You were working there, okay. And so in effect I take it you're telling the

Commissioner, look, when you did get involved

technologists was they were happy to have you

in April of 2003, your experience with the

- a person that they could go to and to talk to? 12
- 13 DR. EJECKAM:
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. About any concerns that they would have?
- 17 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Yes, that's what happened.
- 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
- Q. What--did they give you any understanding 20
- about what the state of affairs had been 21
- 22 before you got involved in that regard?
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Well really they just said that they didn't 24 25
 - have anybody to go to to iron out problems,

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- 1 DR. EJECKAM:
- A. Possibly over fixation might be, but again, 2
- like I said, it's probably no more a problem 3
- with a proper antigen retrieval. 4
- 5 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. With respect to the technologist at the time 6
- 7 in 2003, at the time you were, in April and
- 8 May when you were involved in this in the
- beginning, trying to fix or address the 9
- concerns, did the technologists express any 10
- 11 concerns to you about IHC in general, ER/PR,
- particular IHC in general? 12
- 13 DR. EJECKAM:
- 14 A. The only concern that I could remember that
- when I came into help, they expressed 15
- happiness that someone, they have a reference 16
- 17 point, but besides that, I mean, I am not
- aware of any other difficulties they were 18
- 19 getting.
- 20 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 21 Q. Okay, and how about afterward, did they ever
- 22 come back to you expressing concerns?
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- 24 A. There was no need for it because I was already working with them. 25

- some were blaming, bringing out problems of 1 2 the stains.
 - 3 COFFEY, Q.C.:

5

- Q. In your experience with the technologists in 4
 - St. John's, well as you've pointed out, your
- sense was they were happy to see you. How 6
- about as time went on, what was your sense of 7
- 8 how willing they were to learn, how interested
- they were? 9
- 10 DR. EJECKAM:
- 11 A. I think they were willing to learn, the
- problem was that they probably had a lot of 12
- other things to do, so, you know, if you 13
- wanted to review cases with them, they 14
- probably had one that they were going to do 15
- 16
 - gross, but when they got (unintelligible) they
- 17 were quite happy, they were quite upfront
- about it. 18
- 19 COFFEY, Q.C.:

22

- Q. If we can look, please, at page 5 of exhibit 20
- P-0113, this is a memo to Terry Gulliver from 21
 - yourself and you initialled it. The subject
- is "Immunohistochemical Stains at the Health 23
- 24 Sciences Centre". It's dated June 19th, 2003
 - and this goes on for three pages, you've

9

10

- signed it, actually your full name this time,
- and it's copied to Dr. Desmond Robb who is the
- chair discipline of Laboratory Medicine; Dr.
- 4 D. Cook, clinical chief and site chief, St.
- 5 Clare's; Dr. S. Parai, site chief at the
- Julia C. C. A. D. D.
- 6 Health Sciences Centre and to Barry Dyer, the
- 7 manager of histopathology. And, Doctor, how
- 8 is that that you--or why did you come to write
- 9 this memo?
- 10 DR. EJECKAM:
- 11 A. I did this because after working with a
- technologist and trying to get some good
- stains and I still realized that we don't have
- an optimal condition and to have optimal
- 15 condition would be to move the
- immunohistochemistry into a different room,
- have dedicated staff and then have a number of
- them that would need to -
- 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
- 20 Q. Are listed here, yes.
- 21 DR. EJECKAM:
- 22 A. Yeah, so that was the reason. I mean, I was
- just trying to ensure that we recognize even
- 24 though we're getting some good stains that
- 25 this is not optimal and that we need to look
 - Page 286
- at the future and look at what we have and
 - work to improve and make sure we have optimal
- 3 condition.
- 4 COFFEY, Q.C.:

2

- 5 Q. By this point, by June 19th 2003, the other
- 6 six stains that are referred to in your April
- 4th memo, had the concerns with them been
- 8 addressed by that point?
- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- 10 A. Oh yeah, oh yeah.
- 11 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 12 Q. By the time you came to write the June 19th
- one, the immediate problem of the eight stains
- was addressed?
- 15 DR. EJECKAM:
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- Q. Did anyone ask you to write this?
- 19 DR. EJECKAM:
- 20 A. No.
- 21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 22 Q. Okay. So it was your idea?
- 23 DR. EJECKAM:
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

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 e, 1 Q. Having written it, did you ever get any
 - feedback or anybody ever ask you about it?
 - 3 Any response?
 - 4 DR. EJECKAM:
 - 5 A. Not in terms of written feedback, but I
 - 6 remember after some days when I didn't get any
 - reply, I ran into Dr. Robb in the corridor and
 - 8 I asked him if he got the letter. He said
 - "yes, I got it, and I think it was a good
 - letter" and that he was going to have a
 - meeting. Unfortunately, he was ill and went
 - off in January for surgery and didn't make it
 - back, and then also the same process with
 - 14 Terry. I saw him in the lab and said "did you
 - get a letter?" He said "yes" and he told me
 - "I'm going to reply to you" and that was the
 - follow up that I had and that was all the
 - response that I got from this.
 - 19 COFFEY, O.C.:
 - $\,$ 20 $\,$ Q. So that was--so you spoke to $\,$ Dr. Robb and as
 - you just pointed out, he was going to get back
 - 22 to you. Dr. Robb unfortunately was ill and
 - got iller and I gather died shortly
 - thereafter.
 - 25 DR. EJECKAM:
 - d 1 A. Yeah.

