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Amy Velez et al. v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

Keywords

Amy Velez et al., Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, 04 civ. 9194, Sex, Female, Hostile Work Environment, Disparate Treatment, Termination, Constructive Discharge, Conditions of Employment, Healthcare, Employment Law, Title VII

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**AMY VELEZ, PENNI ZELINKOFF, MINEL
HIDER TOBERTGA, MICHELLE
WILLIAMS, JENNIFER WAXMAN-RECHT,
KAREN LIGGINS, LORI HORTON, HOLLY
WATERS, WENDY PINSON, ROBERTA
VONLINTEL, CATHERINE WHITE, KELLY
CORBETT, JAMIE HOLLAND, JOAN
DURKIN, SIMONA LOPES, MARYANNE
JACOBY, and MARTA DEYNE,**

**Individually and on Behalf of Others Similarly
Situated,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

**NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS
CORPORATION,**

Defendant.

04 Civ. 9194 (CM)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. Introduction.....	1
II. Definitions.....	1
III. Nature and Resolution of this Case.....	7
IV. Mutual Full Cooperation.....	10
V. Releases.....	10
VI. Total Settlement Amount.....	12
VII. Programmatic Relief.....	12
VIII. Settlement Fund.....	34
IX. Attorneys Fees and Expenses, Administrative Expenses and Service Award Payments.....	37
X. Individual Monetary Payments to Settlement Class Members and Claims Process.....	41
XI. Novartis's Right to Withdraw or Modify the Agreement.....	57
XII. Duties of the Parties Prior to Court Approval.....	58
XIII. Duties of the Parties Following Final Court Approval.....	59
XIV. Parties' Authority.....	60
XV. Notices.....	61
XVI. Confidentiality and Public Comment.....	61
XVII. Modification.....	63
XVIII. Entire Agreement.....	64
XIX. Interpretation.....	64
XX. Choice of Law and jurisdiction.....	64
XXI. Counterparts.....	65
XXII. Voiding the Agreement.....	65

I. INTRODUCTION

Subject to approval by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”), this Settlement Agreement and Release (“Settlement Agreement,” “Settlement” or “Agreement”) sets forth the full and final terms by which the Class Representatives Amy Velez, Penni Zelinkoff, Minel Hider Tobertga, Michelle Williams, Jennifer Waxman-Recht, Karen Liggins, Lori Horton, Holly Waters, Wendy Pinson, Roberta Vonlintel, Catherine White, Kelly Corbett, Jamie Holland, Joan Durkin, Simona Lopes, Maryanne Jacoby and Marta Deyne (collectively “Class Representatives” or “Named Plaintiffs”), on behalf of a settlement class of themselves and current and former female sales force employees of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (“Novartis,” “Defendant,” or “Company”) (collectively, the “Settlement Class”), represented by their attorneys, Sanford Wittels & Heisler, LLP and the Law Offices of Grant E. Morris, and Defendant Novartis, represented by its attorneys Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, Vedder Price and Kaye Scholer LLP (collectively, “Counsel for Novartis” or “Counsel for Defendant”), have settled and resolved all claims that have been raised or could have been raised in the litigation captioned Velez, et al. v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Case No. 04 Civ. 9194, before District Judge Colleen McMahon in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Civil Action”).

II. DEFINITIONS

The terms described below shall have the meanings defined in this Section wherever used in this Agreement, and for the purposes of this Agreement only, including in all of its Exhibits and the Notice of Class Action Settlement.

2.1 “Settlement Agreement” or “Agreement” means this Agreement and all Exhibits attached hereto.

2.2 The “Civil Action” means the litigation captioned Velez, et al. v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Case No. 04 Civ. 9194, before Judge Colleen McMahon in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

2.3 “Claimant” for compensatory damages means a Proposed Settlement Class Member who has submitted a Claim Form for review by the Claims Adjudicator.

2.4 “Claims Administrator” means the Claims Administrator appointed by the Court.

2.5 “Claims Adjudicator” means the Claims Adjudicator appointed by the Court.

2.6 “Claim Form” means the form attached hereto as Exhibit B. The Claim Form shall be attached to the Notice of Class Action Settlement and must be submitted by Proposed Settlement Class Members to the Claims Administrator as part of the claims process of this Settlement pursuant to Section X. Unless otherwise noted, the definition of “Claim Form” is inclusive of the Rider attached to the Claim Form.

2.7 “Class Counsel” means the law firm of Sanford Wittels & Heisler, LLP.

2.8 “Class Representatives” or “Named Plaintiffs” means Amy Velez, Penni Zelinkoff, Minel Hider Tobertga, Michelle Williams, Jennifer Waxman-Recht, Karen Liggins, Lori Horton, Holly Waters, Wendy Pinson, Roberta Vonlintel, Catherine White, Kelly Corbett, Jamie Holland, Joan Durkin, Simona Lopes, Maryanne Jacoby and Marta Deyne.

2.9 “Counsel for Novartis” or “Counsel for Defendant” means the law firms of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, Vedder Price, and Kaye Scholer LLP.

2.10 The “Court” means the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

2.11 “Defendant”, the “Company” or “Novartis” means Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

2.12 “Effective Date” means the date upon which all of the following have occurred: (1) entry of an order by the Court certifying the Settlement Class; (2) entry of an order or orders by the Court granting Final Approval to the Agreement, approving the amount of attorneys’ fees and costs and dismissing the Civil Action with prejudice; (3) the period for Novartis to withdraw from the Agreement pursuant to Section XI has expired (i.e., 30 calendar days from the Claims Administrator’s receipt of all timely and complete requests for exclusion submitted by a Class Representative and/or Proposed Settlement Class Member), and (4) the time for appeal has expired and/or if an appeal is taken, the appeal results in affirmance of the Court’s Final Approval Order of the Settlement Agreement.

2.13 “Eligible Claimant” for compensatory damages means a Claimant who has submitted a timely and complete Claim Form to the Claims Administrator for review by the Claims Adjudicator.

2.14 “Final Approval Date” or “Final Approval” means the date of entry by the Court of the Final Approval Order for this Settlement.

2.15 “Medical Professional” means a physician or clinical psychologist.

2.16 “Notice of Class Action Settlement” means the notice attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Notice of Class Action Settlement shall be provided to the Settlement Class in accordance with Section X.D.

2.17 “Parties” means the Class Representatives and Defendant.

2.18 “Preliminary Approval Date” means the date of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order.

2.19 “Preliminary Approval Order” means the Order entered by the Court preliminarily approving the terms of this Agreement, certifying the Settlement Class, and preliminarily approving the payment of attorneys’ fees, attorneys’ costs and the Service Award Payments, as described in this Agreement, scheduling a “Final Fairness Hearing”, and directing the mailing to the Settlement Class of the Notice of Class Action Settlement.

2.20 “Released Claims” means any and all past or present claims or causes of action (including any suits, petitions, demands or other claims in law, equity or arbitration), and any and all allegations of liability or damages, of whatever kind, nature or description, direct or indirect, in law, equity or arbitration, absolute or contingent, whether class or individual in nature, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, asserted or unasserted, for monetary and non-monetary relief (including without limitation attorneys’ fees, costs or disbursements incurred by the Class Representatives and/or Proposed Settlement Class Members or their counsel in connection with or related to the Civil Action), that were or could have been asserted by the Class Representatives and/or Proposed Settlement Class Members against Novartis, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors and/or assigns and in the case of all such entities, their respective past and present owners, representatives, officers, directors, attorneys, agents, employees,

privies and insurers (collectively defined as the “Released Parties”), based upon or arising out of the same events, transactions, series of connected transactions, occurrences or nucleus of operative facts that form the basis of the claims that were or could have been asserted in the Civil Action, including any and all claims asserted in the original and subsequently amended complaints filed in the Civil Action. This Release includes all claims based upon or arising out of the conduct alleged in the Complaint (including all Amended Complaints) or within the trial record. This Release includes any and all past or present claims or causes of action (including any suits, petitions, demands or other claims in law, equity or arbitration), and any and all allegations of liability or damages, of whatever kind, nature or description, direct or indirect, in law, equity or arbitration, absolute or contingent, whether class or individual in nature, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, asserted or unasserted, for monetary and non-monetary relief (including without limitation attorneys’ fees, costs or disbursements incurred by the Class Representatives and/or Proposed Settlement Class Members or their counsel in connection with the Civil Action), that were or could have been asserted by the Class Representatives and Proposed Settlement Class Members against the Released Parties based upon, or arising in any way out of the litigation of the Civil Action or the jury verdict, provided however that nothing contained herein shall prevent any Party to this Settlement Agreement from initiating a legal action to enforce any term or provision of this Settlement Agreement. Specifically included in this release are any and all claims, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, that were or could have been asserted in the Civil Action, including but not limited to, claims of alleged employment discrimination, sexual harassment claims, hostile work environment claims or benefits claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act

of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 1981a, and any other applicable federal, state, or local statutes, common law, or regulation. Furthermore, this Release includes all claims for monetary damages, injunctive, declaratory or equitable relief, and costs and attorneys' fees, whether arising under Title VII, Section 1981a or under any other federal, state, local or common laws or regulations arising out of the same transactions, series of connected transactions, occurrences or nucleus of operative facts that form the basis of the claims, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, that were or could have been asserted in the Civil Action. This Release does not include or cover any actions or omissions occurring after the Preliminary Approval Date, nor does it include or cover any claims stemming from any certified class action, other than this Civil Action, of which the individual is already a member either by virtue of opting-in under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) or because the class is certified under Rule 23(b)(2) and/or Rule 23(b)(3).

2.21 The "Settlement Class" means a class certified by the Court for settlement purposes pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and (b)(3) consisting of all women who are currently holding, or have held, a sales-related position of Sales Representatives, Sales Consultants, Senior Sales Consultants, Executive Sales Consultants, Sales Associates, Sales Specialists, Senior Sales Specialists or District Managers I with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, from the start of the class period, July 15, 2002, through the Preliminary Approval Date (together the "Proposed Settlement Class Members" or "Settlement Class Members" and each a "Proposed Settlement Class Member" or "Settlement Class Member"), excluding individuals who entered into individual releases as part of individual agreements with Novartis up to the Preliminary Approval Date that did not carve out an exception for this Civil Action.

2.22 The “Settlement Class Period” shall be defined as July 15, 2002 through the Preliminary Approval Date.

2.23 “Unknown Claims” means any and all Released Claims which any Named Plaintiff or Proposed Settlement Class Member does not know or suspect to exist in her favor at the time of the release of the Released Parties, which if known by her might have affected her decision(s) with respect to the Settlement. With respect to any and all Released Claims, the Parties stipulate and agree that upon the Effective Date, the Named Plaintiffs shall expressly waive, and each Proposed Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to have waived, and by operation of the Final Approval Order shall have expressly waived, any and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to Cal. Civ. Code § 1542, which provides:

“A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.”

The Parties acknowledge, and all other Proposed Settlement Class Members by operation of law shall be deemed to have acknowledged, that the inclusion of “Unknown Claims” in the definition of Released Claims was separately bargained for and was a key element of the Settlement.

III. NATURE AND RESOLUTION OF THIS CASE

3.1 On November 19, 2004, Class Representatives Amy Velez and four other women filed a Class Action Complaint against Novartis Corporation and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, on behalf of themselves and a nationwide class of female sales force employees

of Novartis under Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000(e) et seq. An additional thirteen women were subsequently added as Class Representatives. The Class Representatives filed their Second Amended Class Action Complaint on June 3, 2005, their Third Amended Class Action Complaint on September 9, 2005 and their Fourth Amended Class Action Complaint on March 13, 2006.

3.2 On January 16, 2007, the Class Representatives filed their Motion to Certify a Class. Novartis submitted a brief in opposition to class certification on March 22, 2007. On July 31, 2007, the Court certified a class action pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2). On August 16, 2007, the Court issued an Amended Opinion and Order, and issued notice of court approval of class certification on December 7, 2007. The notice was addressed to all women who were employed in certain sales-related positions with Novartis in the period between July 15, 2002, and November 30, 2007.

3.3 A jury trial commenced on April 7, 2010. The jury delivered a verdict on behalf of Plaintiffs on all counts and awarded compensatory and punitive damages. The trial concluded on May 19, 2010, with equitable relief and non-monetary relief to be ordered by the Court at a later date.

3.4 The Parties agree that the settlement described in this Agreement is fair, reasonable and adequate. Class Counsel and the Class Representatives represent that the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement is the product of vigorous and lengthy negotiations and serves the best interest of the Proposed Settlement Class based on all the facts and circumstances because it provides certain, prompt and extensive relief for the Proposed Settlement Class and avoids the risk of future litigation.

3.5 It is the intention of the Parties to fully, finally, and forever settle, compromise, and discharge all disputes and claims of the Proposed Settlement Class, whether asserted or unasserted, based on, arising from or related in any way to the Civil Action.

3.6 It is the intention of the Parties that this Agreement shall constitute a full and complete settlement and release of all claims of the Proposed Settlement Class against the Defendant that were or could have been asserted as based on or arising from the Civil Action, and that the Civil Action shall be dismissed with prejudice.

3.7 Defendant denies all claims as to liability, wrongdoing, damages, penalties, interest, fees, injunctive relief and all other forms of relief, as well as the class allegations asserted in the Civil Action. Defendant has agreed to resolve the Civil Action in this Agreement, but to the extent this Agreement is deemed void or the Effective Date does not occur, Defendant does not waive, but rather expressly reserves, all rights to challenge any and all claims and allegations asserted by the Class Representatives in the Civil Action upon all procedural and substantive grounds, including, without limitation, the ability to challenge class action treatment on any grounds and to assert any and all potential defenses or privileges. The Class Representatives and Class Counsel agree that Defendant retains and reserves these rights, and they agree not to take a position to the contrary. Specifically, the Class Representatives and Class Counsel agree that, if the Civil Action were to proceed, they will not present any argument based on this Settlement or Settlement Agreement, or any exhibit, attachment, act performed or document executed pursuant to this Settlement or this Agreement. Additionally, neither the Agreement nor the Settlement, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to, or in furtherance of, the Agreement or the

Settlement: (a) is or may be deemed to be or may be used as an admission or evidence of the validity of any Released Claim, or of any wrongdoing or liability of the Released Parties, or any of them; or (b) is or may be deemed to be or may be used as an admission or evidence of any fault or omission of the Released Parties, or any of them, in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency or other tribunal.

3.8 Neither this Agreement nor anything in it, nor any part of the negotiations that occurred in connection with the creation of this Settlement, shall constitute evidence with respect to any issue or dispute in any lawsuit, legal proceeding or administrative proceeding, except for legal proceedings concerning the enforcement or interpretation of this Agreement.

IV. MUTUAL FULL COOPERATION

4.1 The Parties agree that they will fully cooperate with each other to effectuate and implement all terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement, and exercise good faith efforts to accomplish the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

V. RELEASES

5.1 Upon the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement, in consideration for the agreements by the Parties and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, all Named Plaintiffs and each and every member of the Proposed Settlement Class, on behalf of themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, predecessors, successors and assigns shall hereby release, remise and forever discharge the Released Parties (as defined above) from each and every Released Claim (as defined in Paragraph 2.20 above), and shall forever be barred and enjoined from initiating, continuing, filing or otherwise prosecuting any Released Claim against any of the

Released Parties and their counsel, whether or not the claims of the Proposed Settlement Class Members have been approved, allowed, substantiated or rejected. Unless a Named Plaintiff or Proposed Settlement Class Member opts out of the Settlement pursuant to Paragraph 10.28 below, this Release shall apply whether or not such individual has executed and delivered a Claim Form or otherwise actively participated in the Settlement.

5.2 Every Proposed Settlement Class Member, as defined above (except for those who opt out pursuant to Paragraph 10.28 below), shall be deemed to and shall have knowingly and voluntarily waived, released, discharged and dismissed the Released Claims, with full knowledge of any and all rights they may have, and they hereby assume the risk of any mistake in fact in connection with the true facts involved, or with regard to any facts which are now unknown to them.

5.3 The Parties and Proposed Settlement Class Members acknowledge that the covenants and promises made by Novartis herein constitute adequate consideration in exchange for the Released Claims.

5.4 Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed to bar any claims of Proposed Settlement Class Members or the Class Representatives based on or arising out of events occurring after the Preliminary Approval Date by the Court of the Settlement Agreement. Nor shall anything in this Settlement Agreement be construed to bar any claims of Proposed Settlement Class Members or the Class Representatives based on or arising out of claims in any certified class action, other than this Civil Action, of which the individual is already a member either by virtue of opting-in under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) or because the class is certified under Rule 23(b)(2) and/or Rule 23(b)(3).

VI. TOTAL SETTLEMENT AMOUNT

6.1 The “Total Settlement Amount,” in full and complete satisfaction of all Released Claims, shall be up to \$175,000,000.00 in monetary and non-monetary relief, comprised of a cash payment of up to \$152,500,000.00 (the “Settlement Fund”) and programmatic non-monetary relief, described in Section VII, valued at \$22,500,000.00.

6.2 Subject to Court approval, the Settlement Fund will be provided to the Claims Administrator to be distributed as described in Sections VIII, IX and X of this Agreement.

VII. PROGRAMMATIC RELIEF

7.1 The programmatic relief described in this Section will be effective immediately upon the Effective Date and shall remain binding on the Parties and their agents and successors for a three-year period following the Effective Date or until the Court determines that Novartis is in compliance with the programmatic relief in this Section.

7.2 Novartis will substantially comply with the programmatic relief described in this Section within one (1) year of the Effective Date.

7.3 The monitoring period for the relief described in this Section, with reporting to Class Counsel and the Compliance Master as described below in Section VII.H will be three (3) years from the Effective Date, and with the first report due one (1) year following the Effective Date.

7.4 If Novartis’s compliance is satisfactory to the Court, Novartis’s obligations with respect to the programmatic relief described in this Section will end upon the Court’s order.

7.5 The terms of the programmatic relief described in this Section will be subject to good-faith negotiation between the Parties, should there be a legitimate business

reason to modify those terms. No substantive modification may be made to the terms of this Section absent approval by the Court.

7.6 Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require or permit any party to the Agreement, or agent thereof, to disclose Novartis's confidential personnel information.

7.7 Novartis agrees to take the actions described in this Section with respect to employees who hold positions as Sales Representatives, Sales Consultants, Senior Sales Consultants, Executive Sales Consultants, Sales Associates, Sales Specialists, Senior Sales Specialists, and District Managers I.

A. Proactive Equal Employment Opportunity Measures.

7.8 Novartis will take the following actions regarding the following aspects of the field force employment experience:

(i) Novartis will include, as part of its bi-annual employee engagement survey (or a separate add-on for employees in jobs covered by this Agreement) conducted anonymously by an outside survey provider, questions about work-life balance, including questions concerning the comfort level that employees have in using pregnancy leave, job share policies and the sexual harassment policy regarding inappropriate sexual behavior or comments by physician customers, as well as the attitudes employees have observed management expressing regarding maternity leave and job share policies. This survey, which is conducted by a well-known third-party specialist, is next scheduled for the second calendar quarter of 2011.

(ii) **Sexual Harassment Policy and Training:** Novartis will prepare and circulate a sexual harassment policy that will cover inappropriate conduct by employees and physician customers and will make clear that Novartis does not tolerate inappropriate sexual behavior or comments by physician customers. Novartis will conduct annual

training on this policy, which includes guidance to the field force regarding how to respond if faced with inappropriate sexual behavior, as well as direction to employees to report such conduct for investigation and remedial action. The bi-annual survey described in Paragraph 7.8(i) will elicit feedback from all Novartis employees regarding whether they understand the policy and would be comfortable reporting inappropriate conduct under this policy.

7.9 Novartis will track the trends in response to the survey described in Paragraph 7.8(i). With respect to Paragraph 7.8(ii), Novartis will continue its zero tolerance policy of permanently removing any physician who was the subject of a substantiated employee complaint for conduct constituting sexual harassment from both the target calling list and the incentive goals for all sales representatives.

7.10 Novartis will report the results of the bi-annual survey described in Paragraph 7.8(i) to the Compliance Committee (whose membership includes the Vice President of Ethics and Compliance, President of Novartis, and the Heads of several different departments and Business Units) and that Committee will make recommendations, where needed, to remedy as soon as practicable any gender-related problems affecting employees covered by this Agreement and evidenced in the survey. Those recommendations, along with the survey responses and the trends over the years, will be delivered on a bi-annual basis. In addition, Novartis will provide a brief summary to Class Counsel of any action taken by the Compliance Committee to remedy the problems discussed above.

B. Responses to Complaints of Discrimination.

7.11 Within nine months following the Effective Date of this Agreement, Novartis will increase the size of both the Human Resources Business Partners staff and the

Employee Relations and Human Resources Compliance Group (“Employee Relations” or the “Employee Relations Group”), which is designated to respond to and investigate complaints of discrimination.

(i) The ratio of each Employee Relations investigator to number of employees can be no less than 1 investigator-to-1000 employees, in line with external best practices benchmarks (2009 Corporate Leadership Council).

(ii) The ratio of each Human Resources Business Partner to number of employees can be no less than 1 Partner -to-210 employees, in line with external best practices benchmarks (2009 Corporate Leadership Council).

(iii) The Head of Employee Relations responsible for overseeing all investigations regarding complaints of discrimination must report directly to the Vice President of Human Resources.

7.12 Novartis will revise the policies and processes regarding its investigation into discrimination as follows:

(i) An additional resource for reporting complaints will be established. Novartis will institute a new “hotline” specific to Employee Relations complaints that would be directed immediately to Novartis’s Head of Employee Relations, with a copy to the Business Practices Officer (“BPO”) for tracking and formal assignment of investigative authority.