24

- 2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 3 Q. And you also spoke to Mr. Gulliver?
- 4 DR. EJECKAM:
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 7 Q. And he said he expected to act upon it and he
- 8 would get back to you?
- 9 DR. EJECKAM:
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 12 Q. And that was the last you heard from him about
- 13 it?
- 14 DR. EJECKAM:
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 COFFEY, Q.C.:
- 17 Q. Did you ever hear from anybody else about it?
- 18 DR. EJECKAM:
- 19 A. No. Well, I know--I think Dr. Don Cook may
- 20 have discussed it, but not written
- 21 communication.
- 22 COFFEY, Q.C.:

25

- 23 Q. Anyone--and I appreciate it's not addressed to
- the VP Medical, Dr. Williams or anybody else
 - in the administration, did you ever speak to

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anybody in the administration about it?	1 And thennow Doctor, in this first
2 DR. EJECKAM:	2 meeting, was there a concern about the
3 A. No.	reporting format for ER and PR receptors?
4 COFFEY, Q.C.:	4 DR. EJECKAM:
5 Q. Why not?	5 A. I think it was a discussion about when to do
6 DR. EJECKAM:	6 it and then how to report it.
7 A. I didn't think it was necessary. I don't	7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
8 report to them directly, so I made my memo to	8 Q. Okay, so when to do ER/PR?
9 the authorities looking after the laboratory.	9 DR. EJECKAM:
If they needed to go to the VP, it's their	10 A. Yeah.
decision to make, not mine.	11 COFFEY, Q.C.:
12 COFFEY, Q.C.:	12 Q. Order it?
Q. Now if we could, before we conclude for the	13 DR. EJECKAM:
day, Exhibit P-1572? I'm going to come back	14 A. Yeah.
to that memo, Doctor. I'll take it up in the	15 COFFEY, Q.C.:
morning, but there's a couple of things I	16 Q. And I take it so at that point in time, even
would like to attend to first. This is a	as late as April of '03, was the request for
report of the minutes of a surgical pathology	ER and PR tests on breast cancer automatic or
review committee meeting of April 15th 2003.	not at that time?
In fact, we have the agenda for it. Present	20 DR. EJECKAM:
are yourself, Dr. Badcock, Dr. Dawson, Parai,	21 A. I can't be sure of the dates, but I know that
Siddiqui, and Theresa Curtis, the secretary,	normally the pathologists, if you received a
and apologies from Dr. Thavanathan.	breast cancer case, you automatically fill out
24 DR. EJECKAM:	24 the request to the laboratory,
25 A. Thavanathan.	immunohistochemistry laboratory for ER/PR.
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1 COFFEY, Q.C.:	But occasionally you get a request from the
2 Q. Thavanathan, yes, I'm sorry. And Dr. Kwan.	2 oncologist sometimes, especially patients that
3 It's stamped Vice President, August 11th 2003,	have been done elsewhere.
4 Medical Services, and that would be presumably	4 COFFEY, Q.C.:
the received by Vice President's office, and	5 Q. Oh, okay.
6 then it's handwritten out here to the side and	6 DR. EJECKAM:
dated September 2nd, 2003. I gather it's a	7 A. They would fill out a form and send it to the
8 note from Dr. Williams. But this under	8 laboratory.
business arising, well, it says "call to	9 COFFEY, Q.C.:
order. The first meeting of the surgical	10 Q. So it was agreed then, I take it, at this
pathology review committee was called to order	meeting that ER and PR receptors would be done
by Dr. G. Ejeckam at 2:10 p.m. on April 15th.	on all breast surgery cases?
Business arising, terms of reference: (a)	13 DR. EJECKAM:
14 standardized reporting of pathology	14 A. Yes.
15 specimens."	15 COFFEY, Q.C.:
16 And you've written here, "Dr. Ejeckam	16 Q. Pathologists would just do it routinely?
asked the members for input for standardized	17 DR. EJECKAM:
reporting of pathology specimens. After much	18 A. Yeah, you didn't have to wait for any more
discussion, it was agreed that the ER and PR	requests or anything. Once you have a case of
20 receptors be done automatically on breast	breast cancer, part of the report has to be
21 surgery cases. Since HER2neu testing is	21 ER/PR findings.
22 expensive and only done when requested, it is	22 COFFEY, Q.C.:
23 suggested it should be performed automatically	23 Q. The clinical information, "Dr. G. Ejeckam
25 Suggested it should be performed automatically	2. The eninear information, Dr. O. Djeckam