(ii) Novartis will communicate to employees its policy that requires all employees to immediately report—to the BPO, Employee Relations Hotline, Alertline, his or her Supervisor, an officer of the Company, or a representative of Human Resources, Ethics and Compliance or Legal—all complaints of misconduct. Novartis

will also communicate to employees its policy that requires managers or upper-level Novartis employees to immediately report—to the BPO, Employee Relations Hotline, AlertLine, his or her Supervisor, an officer of the Company, or a representative of Human Resources, Ethics and Compliance or Legal—all complaints of misconduct made by others, and that management may not exercise its discretion regarding whether or not to report such a complaint.

(iii) Novartis will track the date and time that all complaints are received by the BPO and the date that the BPO assigns the complaint to the Employee Relations Group for investigation. Novartis will also track the date and time that all complaints are received by the Employee Relations hotline and copied to the BPO for tracking and formal assignment of investigative authority.

(iv) Novartis will establish a policy that all complaints of discrimination received by the BPO be assigned to the Employee Relations Group for investigation within two (2) business days of the BPO's receipt of the complaint.

(v) The Employee Relations Group will reach out to the complaining individual insofar as he or she is known and reachable within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, and maintain a record of the date that the complaining individual is contacted.

(vi) The response time of the Employee Relations Group will be reviewed by the Head of Employee Relations on a quarterly basis. If the Employee Relations Group fails to meet the two-day requirement in any two (2) consecutive quarters, Novartis will hire one (1) additional Employee Relations investigator.

7.13 As a part of any Employee Relations investigation, the Employee Relations investigator may attempt to conduct a follow-up interview with the complainant where appropriate and necessary to the investigation (including any counter-claims and defenses and the opportunity for the complainant to respond thereto).

(i) This follow-up interview, if conducted, will take place after the Employee Relations investigator has conducted an investigation into the corroboration of or defenses against the discrimination complaint and has reviewed any relevant documentation.

7.14 At the conclusion of the investigation, the Employee Relations Group will notify the complaining individual that the investigation has been closed, what the result of the investigation was (substantiated, unable to conclude, not substantiated), and the complainant's rights upon conclusion of the investigation.

7.15 Novartis will disseminate to the entire sales field force on an annual basis the following clarifications and explanations regarding the Employee Relations process:

(i) Novartis will explain clearly and in writing that employees may make complaints on an anonymous basis (and will point out that anonymity might, in some instances, constrain the ability to investigate), and that the information collected during the investigation is kept confidential to the extent possible.

(ii) Novartis will explain clearly and in writing the process followed by Employee Relations regarding investigations into complaints of discrimination, the possible outcomes where claims are substantiated, that the timeline for an investigation is dependent on the particular facts of the case, the role that a complainant will play in the process, that a complainant may at all times communicate with Employee Relations

either orally or in writing, and the level of information provided to the complainant at the close of an investigation.

7.16 Novartis has developed a formalized complaint investigation process, which it will continue to follow, including the practice that all investigative steps taken by the Employee Relations Group either be made in writing or documented after the fact. Novartis will further maintain an electronic database of any complaints—substantiated, unable to conclude or unsubstantiated—and disciplinary action taken (if any), so that decisionmakers have access to disciplinary guidance from similar cases so as to ensure consistent responses across the Company. One purpose of the database will be to identify trends, and to determine what additional training or policy adjustments are required in areas including gender equity.

(i) Novartis will ensure that all management-level employees and above are fully trained on this investigation process annually.

(ii) Novartis will ensure that all Employee Relations and Human Resources Business Partners are fully trained annually on this investigation process.

(iii) Novartis will explain clearly and in writing that there are several factors for management to consider in making disciplinary decisions, including the type of misconduct, severity, harm to the complainant and whether there have been multiple or sequential substantiated or unable to conclude complaints. A copy shall be provided to Class Counsel.

(iv) Novartis will continue to ensure that Field Management does not have full discretion regarding whether a claim is sufficiently substantiated, the appropriate discipline and any appropriate corrective steps when necessary. To that end,

Novartis will continue to empower a Resolution Committee consisting of representatives from Legal, Employee Relations, the Ethics and Compliance Department and Human Resources to review the findings and make recommendations about corrective action (up to and including termination) to the relevant management. In forming its recommendation, the Resolution Committee will have access to the database described in Paragraph 7.19 below, so as to obtain, among other things, information related to prior substantiated and/or unable to conclude complaints against the subject of the investigation. If field management disagrees with the recommendation made by the Resolution Committee, the matter is escalated to the Novartis Compliance Officer, Head of the relevant Business Unit and the Resolution Committee for final decision. The Vice President of Human Resources will review the escalated matter in the event of further disagreement.

C. Human Resources' Role in Clarification Meetings.

7.17 Within six months of the Effective Date of the Agreement, Novartis will revise the timing and function of the "clarification meeting" as follows:

(i) Novartis will provide the employee who is the subject of the complaint the opportunity to provide any evidence to the investigator within two (2) business days after the clarification meeting. If the employee submits such additional evidence and requests a follow-up meeting, a subsequent clarification meeting or telephone conference will be held before the Resolution Committee makes any determination.

(ii) The Resolution Committee will consider any evidence presented by the employee in making its recommendations.

D. Oversight and Implementation.

7.18 Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement, Novartis will immediately commence the process of preparing training for all Employee Relations and Human Resources Business Partner personnel regarding all changes made in accordance with this Agreement. Novartis anticipates the roll-out of training will commence approximately one (1) year later, and the Company will put forth best efforts to commence training even earlier if it is practicable to do so.

7.19 Novartis currently maintains, and will continue to maintain, a database of all complaints that the Employee Relations Group investigates which includes:

- (i) the date of the complaint,
- (ii) the type of complaint,
- (iii) the complainant (where available),
- (iv) the identity of the subject of the complaint,
- (v) the investigator assigned,
- (vi) the date of the initial contact with the complainant,
- (vii) the outcome of the investigation (unsubstantiated, unable to conclude, or substantiated), and
- (viii) the nature of the corrective action, if any.

7.20 The investigation file contains:

- (i) dates of interviews,
- (ii) date of clarification meeting[s], and
- (iii) date of Resolution Committee meeting.

7.21 Novartis will build into the investigation process identification at the inception of the investigation whether the subject of the complaint has been the subject of any prior complaints.

7.22 The Head of Employee Relations will compile an annual report to be delivered to the Compliance Committee with one copy to the Chairman of the Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation Board of Directors. Each annual report will relay the contents of the databases detailed above, including an assessment of any gender-related trends evidenced in that data, and a summary of the nature and resolution of complaints.

E. Performance Evaluations.

Novartis agrees to the following actions with respect to its Performance Evaluation Process:

7.23 Clarification and Implementation of the Performance Evaluation

(i) Novartis will evaluate how to ensure that an employee's leave of absence will not result in negative performance ratings for his/her manager, his/her counterparts in the territory and the employee in question.

(ii) Novartis will develop and issue specific guidance regarding implementation of the Values and Behaviors evaluation.

a) Such guidance shall include examples of conduct that represents "1," "2" or "3" in each value and behavior, and descriptors of "not meeting", "meeting" and "exceeding" expectations.

b) It will also include detailed parameters regarding what each number score means, how to differentiate among the scores, and how to appropriately determine an overall score from the subscores so that employees are assessed consistently.

(iii) Novartis will develop and issue guidance regarding the implementation of the Objective Evaluation.

(iv) Values and Behaviors Training: Novartis will conduct training of all managers on how to assess Values and Behaviors in light of the specific guidance described above.

(v) Objective Training: Novartis will provide training and written guidance to all managers on defining the factors that will be considered as relevant Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”) and the weight given to each KPI, and how leaves of absence will be handled when evaluating sales results. In addition, Novartis will instruct managers that consideration and application of mitigating factors will take place at the calibration sessions.

(vi) Novartis will provide training to employees and managers on completing their self-assessments and the role that multi-raters play in the performance management process.

(vii) Novartis will retain an external specialist with the input of Class Counsel (who shall first review the qualifications of this individual, including previous analyses and publications). This specialist will design an annual adverse impact analysis of ratings to determine if there are any significant gender disparities.

a) Class Counsel shall have an opportunity to meet with the specialist and review his/her proposed methodology as well as the final methodology used for the analysis before the specialist begins the analysis.

b) Class Counsel shall also have the opportunity to make recommendations to the specialist about the methodology used for the analyses.

c) Novartis agrees to share the results of that analysis, as they pertain to gender, with Class Counsel. Class Counsel shall have the opportunity to propose recommendations to Novartis on appropriate remedies. Novartis will remedy, as soon as practicable, any gender-related problems affecting employees covered by this Agreement and evidenced in the analysis.

7.24 Transparency and Training

(i) Novartis will provide mandatory training for all managers regarding the performance evaluation process, including the specific guidance discussed above. This same training will be made optional for sales force members and provided on the Novartis intranet.

(ii) The sales force will receive and have access to all written guidance regarding performance evaluations that are made available to managers.

(iii) Novartis will continue to circulate to all associates at year-end all written guidance for performance evaluations, including information regarding the appeals process (see Paragraph 7.26 below). This information will continue to be made available on the Novartis intranet.

7.25 Calibration Sessions

(i) Novartis will conduct calibration sessions at the District Manager and second-line manager level for representatives (and at the second-line manager and Vice President level for District Managers) to ensure consistency in the evaluation of employees against a uniform understanding of the expectations.

a) Human Resources will continue to play an active role in the calibration sessions as detailed below.

b) Each second-line manager will meet with all of his or her District Managers along with an Human Resources representative to discuss the uniform expectations for performance at each level, any mitigating circumstances that came into play for any districts in the region, and application of the uniform expectations to the sales representatives across districts.

c) The Human Resources representative will be primarily responsible for presenting the uniform expectations; the second-line manager will lead the other portions of the discussion.

d) The Human Resources representative will be tasked with maintaining records on the conversations had during the calibration session and the reasons for any alterations to ratings that are made as a result of the conversation. Any disputes between a District Manager and a second-line manager must also be documented.

e) The same process will be followed at one level up for the evaluation of District Managers.

7.26 Human Resources' Role and the Appeals Process

(i) Novartis will add an appeals process whereby employees who disagree with their performance rating may appeal to their 1 over 1 manager who, in consultation with an Human Resources Business Partner who was not involved in the calibration session, will render a final decision.

(ii) Any employee who believes that his/her review was improperly tainted by discrimination may file a complaint via the Employee Relations complaint procedure.

F. Compensation.

Novartis agrees to the following actions with respect to its Compensation Policies and Procedures:

7.27 Novartis Compensation and Benefits (“C&B”) will work with an external C&B specialist to design a Base Salary pay in range analysis and subsequent adverse impact analysis, as described below. Novartis will retain the specialist with the input of Class Counsel (who shall first review the qualifications of this individual, including previous analyses and publications).

(i) Class Counsel shall have an opportunity to meet with the specialist and review his/her proposed methodology as well as the final methodology used for the analyses below before the specialist begins the analysis.

(ii) Class Counsel shall also have the opportunity to make recommendations to the specialist about the methodology used for the analyses.

7.28 Novartis C&B will work with the specialist to design a base salary pay in range analysis for sales representatives and first-line managers.

(i) This analysis will include identification of any gender-related discrepancies within the range despite similar tenure, experience, and performance.

(ii) The analysis will be completed within three months after the agreed analysis design. In case of discrepancy versus range, Novartis will bring the outliers within range within 18 months according to a phased schedule.

7.29 The specialist will review the Field Force Incentive policy to avoid negative impact on Incentive payout for managers or for sales representatives as a result of approved leaves of absence for other sales representatives in the district.

7.30 Novartis has introduced a merit increase grid, which limits a manager's discretion on pay decisions and should be used as a guideline for pay increases. The grid shows a matrix with Position in Range and Performance Rating and for each position, a range of recommended pay increase (as a percentage). Managers will be required to document any deviation from the grid. The C&B manager will review the recommended merit increases against the guidelines and make a final recommendation for approval to senior management. These recommendations shall be documented in writing.

7.31 Guidelines on how to plan for merit increases will be issued prior to the year-end process. A manager's merit increase planning will be reviewed by the Supervisor, Human Resources and the C&B team.

7.32 Upon completion of each annual merit planning process, Novartis C&B will perform an adverse impact analysis for discrepancies in annual rate of pay based on gender.

(i) Novartis will make necessary adjustments based on these findings in the next merit cycle.

a) Adjustments resulting from the adverse impact analysis will not be taken from the merit increase budget established for that year.

(ii) For the term of this Agreement, Novartis agrees to share the results of that analysis, as they pertain to gender, with Class Counsel. Class Counsel shall have the opportunity to propose recommendations to Novartis for compensation adjustments detailed in Paragraph 7.32(i) above.

7.33 Any employee who believes that his/her merit raise or compensation is tainted by discrimination, may file a complaint in accordance with the Employee Relations

complaint process. Novartis will provide in writing a reminder of the complaint process on an annual basis.

G. Promotional Opportunities.

Novartis agrees to the following actions with respect to its Policies and Procedures for Promotional Opportunities:

7.34 Formalizing and Articulating Standards

(i) Novartis has formalized and documented the qualifications necessary to be considered eligible for management, the processes followed for management development, the steps a representative must take to become a manager, and the role that the District Manager and second-line manager play in that process. In instances where employees are assigned to District Manager positions outside the process because the position is filled by external hiring, international hiring, or by a developmental rotation, Novartis will ensure this is done on a non-discriminatory basis.

a) Novartis will provide written direction and training that specifies that District Managers and second-line managers are not allowed to modify or add any additional requirements, standards, or steps to the Management Development (“MD”) process.

b) On an annual basis, Novartis will provide these policies in written form to the entire sales field force and will make them available year-round on the Novartis intranet.

c) Novartis will also provide clear written materials regarding the pre-Management Development Program (“MDP”) checklist and the MD classes, how each stage progresses, what individuals need to do to move through each stage, and the frequency at which each of the MD classes are offered.

d) Where possible, the calendared dates for each MD class, along with the eligibility requirements and the registration process, should be posted on the intranet well in advance of registration closing for each class.

e) Employees will be notified of a Sales Training department employee who can answer questions regarding the MD classes and the MDP checklist. Novartis will ensure that this department is sufficiently staffed to answer questions in a timely manner.

(ii) MDP Training

a) Novartis will commit that the MDP will not require more than a three-night stay away from home per quarter for training on the MDP, and will not require training to occur over the weekend.

7.35 Enabling More Self-Guided Development

(i) Novartis has created and will continue to maintain a system that allows interested employees to self-register their interest in management electronically.

a) In response to a registration of interest for management, Novartis does, and will continue to, automatically provide to the eligible individual information regarding completion of the MDP checklist, along with eligibility requirements and the next steps in proceeding through the MDP process. These materials will also detail what changes in performance or other circumstances would lead to an employee being removed from the MDP process.

b) Novartis will also provide a Sales Training contact who can answer questions about the process and can provide advice regarding concerns.

c) The Sales Training contact will monitor candidates' progress through the program and if concerns are identified either by a candidate or by the Sales Training contact himself/herself, will notify the appropriate Human Resources Business Partner. The Human Resources Business Partner will intervene as necessary and discuss with the District Manager and/or second-line manager any concerns regarding the support of the District Manager or second-line manager for management.

d) Any concerns regarding discrimination will be handled pursuant to the Employee Relations complaint process.

(ii) A second-line manager will be required to monitor the progress of employees who participate in the Management Development system.

(iii) Novartis will maintain a distribution list of "ready" management candidates, updated after the close of each MD3 class, who have completed the MD process and so are eligible for a District Manager I position. Unless an available District Manager I position must be filled under exigent circumstances that require an immediate hiring decision or will be filled through external hiring, international hiring, or by a developmental rotation, Novartis will post available District Manager I positions on its internal system. Candidates may set up a profile which will have the system automatically notify them when such a posting appears.

7.36 Tracking and Monitoring Progress

(i) Novartis will create and maintain a database that tracks the overall number, identity and gender of individuals who self-nominate, have completed the checklist and have completed each of the MD classes (MD1, MD2 or MD3).

a) The database will also identify the date at which each step in the process was completed.

b) The database will also record the number and gender distribution of each individual who became a District Manager I by year and the date and position which each individual filled.

c) Individuals will remain in the database until they are no longer with the Company, become a District Manager, move into a different Novartis career path (e.g., marketing), no longer satisfy the performance or other requirements for a District Manager I position, or have removed themselves from consideration.

(ii) Novartis will retain an external specialist to design an adverse impact analysis two years from the Effective Date of this Agreement with respect to the pool of employees qualified for and interested in promotions to first-line manager to determine if there are any significant gender disparities in overall gender representation at the District Manager I level, in new hires into the District Manager I level, and in time to promotion into District Manager I from completion of MD3. Novartis will retain the specialist with the input of Class Counsel (who shall first review the qualifications of this individual, including the previous analyses and publications).

a) Class Counsel shall have an opportunity to meet with the specialist and review his/her proposed methodology as well as the final methodology used for the analysis before the specialist begins the analysis.

b) Class Counsel shall also have the opportunity to make recommendations to the specialist about the methodology used for the analysis.

c) This analysis will be conducted in accordance with federal affirmative action guidelines.

d) Novartis agrees to share the related results of that analysis, as they pertain to gender, with Class Counsel. Class Counsel shall have the opportunity to propose recommendations to Novartis on appropriate remedies. Novartis will remedy, as soon as practicable, any gender-related problems affecting employees in jobs covered by this Agreement and evidenced in the analysis.

(iii) Novartis will compile an annual report to be provided to the Head of Human Resources, the Vice President of Diversity and the Executive Committee, with one copy to the Chairman of the Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation Board of Directors. Each annual report will relay the contents of the database detailed above in Paragraph 7.36(i).

7.37 Cultivating Talent

(i) Novartis will work with Luke Visconti, CEO from DiversityInc, and Joyce Dudley from Dudley Hamilton to work on the overall culture at Novartis and improve the Novartis work environment for all employees and report annually to the Novartis Executive Committee on recommendations and actions taken.

H. Compliance.

7.38 The Court will appoint, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53 (“Rule 53”), a Compliance Master to monitor the implementation by Novartis of the terms of Section VII of this Agreement.

7.39 For each of the three (3) years following the Effective Date, Novartis will submit, on the anniversary of the Effective Date, an annual report to Class Counsel detailing

its compliance with Section VII of this Agreement and attaching any expert reports generated during the course of the preceding year. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the submission of each annual report, Novartis and Class Counsel will jointly submit to the Compliance Master Novartis's annual report (including attachments), as well as either a joint statement that the Parties agree that Novartis has complied with Section VII of this Agreement, or a statement by Class Counsel identifying areas of Novartis's alleged noncompliance with Section VII of this Agreement and an accompanying response by Novartis.

7.40 If Class Counsel identifies areas of alleged noncompliance, or if the Compliance Master deems it necessary and appropriate notwithstanding the Parties' agreement as to compliance, the Compliance Master shall make written inquiries to the Parties to assess whether there are compliance issues. The Parties will respond in writing to any such inquiries within thirty (30) days of the date of the mailing of the written inquiries, and the Compliance Master shall then, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Parties' written response, conclude in writing either that Novartis is in compliance with Section VII of this Agreement or inform the Parties of any specific item or items as to which Novartis is not in compliance.

7.41 The Compliance Master shall be responsible only for identifying any noncompliance with the specific terms of Section VII of this Agreement; however, the Compliance Master may make suggestions regarding the means by which Novartis might bring itself into compliance.

(i) If the Compliance Master determines that Novartis is in compliance with the terms of Section VII of this Agreement for that year, no further

reporting action regarding that year shall be necessary. However, if the Compliance Master concludes that Novartis is in compliance with Section VII of this Agreement, Class Counsel may file objections to that conclusion with the Court pursuant to Rule 53 no later than twenty (20) days after a copy of the conclusion is served on Class Counsel.

(ii) If the Compliance Master identifies a specific item or items on which Novartis is not in compliance, Novartis shall promptly take remedial steps to bring itself into compliance. In the alternative, Novartis may file objections to the Compliance Master's conclusion with the Court pursuant to Rule 53 no later than twenty (20) days after a copy of the Compliance Master's conclusion is served on Novartis.

a) In the event that Novartis is required to take remedial steps to bring itself into compliance, Novartis shall provide a supplemental report detailing the remedial steps taken and explaining how these steps remedied the identified areas of non-compliance. This supplemental report shall be provided to the Compliance Master on a timeline to be set by the Compliance Master at the time any instance of noncompliance is identified.

b) Class Counsel shall have an opportunity to comment no later than twenty (20) days after a copy of Novartis's supplemental report is served on Class Counsel and the Compliance Master. The Compliance Master shall then either conclude that Novartis is in compliance or that it is not.

7.42 Upon completion of the third annual report cycle, as described above, if the Compliance Master believes that Novartis is in compliance with Section VII of this Agreement, he or she shall recommend to the Court that Novartis's obligations described in this Section be terminated. If at that time the Compliance Master does not believe that

Novartis is in compliance with Section VII of this Agreement or is not satisfied that Novartis has promptly corrected any specific items of noncompliance, he or she shall make a recommendation to the Court concerning the possible extension of all or some of Novartis's obligations under Section VII of this Agreement. Pursuant to Rule 53, the Parties may file comments or objections to the Compliance Master's recommendation with the Court no later than twenty (20) days after a copy of the Compliance Master's recommendation is served.

7.43 The fees and costs of the Compliance Master, which shall not exceed \$250,000.00 for the three-year period, shall be paid from the Settlement Fund as an administrative expense, as described in Paragraph 9.6 below.

7.44 Any information obtained by the Compliance Master shall be treated as confidential and shall not be used for any purpose other than monitoring the implementation of this Agreement, consistent with the terms of Section VII. Prior to receiving the Parties' first annual report, the Compliance Master shall execute a confidentiality agreement limited by the restriction in the preceding sentence.

7.45 Nothing in this Provision will limit the right of Class Counsel to participate in the implementation or oversight of the Programmatic Relief as is otherwise detailed in Section VII of this Agreement.