24

25

circulated a form listing ten requirements a

properly completed specimen requisition form

of the breast."

on patients with a past history of carcinoma

24

25

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	Page 293		Page 295
should include, and all members agree			deal with the technologists related to this
2 requirements would benefit the clinic			R/PR matter initially, what was, from your
3 pathologist for improved patient care.		_	erspective, their relative state of knowledge
4 take it this is the opening in the effort			oncerning immunohistochemistry and in
5 long campaign to get people to fill o	out the 5	_	articular, ER/PR, but immunohistochemistry
6 forms properly?	6	_	enerally? Compared to, for example, Qatar
7 DR. EJECKAM:	7		here you had just comespent more than a
8 A. Yeah.	8	do	ozen years.
9 COFFEY, Q.C.:	9	DR. EJEC	CKAM:
10 Q. Okay, and if we could, please, Comn			'ell, they were doing their stains okay. In
paragraph three, new business, "3.1 E			is type of process, it's a continual effort
PR receptors. Dr. G. Ejeckam stated			understand the system and to be able to
and PR receptors are not being perfor			publeshoot if there's any problem. It
the next six weeks due to a technical j	problem. 14		quires reading. We are trying to get them
15 If a solution cannot be found, these	tests 15	bo	ooks, and I let them borrow my book, but
will be sent outside St. John's. He sta	ited it 16		ter on, we had to order textbook for them,
is being considered to send one or		m	uch later. So you know, they have a
technologists to Halifax or Toronto	o for 18		asonable knowledge for what they are doing,
19 training." So I take it that as of mid A	_	bu	t that doesn't mean that they wouldn't
20 this was just a note you were tell	ling 20	be	enefit from improving their knowledge.
21 everybody at your meeting -	21	COFFEY,	, Q.C.:
22 DR. EJECKAM:	22		nd in 2003, was there an effort to get them
23 A. Yes.	23	se	nt to another lab?
24 COFFEY, Q.C.:	24	DR. EJEC	
25 Q what was going on, was in your A	pril 4th 25	A. Th	nat's when I suggested they could goI
	Page 294		Page 296
1 memo, because some of the people	e at the		scussed it with Don and they could go to
2 meeting are not pathologists?	2	eit	ther Toronto or Halifax or Montreal, but I
3 DR. EJECKAM:	3	do	on't think they were able to go then for
4 A. Oh yes.	4	pr	obably budget problem or, I don't know, and
5 COFFEY, Q.C.:	5	th	e work process. They were probably short
6 Q. A number of them aren't, so you hav	ve to tell 6	sta	affed, but I don't know the details of that.
7 them that. The technologists, by mid	l April, 7	COFFEY,	
8 did you think there was a need for		Q. O	kay, so at that time anyway, your memory is
9 technologists to have special training	? 9	th	ey didn't get to go then?
10 DR. EJECKAM:	10	DR. EJEC	CKAM:
11 A. Yes, I mean, the people who are	doing 11	A. No	o, no.
immunohistochemistry, if there's a cl	hance of 12	COFFEY,	, Q.C.:
possibly to go to a bigger laboratory t	that has 13	Q. O	kay. If we could, tomorrow morning,
1	1 T	~	

14 more volume, that would be helpful. It

15 doesn't mean they are not doing good job, but 16

it's good to see what other people are doing.

17 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. So I take it, as you described, is in fact 18 19 what happened in Qatar? You sent people to Florida?

20

21 DR. EJECKAM:

22 A. Yeah, yeah, I sent to Florida to have a look at a bigger set up. 23

24 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Your observation in early 2003 when you began 25

Commissioner. 14

15 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Okay. 16

17 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Thank you. 18

19 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. We'll adjourn until 9:30 in the morning. 20

21 Thank you.

	1
702 [3] 169:3 187:11	1
188:24	1
'03 [7] 187:11 214:4 226:2,6 234:18 252:21	1
291:17	1
'05 [9] 77:17 88:5 91:15 104:23 113:8 114:9	1
119:15 122:6,9	1
'06 [3] 101:22 104:7 113:10	1
'07 [2] 104:5 124:24	1
'70s [1] 157:21	1 1
'73 [1] 132:4	1
'80s [2] 157:21,21	1
'83 [1] 159:14 '89 [1] 158:8	1
'90s [4] 158:10 175:18	1
260:8 261:21 'doing [1] 114:17	1
	1
	1
-there's [1] 169:21	1
-was [1] 226:11 -well [1] 179:20	
-which [1] 267:8	1
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