VIII. SETTLEMENT FUND

8.1 No later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date, Novartis shall provide, by wire transfer, to the Claims Administrator \$152,500,000.00 (the "Settlement Fund"). The Settlement Fund is calculated based upon the Total Settlement Amount described in Paragraph 6.1 (\$175,000,000.00) minus the value of the non-monetary relief portion of the Settlement described in Section VII (\$22,500,000.00).

8.2 The Settlement Fund will be placed in an interest bearing account (the “Settlement Fund Account”) approved by Class Counsel with a unique Taxpayer Identification Number. Any interest accrued prior to the distribution of any monetary awards will be divided equally between the Class Award for Backpay and the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages, described in Paragraphs 10.1(iii) and (iv) below, and distributed according to the procedures set forth therein.

8.3 The Settlement Fund Account will constitute a qualified settlement fund pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 1.468B-1. Upon the opening of the account, Novartis shall execute an election statement provided by the Claims Administrator which shall be affixed to the initial tax return of the Settlement Fund Account in order to establish the start date of the Settlement Fund Account. The Settlement Fund Account will be created, managed and disbursed by the Claims Administrator under the supervision of Class Counsel and Counsel for Novartis. The Claims Administrator shall be the only entity authorized to make withdrawals or payments from the Settlement Fund Account. Novartis will have no responsibilities or liabilities with respect to the administration of the Settlement Fund Account, including any distribution therefrom and the reporting for such distribution.

8.4 Upon wiring the Settlement Fund amount, Novartis will have no further monetary obligations with respect to Settlement Class Members, Class Counsel or Named Plaintiffs pursuant to the Settlement and shall have no further responsibility to make any additional payments pursuant to this Settlement, including with respect to attorneys’ fees and costs.

8.5 The Claims Administrator shall have the obligation to return the entire Settlement Fund (including all income and/or interest generated by the Settlement Fund Account) to Novartis within five (5) business days in the event of revocation of this Settlement pursuant to Section XI below, or in the event that this Settlement Agreement is reversed on appeal or is otherwise rendered null and void for any reason.

8.6 The Claims Administrator shall distribute the Settlement Fund (including any interest generated by the Settlement Fund Account) pursuant to the provisions below, and on the time schedule described herein and pursuant to orders of the Court.

8.7 In the event that the Settlement Fund is not completely distributed for any reason, any and all remaining funds shall revert back to Novartis. The Claims Administrator shall provide, by wire transfer, the amount to be reverted to Novartis no later than ten (10) business days after the distribution of the settlement checks described in Section X.J below. In addition, within one (1) year and fifteen (15) business days from the date of distribution of the settlement checks described in Section X.J below, the Claims Administrator shall provide to Novartis, by wire transfer, the amount of any settlement checks not paid from the Settlement Fund Account due to Settlement Class Members' failure to cash the check within one (1) year. The Claims Administrator's determination of the amount to revert back to Novartis pursuant to this provision shall be final and non-appealable.

8.8 \$164,500.00 of the Settlement Fund will be set aside in a fund to be distributed to a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of women in the workforce. The choice of such organization will be proposed by Class Counsel to Novartis,

who may reject Class Counsel's choice and require alternative proposals until Class Counsel proposes an organization that meets Novartis's approval.

IX. ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES, ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND SERVICE AWARD PAYMENTS

A. Attorneys' Fees and Expenses.

9.1 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h), Class Counsel, in connection with seeking Court approval of the Settlement, shall apply for reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses incurred by Class Counsel, including the fees and expenses in connection with overseeing the claims process and monitoring the Settlement Agreement.

9.2 Novartis will not object to a motion for attorneys' fees by Class Counsel of up to \$38,125,000.00. Novartis will not object to a motion for expenses by Class Counsel of up to \$2,000,000.00. These amounts include all fees, costs and expenses in connection with the Civil Action and overseeing the claims process and monitoring the Settlement Agreement.

9.3 The Claims Administrator will pay from the Settlement Fund any Class Counsel attorneys' fees and expenses ordered by the Court no later than thirty-five (35) calendar days after the Effective Date. Prior to the payment of attorneys' fees and expenses, Class Counsel will provide the Claims Administrator with Tax Payer Identification Numbers for Class Counsel and executed Form W-9s. Form 1099s shall be provided to Class Counsel for the payments made to Class Counsel. Class Counsel agrees that any allocation of fees between or among Class Counsel shall be the sole responsibility of Class Counsel.

9.4 If the Court awards attorneys' fees in an amount less than \$38,125,000.00 and/or expenses in an amount less than \$2,000,000.00, the difference will be divided and

allocated in equal parts to the Class Award for Backpay and the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages, described in Paragraphs 10.1(iii) and (iv) below, and distributed according to the procedures set forth therein. If the Court awards attorneys' fees in an amount greater than \$38,125,000.00 and/or expenses in an amount greater than \$2,000,000.00, the difference shall be deducted in equal parts from the Class Award for Backpay and the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages, described in Paragraphs 10.1(iii) and (iv) below.

B. Administrative Expenses.

9.5 No later than ten (10) business days after the deadline for completion of the entire claims process, the Claims Administrator and Claims Adjudicator shall provide the Court and Counsel for the Parties with a statement detailing their respective fees, costs and expenses incurred in connection with administering the Settlement Fund. The Parties agree to cooperate in the settlement administration process and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the costs and expenses incurred in the administration of the Settlement. The Claims Administrator and Claims Adjudicator will be paid for the above-referenced fees and expenses from the Settlement Fund.

9.6 \$250,000.00 of the Settlement Fund will be set aside to pay the fees and costs of the Compliance Master as set forth in Paragraph 7.43 above. In the event that the total fees and costs of the Compliance Master are less than \$250,000.00, the difference will be distributed to the non-profit organization chosen by the Parties pursuant to Paragraph 8.8 above. It is the Parties' intention that the costs and expenses incurred in the administration of the Settlement, including the fees and costs of the Compliance Master, not exceed \$2,375,000.00.

C. Service Award Payments and Compensatory Damages to Named Plaintiffs and Testifying Witnesses

9.7 Subject to Court approval, the Claims Administrator will pay from the Settlement Fund prescribed amounts to deponents, testifying witnesses and Named Plaintiffs for the substantial time and energy that they have devoted in litigating this lawsuit, provided they do not opt-out of the Settlement (collectively “Service Award Payments”).

(i) Subject to Court approval, the following amounts shall be distributed to the Testifying Witnesses and Named Plaintiffs to compensate each individual for compensatory damages and for their dedicated service in litigating the matter and bringing about this Settlement:

- Tara Blum (Testifying Witness): \$205,000.00;
- Jessica Borsa (Testifying Witness): \$425,000.00;
- Kelly Corbett (Testifying Witness and Named Plaintiff): \$363,000.00;
- Marta Deyne (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Bernice Dezelan (Testifying Witness): \$272,000.00;
- Joan Durkin (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Minel Hider Tobertga (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Jamie Holland (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Lori Horton (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Maryanne Jacoby (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Terri Kelly (Testifying Witness): \$175,000.00;
- Karen Liggins (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Simona Lopes (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Christine Macarelli (Testifying Witness): \$249,000.00;
- Wendy Pinson (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Raelene Ryan (Testifying Witness): \$425,000.00;
- Marjorie Salame (Testifying Witness): \$425,000.00;
- Kelli Shannon (Testifying Witness): \$325,000.00;

- Amy Velez (Lead Named Plaintiff): \$410,000.00;
- Roberta Von Lintel (Named Plaintiff): 385,000.00;
- Holly Waters (Testifying Witness and Named Plaintiff): \$425,000.00;
- Jennifer Waxman-Recht (Testifying Witness and Named Plaintiff): \$425,000.00;
- Catherine White (Testifying Witness and Named Plaintiff): \$331,500.00;
- Michelle Williams (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00;
- Penni Zelinkoff (Named Plaintiff): \$385,000.00; and
- Amy Zschiesche (Testifying Witness): \$260,000.00.

The amounts above reflect a compensatory damage award for the Testifying Witnesses awarded by the jury (capped at \$300,000.00 per statutory mandate), and for the non-testifying Named Plaintiffs based on the average jury award to Named Plaintiffs. Two modifications to the compensatory damage awards were included for testifying individuals who had additional claims outside the original certified class period that are now included in the settlement period. Each amount also includes a \$125,000.00 Service Award Payment, with Lead Named Plaintiff Amy Velez receiving a \$150,000.00 Service Award Payment.

(ii) Subject to Court approval, a Service Award Payment of \$25,000.00 each shall be distributed to the deponents in compensation for their dedicated service in litigating the matter and bringing about this settlement:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Dana Allen | ▪ Michelle Kraft |
| ▪ Holly Blakeley | ▪ Julie Lynch |
| ▪ Donna Connally | ▪ Karla Palmer |
| ▪ Cassandra Covington | ▪ Jennifer Peldiak |
| ▪ Christine Coyle | ▪ Drew Persinger |
| ▪ Debora Davis | ▪ Carrie Petermeyer |
| ▪ Ivette Flower | ▪ Angela Plonczyk |
| ▪ Felicia Jordan | ▪ Theresa Thomas |
| ▪ Nicole Joslin | ▪ Heather Thompson |

▪ Ryan Tselikis

▪ Christine Vaughn

Individuals receiving a Service Award Payment pursuant to this Paragraph must follow the claims procedure set out in Section X.E below.

(iii) The Claims Administrator will pay the aforementioned Service Award Payments, less applicable withholdings and deductions, if any, within thirty-five (35) calendar days after the Effective Date. All individuals receiving payments under these paragraphs who are also Settlement Class Members, as defined in Paragraph 2.21 above, are eligible to receive a backpay award pursuant to Paragraph 10.1(iii).

9.8 If the Court awards monies less than those set out above, the difference will be divided and allocated in equal parts to the Class Award for Backpay and the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages described in Paragraphs 10.1(iii) and (iv) below, and distributed according to the procedures set forth therein. If the Court awards monies more than those set out above, the difference shall be deducted in equal parts from the Class Award for Backpay and the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages described in Paragraphs 10.1(iii) and (iv) below.

X. INDIVIDUAL MONETARY PAYMENTS TO SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS AND CLAIMS PROCESS

A. Allocation of Individual Monetary Awards

10.1 Individual Awards for Backpay and Compensatory Damages

(i) Individual monetary awards payable to Proposed Settlement Class Members and Class Representatives will be allocated in settlement of their claims for backpay or lost wages and compensatory damages. Monetary awards for backpay or lost wages are subject to all applicable tax withholdings. Monetary awards for compensatory

damages and/or Service Award Payments shall not be treated as lost wages and therefore will be subject to reporting on IRS Form 1099.

(ii) Payments made under this Agreement are not intended to and will not: (1) form the basis for additional contributions to, benefits under, or any other monetary entitlement under; or (2) be considered to apply to, or be applied for purposes of, Novartis's bonus, executive compensation, pension, any 401(k) and/or other retirement, savings or benefit plans or similar programs.

(iii) *Backpay*: \$60,000,000.00 of the Settlement Fund (which includes the employer's share of federal and state payroll taxes) (and any additional monies, or less any deductions, pursuant to Paragraphs 8.2, 9.4 and/or 9.8 above) will be allocated to the "Class Award for Backpay", apportioned among the Class Representatives and Proposed Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the settlement as follows:

a) A fixed monthly amount for backpay ("Backpay Monthly Amount") will be calculated by dividing the Class Award for Backpay by the total months worked by the Class Representatives and Proposed Settlement Class Members in jobs included within the Settlement Class definition in Paragraph 2.21 ("class-eligible job(s)") during the Settlement Class Period.

b) A Class Representative or Settlement Class Member who does not opt out of the settlement will receive an amount equal to the Backpay Monthly Amount multiplied by the number of months the Settlement Class Member worked in a class-eligible job during the Settlement Class Period, less applicable withholdings and deductions as described below in Paragraph 10.1(iii)(c).

c) The Claims Administrator will withhold from each Class Representative and Settlement Class Member's backpay award both the employee's and employer's share of applicable taxes under federal, state and/or local laws. The Claims Administrator will ensure that such monies withheld are paid to the appropriate authorities for each Settlement Class Member and Class Representative and will issue IRS Forms W-2 for the amounts reportable on each Form.

d) Any portion of the Class Award for Backpay that is not awarded or withheld through the process described in Paragraphs 10.1(iii)(a)-(c) will be apportioned to the Class Representatives and Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the settlement in proportion to the number of months that each such person worked in a class-eligible job during the Settlement Class Period. No portion of the Class Award for Backpay will revert back to Novartis or be allocated to the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages.

(iv) *Compensatory Damages*: The Settlement Fund less distributions pursuant to Paragraph 8.8, Section IX and the Class Award for Backpay (and any additional monies, or less any deductions, pursuant to Paragraphs 8.2, 9.4 and/or 9.8 above) will be allocated to the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages, to be distributed as follows:

a) A fixed monthly amount for compensatory damages ("Compensatory Monthly Amount") will be calculated by dividing the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages (currently estimated at approximately \$40,000,000.00) by the total months worked by Proposed Settlement Class Members in class-eligible jobs during the Settlement Class Period.

b) A Proposed Settlement Class Member who is both (1) eligible to receive compensatory damages by submitting a timely and complete Claim Form pursuant to Paragraph 10.13 below (“Eligible Claimant”), and (2) deemed by the Claims Adjudicator to have substantiated her claim for compensatory damages pursuant to Section X.F, will receive an award of compensatory damages in an amount equal to the Compensatory Monthly Amount multiplied by the number of months the Eligible Claimant worked in a class-eligible job during the Settlement Class Period.

c) In addition, an Eligible Claimant who was treated by a Medical Professional (as defined in Paragraph 2.15 above) during the period July 15, 2002 to the Preliminary Approval Date for pain and suffering resulting from gender discrimination she experienced while working in a class-eligible job, and who timely completes the requirements set forth below in Paragraph 10.15, may be entitled to an increase in her compensatory award above the amount determined pursuant to Paragraph 10.1(iv)(b). The amount of increase, if any, in an Eligible Claimant’s compensatory award will be determined by the Claims Adjudicator in his or her discretion and paid out of the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages as defined above. The total of all additional compensatory damages awarded by the Claims Adjudicator pursuant to this provision shall not exceed \$5,000,000.00.

d) No Eligible Claimant may receive a compensatory award in an amount that exceeds the limitation on compensatory and punitive damages provided for by 42 U.S.C. § 1981a(b)(3)(D) (i.e., \$300,000.00).

e) Any portion of the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages that is not awarded as a result of the claims process and

monetary distribution procedure described in Section X herein will revert back to Novartis pursuant to the procedure described in Paragraph 8.7 above.

B. Claims Administrator's Duties.

10.2 The Claims Administrator shall (1) mail the Notice of Class Action Settlement (the "Notice") and Claim Forms to Proposed Settlement Class Members; (2) respond to questions from Proposed Settlement Class Members; (3) perform backpay and compensatory award distribution calculations as set forth in Paragraph 10.1; (4) maintain a toll-free number for communicating with Proposed Settlement Class Members; (5) mail checks containing payments to Named Plaintiffs, deponents, testifying witnesses, Settlement Class Members, Class Counsel, and the Claims Administrator and Claims Adjudicator; (6) wire any amount from the Settlement Fund which reverts back to Novartis; (7) forward all compensatory damage Claim Forms received from Class Members to the Claims Adjudicator on a rolling basis; and (8) perform any other duties necessary to fulfill its responsibilities described in this Agreement.

C. Claims Adjudicator.

10.3 The Court shall appoint at least one Claims Adjudicator to (1) receive and review Claim Forms, any written responses from Novartis and any further information submitted by Class Counsel to evaluate eligibility and make a final determination regarding entitlement to compensatory awards; (2) receive and review the Riders to Claim Forms to evaluate eligibility and make a final determination regarding entitlement to increased compensatory awards and if so, the amount of such increased compensatory award; (3) seek additional information from Claimants or Class Counsel, when appropriate; and (4) report to the Court, the Claims Administrator and to all Counsel final determinations regarding entitlement to, and amount of, compensatory awards.

D. Notice and Claim Forms.

10.4 Within twenty (20) business days after the Preliminary Approval Date, the Company shall provide to the Claims Administrator a list of all Proposed Settlement Class Members, including name, employee ID, job title, employment dates, last known address and telephone number. The Company will provide this information in a format reasonably acceptable to the Claims Administrator. The Claims Administrator will maintain this list in the strictest confidence and shall not disclose it to anyone except Class Counsel, who may use it only for purposes of administering this Settlement. Class Counsel may provide updates on any addresses or contact information provided by the Proposed Settlement Class Members to the Claims Administrator, and such updates shall be incorporated into the list.

10.5 The Company's existing personnel and payroll records shall be presumed to be correct as to any Claimant's gender and dates of employment. In order to overcome such a presumption, a Claimant must, within twenty (20) calendar days of the mailing of the notice that her claim was denied, submit documentary evidence showing that the Company's records are inaccurate and that corrected information should be used.

10.6 No later than twenty (20) business days after the date that the Company provides the list of all Proposed Settlement Class Members described in Paragraph 10.4, the Claims Administrator shall mail the Notice of Class Action Settlement, in substantively the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and as approved by the Court, to Proposed Settlement Class Members, by United States first class mail, postage prepaid with a postmark date stamped on the envelope of the Notice. The Parties intend to provide actual notice to each Proposed Settlement Class Member, to the extent practicable. The Claims Administrator shall mail a Claim Form, attached hereto as Exhibit B, to each Proposed Settlement Class Member at the same time the Notice is sent.

10.7 In order to provide the best notice practicable, the Claims Administrator will do the following before mailing the Notice and Claim Form: (1) run the list of all Proposed Settlement Class Members through the United States Postal Service's National Change of Address database ("NCOA"); and (2) perform address searches using public and proprietary electronic resources which collect their data from various sources such as utility records, property tax records, motor vehicle registration records (where allowed) and credit bureaus.

10.8 If envelopes from the mailing of the Notice and Claim Form are returned with forwarding addresses, the Claims Administrator will re-mail the Notice and Claim Form to the new address within three (3) business days of receiving the returned envelope.

10.9 Class Counsel shall provide the Court, at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Final Fairness Hearing, a declaration by the Claims Administrator of due diligence and proof of mailing with regard to the mailing of the Notice of Class Action Settlement and Claim Form to Proposed Settlement Class Members.

10.10 In the event that a Notice of Class Action Settlement and Claim Form are returned to the Claims Administrator by the United States Postal Service because the address of the recipient is no longer valid, i.e., the envelope is marked "Return to Sender", the Claims Administrator shall perform a standard skip trace in an effort to attempt to ascertain the current address of the particular Proposed Settlement Class Member in question and, if such an address is ascertained, the Claims Administrator will re-send the Notice and Claim Form within three (3) business days of receiving the newly ascertained address; if no updated address is obtained for that Proposed Settlement Class Member, the Notice of Class Action Settlement and Claim Form shall be sent again to the Proposed

Settlement Class Member's last known address. In either event, the Notice of Class Action Settlement and Claim Form shall be deemed received once it is mailed for the second time unless the Proposed Settlement Class Member can demonstrate good reason why she did not receive it.

10.11 With respect to envelopes marked "Return to Sender", the Claims Administrator will also call any identified last-known telephone numbers (and telephone numbers updated through public and proprietary databases) of Proposed Settlement Class Members to obtain their current addresses.

10.12 The Claims Administrator shall provide to Counsel for Novartis and Class Counsel, at least ten (10) business days prior to the Final Fairness Hearing, a list of Proposed Settlement Class Members for whom notices were returned as undeliverable and for whom efforts to obtain an alternative address failed.

E. Submission of Claim Forms After Final Approval.

10.13 All Proposed Settlement Class Members who seek recovery of a monetary award from the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages portion of the Settlement Fund must make such a claim in writing using the Claim Form attached as Exhibit B. All Claim Forms must be signed by the Claimant under penalties of perjury. Each Proposed Settlement Class Member who seeks to be considered as an "Eligible Claimant" must submit her own timely and complete Claim Form. All Claim Forms must be mailed to the Claims Administrator and postmarked by the claim filing deadline described in the Notice and Claim Form in order to be considered timely. In order for a Claim Form to be considered complete, all questions must be answered (except that failure to provide an employee identification number will not in any way be held against the Claimant) and all applicable blanks filled in in a manner legible to the Claims Administrator

and Claims Adjudicator. Failure to file a timely and complete Claim Form by the deadline for submission of all Claim Forms, if not corrected within the remedial period set forth in Paragraph 10.19 below, shall bar the Proposed Settlement Class Member from receiving a monetary award for compensatory damages.

10.14 In the Claim Form, each Eligible Claimant who seeks recovery of a monetary award from the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages portion of the Settlement Fund must declare under penalties of perjury (without a notarized requirement) that during the Settlement Class Period, while in a class-eligible job, she was discriminated against on account of her gender in seeking a promotion, in the level of her pay, and/or on account of pregnancy, and that she experienced physical and/or emotional pain and suffering resulting from that discrimination. The Eligible Claimant's declaration must be accompanied by a reasonably detailed explanation of the circumstances giving rise to the belief that she experienced gender discrimination during the Settlement Class Period and a reasonably detailed explanation of the nature of the resulting physical and/or emotional pain and suffering.

10.15 In the Rider to the Claim Form, each Eligible Claimant who seeks, pursuant to Paragraph 10.1(iv)(c), an increase in her compensatory award above the amount determined pursuant to Paragraph 10.1(iv)(b) must declare under penalties of perjury (without a notarized requirement) that she received medical treatment from a Medical Professional during the period July 15, 2002 to the Preliminary Approval Date for the physical and/or emotional pain and suffering the Eligible Claimant contends resulted from the gender discrimination alleged in her Claim Form. The Eligible Claimant's declaration must be accompanied by a reasonable explanation of such medical treatment. The Eligible

Claimant must also attach to the Rider to the Claim Form a declaration executed by the Eligible Claimant's Medical Professional declaring under penalties of perjury (without a notarized requirement): (1) that he or she provided medical treatment to the Eligible Claimant during the period July 15, 2002 to the Preliminary Approval Date for physical and/or emotional pain and suffering resulting from gender discrimination the Eligible Claimant experienced while working in a class-eligible job, and (2) describing the nature of the medical treatment provided to the Eligible Claimant. Novartis, Counsel for Novartis and Class Counsel shall not have access to any Claimant's Rider to her Claim Form, or any declaration attached thereto.

10.16 The Claims Administrator shall submit, on a weekly basis, a copy of all timely and complete Claim Forms, excluding the Rider, received as of that date to a designated Novartis representative (who shall not be part of Field Management or the Human Resources Department). If Novartis has information within its possession that is inconsistent with an Eligible Claimant's declarations contained in her Claim Form, Novartis may submit a written response to the Claims Administrator and Claims Adjudicator, with a copy to Class Counsel, within forty-five (45) calendar days of the deadline for submission of all Claim Forms. No further submission shall be made by Novartis. If Novartis submits a written response to any Claim Form, Class Counsel may submit additional information to the Claims Administrator and Claims Adjudicator about the Eligible Claimant's declarations in her Claim Form that are the subject of Novartis's written response within fourteen (14) calendar days of the submission of Novartis's written response.

(i) Novartis's written response may identify only the following categories of inconsistent information: dates of employment; positions held; dates of

application for any promotions; dates of completion of any course or training process; reporting relationships; dates of reported contact with Human Resources or Novartis management regarding a Claimant's concerns or complaints; reported national and regional ranking of the individual Claimant; reported annual performance rating; Claimant's compensation; Claimant's leaves of absence, (including, but not limited to pregnancy leave and Family and Medical Leave), and any recorded Human Resources or BPO investigations into Claimant during the time period in which Claimant alleges discrimination.

(ii) The designated Novartis representative will not respond with counter-allegations regarding: the substance or content of conversations between a Claimant and any Novartis employee; any assessment of the relative performance of any of Claimant's peers; or any other assessment of the Claimant's performance, reliability, or the merit of Claimant's claims.

(iii) The designated Novartis representative will prepare and provide any written responses to the Claim Forms submitted by Settlement Class Members. Field Management, including line-managers and one-over managers, will not be informed of any Claimant's filing or involved in any way with the preparation of the response.

(iv) Claim Forms shall be used only for the purpose of filing a claim for compensatory damages under this Agreement, and shall not be used by Settlement Class Members, Class Counsel or any other person for any other reason. Claim Forms may not be used by Novartis to conduct internal investigations in to the substance of the allegations contained therein. Accordingly, any Proposed Settlement Class Member who believes that she or anyone else is subject to ongoing discrimination or misconduct must

report their allegations separately to the Novartis Business Practices Officer (“BPO”) or to the Employee Relations hotline, AlertLine, her Supervisor, an officer of the Company, or a representative of Human Resources, Ethics and Compliance or Legal for investigation and resolution.

(v) Claim Forms will be used only to administer the Settlement, and will not be admissible in a court or other legal proceeding for any other purpose.

10.17 Proposed Settlement Class Members who file a Claim Form must notify the Claims Administrator of any change of address. A failure to notify the Claims Administrator of a change of address may result in the forfeiture of a monetary award for compensatory damages. The Claims Administrator shall be available through the toll-free line to respond to requests from Proposed Settlement Class Members for assistance in completing and filing Claim Forms. Class Counsel shall also be available to consult with and provide assistance to Proposed Settlement Class Members who request assistance in completing their Claim Forms.

10.18 No untimely filed and/or incomplete Claim Forms may be accepted by the Claims Administrator, except that (1) the Claims Administrator may extend the deadline for receipt of Claim Forms by up to ten (10) additional calendar days (but no more) where error or delay by United States Postal Service is established; and/or (2) the Claims Administrator may provide a one-time extension of the deadline for receipt of Claim Forms of up to sixty (60) additional calendar days upon good cause shown.

F. Administrative Review of All Claims.

10.19 The Claims Administrator shall conduct a review of all Claim Forms, as well as data provided by Novartis and Class Counsel concerning the time period each

Claimant was employed by Novartis, to determine whether the Claim Form is sufficiently complete, as provided for in Paragraph 10.13.

(i) If the Claims Administrator or Claims Adjudicator rejects a Claim Form as not meeting the terms or provisions of the Settlement Agreement, the Claims Adjudicator or Claims Adjudicator shall so notify the Claimant and Class Counsel in writing and specify the eligibility and/or entitlement criteria that the Claimant failed to satisfy. The Claims Adjudicator or Claims Adjudicator shall provide a one-time twenty (20) calendar day remedial period, which commences from the date of mailing of the written notification by the Claims Adjudicator, in which a Claimant can rectify any errors in the Claim Form.

10.20 The Claims Adjudicator shall review all timely and complete Claim Forms and any responses submitted by Novartis pursuant to Paragraph 10.16 to determine: (1) whether each Eligible Claimant has substantiated her claim for a compensatory award and is thus entitled to payment from the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages calculated pursuant to Paragraphs 10.1(iv)(a) and (b), and (2) which, if any, such Eligible Claimants are entitled to an increased compensatory award pursuant to Paragraphs 10.1(iv)(c) and 10.15, and the amount of any increase to be awarded from the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages.

10.21 The Claims Adjudicator shall complete its review and issue a final determination as to which, if any, Eligible Claimants are entitled to a compensatory award, and the amount to which each such Eligible Claimant is entitled, within one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days of the deadline for submission of Claim Forms or, if applicable, the extended deadline for submission of Claim Forms pursuant to Paragraph 10.18. Eligible

Claimants determined to be entitled to a compensatory award will receive payment pursuant to the monetary distribution procedure described below in Section X.J.

10.22 Decisions by the Claims Adjudicator granting or denying claims for compensatory awards, as well as determinations of the amount of increase, if any, in compensatory awards pursuant to Paragraphs 10.1(iv)(c) and 10.15, will be final and non-appealable.

10.23 If the Claims Adjudicator rejects a Claim Form as not meeting the terms or provisions of the Settlement Agreement, after a one-time opportunity to remedy pursuant to Paragraph 10.19 has been afforded, or rejects a claim for a compensatory award as unsubstantiated, the Claims Adjudicator shall so notify the Claimant in writing and specify the eligibility and/or entitlement criteria that the Claimant failed to satisfy.

G. Objections.

10.24 Proposed Settlement Class Member objections to this Settlement Agreement must be submitted in writing, and must include a detailed description of the basis of the objection.

10.25 Objections must be filed with the Court, with copies served on the Claims Administrator, Claims Adjudicator, Class Counsel and Counsel for Novartis, within forty-five (45) calendar days after the Notice is mailed by the Claims Administrator. Proposed Settlement Class Members who fail to make objections in the manner specified above shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objection (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement Agreement.

10.26 No one may appear at the Final Fairness Hearing for the purpose of objecting to the Settlement Agreement without first having filed and served her objection(s) in writing within forty-five (45) calendar days after the Notice was mailed to Proposed

Settlement Class Members. Any lawyer representing a Proposed Settlement Class Member for the purpose of making objections must also file a Notice of Appearance with the Court by the objection deadline and must also serve copies by mail to Counsel for the Parties by the objection deadline set forth above.

10.27 An objector may withdraw her objection at any time.

H. Exclusions.

10.28 Proposed Settlement Class Members may exclude themselves, or opt out, of the Settlement. Any Proposed Settlement Class Member who wants to opt out of the Settlement Class may file a timely request for exclusion pursuant to the provisions described in the Notice of Class Action Settlement. Such written request for exclusion must contain the name, address and telephone number of the person requesting exclusion. The opt-out must be personally signed by the Proposed Settlement Class Member who seeks to opt out. No opt-out request may be made on behalf of a group of Proposed Settlement Class Members. The request for exclusion must contain the statements described in the Notice of Class Action Settlement, and must be sent by mail or courier to the Claims Administrator so that it is actually postmarked (or received, if by courier) within thirty-five (35) calendar days after Notice was mailed by the Claims Administrator. The postmark date of the mailing envelope shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether a request mailed for exclusion (opt-out) has been timely submitted. Any person who timely submits such a request for exclusion shall be barred from participation in the Settlement, and shall receive no benefit from the Settlement. The Claims Administrator shall provide Class Counsel and Counsel for Novartis with a copy of all opt-out statements on a weekly basis.

10.29 Class Counsel shall file with the Court all timely opt-out statements. The Court must approve and order the exclusion of Proposed Settlement Class Members seeking

to opt out from the injunctive relief portion of this Agreement in order for the requested exclusion to be effective. Individuals who file and serve a timely opt-out statement are not entitled to any monetary award under this Settlement Agreement.

I. Determination—Final and Binding.

10.30 All final determinations of the Claims Adjudicator shall be binding and non-appealable.

10.31 The Claims Administrator and Claims Adjudicator shall keep the Claim Forms and its determinations confidential and shall not disclose the number and/or identity of the Eligible Claimants or the value of their claims except as provided for in this Settlement Agreement.

J. Class Monetary Distribution Procedure.

10.32 No later than ten (10) calendar days after the deadline for completion of the entire claims process described in Paragraph 10.21, the Claims Administrator shall provide Novartis and Class Counsel with (1) a list of names and social security numbers of Settlement Class Members to whom a backpay award is due and the amount each Settlement Class Member is to be paid under Paragraph 10.1(iii), and (2) a list of the names and social security numbers of the Settlement Class Members to whom a compensatory award is due and the amount each Settlement Class Member is to be paid under Paragraph 10.1(iv).

10.33 No later than forty (40) calendar days after the deadline for completion of the claims determination process described in Paragraph 10.21, the Claims Administrator shall cause to be mailed, via certified mail, return receipt requested, payment checks and any appropriate 1099 forms to the Settlement Class Members to whom a payment is due.

10.34 If a Settlement Class Member to whom a payment is due is deceased at the time of such distribution hereunder, the amount payable to such deceased Settlement Class Member shall be paid to her estate, provided that the estate provides an appropriate certification to the Claims Administrator.

10.35 The face of each check sent pursuant to Paragraphs 10.32 to 10.34 to Settlement Class Members to whom a payment is due shall clearly state that the check must be cashed within one (1) year. All payment checks distributed by the Claims Administrator must be accompanied by a cover letter stating words in bold to the effect that “the check must be cashed within one (1) year or it will become void.” The back of each check will contain a legend stating: “By negotiating this check and accepting payment I agree that I have waived and released the Released Parties from all Released Claims as defined in the Settlement Agreement and in the Notice in this matter. This Release is effective as of the Effective Date.”

XI. NOVARTIS'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW OR MODIFY THE AGREEMENT

11.1 If a total of ten percent (10%) or more Proposed Settlement Class Members submit timely and complete requests for exclusion, Novartis shall have the absolute right, in its sole discretion and notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, but subject to all the provisions and time limits of this Section, to withdraw in writing from this Agreement, or to modify this Agreement through further negotiations with Class Counsel. If Novartis does withdraw in conformity with the provisions and time limits of this Section, the Agreement will be null and void for all purposes and may not be used or introduced in further litigation except to determine whether Novartis is entitled to withdraw from the Agreement and has validly done so.

11.2 The Claims Administrator shall each calendar week notify Counsel for Novartis and Class Counsel by fax or e-mail of the number of individuals who have to that date submitted timely and complete requests for exclusion, and at the same time shall send to said Counsel by fax, e-mail or by overnight delivery copies of all the timely and complete requests for exclusion which Class Counsel has received. Novartis shall have thirty (30) calendar days after the expiration of all Proposed Settlement Class Members' deadlines in Section X.E above to withdraw from (or modify through negotiation) this Agreement on the basis that a total of ten percent (10%) or more Proposed Settlement Class Members have submitted timely and complete requests for exclusion.

XII. DUTIES OF THE PARTIES PRIOR TO COURT APPROVAL

12.1 Promptly upon execution of this Agreement, but by no later than ten (10) calendar days thereafter, Class Counsel shall apply to the Court for the entry of an order (the "Preliminary Approval Order"):

- (i) Preliminarily approving the Agreement, as well as the payment of attorneys' fees, costs, and Service Award Payments described in this Agreement;
- (ii) Approving as to form and content the proposed Notice of Class Action Settlement;
- (iii) Approving as to form and content the proposed Claim Form;
- (iv) Directing the mailing of the Notice and Claim Form by first class mail to the Proposed Settlement Class Members;
- (v) Certifying the Settlement Class; and
- (vi) Scheduling a Final Fairness Hearing as soon as practicable on the question of whether the proposed settlement should be finally

approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the Settlement Class Members.

12.2 In applying for the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Class Counsel and Counsel for Novartis will jointly submit to the Court for its approval this Settlement Agreement, exhibits, and supporting papers, which shall describe the terms of this settlement and will include proposed forms of all notices and other documents as attached hereto necessary to implement the Settlement Agreement.

12.3 In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this Settlement Agreement, unless otherwise stated, such computation or calculation shall be made consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6(a).

XIII. DUTIES OF THE PARTIES FOLLOWING FINAL COURT APPROVAL

13.1 In connection with the Final Approval by the Court of the Agreement, Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant will submit a proposed final order and judgment:

(i) Granting final approval to the Agreement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;

(ii) Dismissing the Civil Action with prejudice and permanently barring all members of the Settlement Class including the Class Representatives from prosecuting against any Released Parties any of the Released Claims; and

(iii) Ordering that all materials containing Confidential or Highly Confidential Information pursuant to the Protective Order entered in the Civil Action shall be returned to the producing party or destroyed by the party to whom those materials were produced within one-hundred eighty (180) calendar days after the Effective Date, with the exception that the Parties may retain copies of their work

product; copies of all filed documents (whether or not filed under seal or submitted to the court without being officially filed); and materials necessary to oversee compliance with this Agreement, except that all documents and materials designated Highly Confidential shall be returned to Novartis or Novartis's Counsel, who shall retain and maintain that information in the form in which it is returned during the term of this Settlement Agreement.

XIV. PARTIES' AUTHORITY

14.1 The signatories hereby represent that they are fully authorized to enter into this Agreement and to bind the Parties and the Proposed Settlement Class Members to the terms and conditions hereof.

14.2 All of the Parties acknowledge that through this Settlement Agreement and its attachments, they and the Proposed Settlement Class Members are being advised that they may consult an attorney regarding their participation in this Agreement, and the Parties acknowledge that they in fact have been represented by competent, experienced Counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and this Agreement is made with the consent and advice of Counsel who have jointly prepared this Agreement.

14.3 All of the Parties and Proposed Settlement Class Members acknowledge that they are participating voluntarily and knowingly in exchange for the consideration described herein. The Parties and Proposed Settlement Class Members further acknowledge that they were provided with a reasonable period of time within which to consider this Agreement.

XV. NOTICES

15.1 Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices, demands or other communications given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed as follows:

To the Class Representatives or to any Proposed Settlement Class Member:

SANFORD WITTELS & HEISLER, LLP
David Sanford, Esq.
Katherine Kimpel, Esq.
1666 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20009

To the Defendant:

CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP
Evan R. Chesler, Esq.
Darin P. McAtee, Esq.
825 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10019

XVI. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC COMMENT

16.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to permit anyone (including Class Counsel or any consultant pursuant to this Agreement) to make public Novartis's confidential personnel information. Nor will any provision require Novartis to make public such information.

16.2 Other than necessary disclosures made to the Court, the content of the Parties' settlement negotiations shall be held confidential by Counsel for Novartis, Novartis, Class Counsel and the Class Representatives.

16.3 Counsel for Novartis, Novartis, Class Counsel, and the Class Representatives shall not disclose to any third party, including but not limited to

communications on the internet (e.g., postings on personal or public websites such as social networking sites and blogs) or by means of any electronic or print media, any information about any aspect of the settlement, including the content of the settlement negotiations, subject to the following exceptions:

(i) Nothing in the above shall limit Class Counsel's right to communicate with Proposed Settlement Class Members. Class Counsel may communicate about the content of the settlement negotiations with Proposed Settlement Class Members for purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing the Settlement, and Class Counsel may respond to inquiries they respectively receive from Proposed Settlement Class Members. In addition, the Class Representatives may communicate about the content of the settlement negotiations with Proposed Settlement Class Members for purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing the Settlement as provided herein;

(ii) Proposed Settlement Class Members and Class Representatives may share the details of their receipt of monetary relief for compensatory damages and backpay with their tax advisor for the purpose of preparing income tax returns;

(iii) Novartis may communicate with those persons, including Novartis employees, necessary for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of the Settlement, and may inform its employees of the Settlement;

(iv) Novartis may make public disclosures in accordance with securities law or for other regulatory purposes and may communicate with those persons necessary for the preparation and dissemination of such public disclosures; and

(v) The Parties will agree upon language for a joint press release (attached hereto as Exhibit C) announcing the Settlement upon an agreed date not before the filing of the request for Preliminary Approval with the Court; neither Party will separately issue its own press release or separately communicate with members of the press about any aspect of the Settlement at any time.

16.4 Class Counsel agrees to use the contact information for Proposed Settlement Class Members that is provided to it by the Claims Administrator and Counsel for Novartis solely for purposes of communicating regarding this action and implementing this Agreement and for no other purpose, at any time, or for any reason.

16.5 Any Settlement Class Member that receives a compensatory award agrees to be bound by a confidentiality provision separate and apart from any other confidentiality provision in this agreement. Specifically, she shall agree and promise that she has not communicated or disclosed, and will not hereafter communicate or disclose in the future, the sum of any payment made to her under this Agreement to any persons other than members of her immediate family, her present attorneys, accountants and/or tax or financial consultants, state and federal tax authorities or other persons as may be required by law provided, however, that any such person or entity to whom disclosure is made shall be instructed in advance by each Claimant that the information is strictly confidential pursuant to this Agreement. For all other purposes, Claimant shall indicate only that her lawsuit has been “resolved.”

XVII. MODIFICATION

17.1 This Agreement and its attachments may not be terminated or substantively changed, altered or modified, except as approved by the Court.

XVIII. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

18.1 This Agreement and its exhibits and attachments constitute the entire agreement between the Parties and Proposed Settlement Class Members concerning the subject matter hereof. No extrinsic oral or written representations or terms shall modify, vary or contradict the terms of this Agreement. In the event of any conflict between this Agreement and any other Settlement-related document, the Parties and Proposed Settlement Class Members intend that this Agreement shall be controlling.

XIX. INTERPRETATION

19.1 This Agreement shall be construed as a whole according to its fair meaning and intent, and not strictly for or against any party, regardless of who drafted or who was principally responsible for drafting this Agreement or any specific term or condition thereof.

XX. CHOICE OF LAW AND JURISDICTION

20.1 This Agreement and the exhibits thereto shall be considered to have been negotiated, executed and delivered, and to be wholly performed, in the State of New York, and the rights and obligations of the Parties to this Agreement shall be subject to, governed by, construed, enforced, and administered in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to that State's choice-of-law principles.

20.2 The Court, and any appellate court from which appeals of the Court's decisions may properly be brought, shall retain jurisdiction of the implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement, and all Parties hereto and their counsel shall submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of implementing and enforcing the Settlement embodied in this Agreement.

XXI. COUNTERPARTS

21.1 This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, and when each party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be deemed an original, and, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one Agreement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties and Proposed Settlement Class Members.

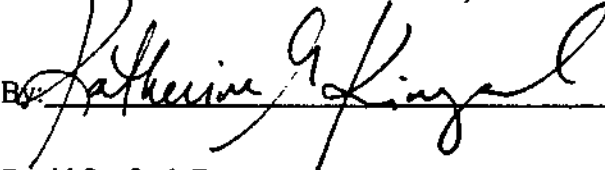
XXII. VOIDING THE AGREEMENT

22.1 In the event this Agreement, or any amended version agreed upon by the Parties, does not obtain judicial approval for any reason, this Agreement shall be null and void in its entirety, unless expressly agreed in writing by all Parties. In the event this Agreement becomes null and void for any reason, Novartis, Counsel for Novartis, the Class Representatives, and Class Counsel agree that they shall from that date forward keep strictly confidential the terms of the Agreement, the existence of the Agreement, any information concerning the Agreement, or any of the discussions and or negotiations regarding the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have duly executed this Agreement as of the date indicated below:

Dated: July 14, 2010

SANFORD WITTELS & HEISLER, LLP

By: 

David Sanford, Esq.
Katherine Kimpel, Esq.
Steven Wittels, Esq.
Grant Morris, Esq. Of Counsel
1666 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 310

Washington, D.C. 20009
Tel. (202) 742-7780
Fax (202) 742-7776

Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class

Dated: July 14, 2010

CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP

By: _____

Evan R. Chesler, Esq.
Darin P. McAtee, Esq.
825 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10019
Tel.: (212) 474-1243
Fax: (212) 474-3700

Counsel for Defendant Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Velez, et al. v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Corporation

Class Action
Civil Action No. 04 Civ. 9194 (CM)

**NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND SETTLEMENT HEARING**

TO: All women who are currently holding, or have held, a SALES-RELATED POSITION with NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION (“Novartis”) from JULY 15, 2002 through [PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE, i.e. July 14, 2010] (“The Settlement Class”).

This Notice is being sent to you, by order of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”). It describes a proposed settlement (the “Settlement”) of a gender discrimination class action against Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (the “Civil Action”) and your right to receive money from this Settlement.

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY.
YOUR RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS
LITIGATION.
YOU ARE ENTITLED TO MONEY FROM THIS SETTLEMENT.**

Summary of Settlement:

On November 19, 2004, the Class Representatives filed this lawsuit, on behalf of themselves and a class of current and former female sales force employees of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (“Novartis” or “NPC”), claiming that Novartis discriminated against women in three main respects: (1) pay; (2) promotion to management; and (3) on the basis of pregnancy. The Class Representatives litigated this gender discrimination case against Novartis for nearly six years until the parties reached a final settlement agreement in July 2010.

The Settlement makes available settlement benefits of up to \$175,000,000 (\$175 million) in monetary and non-monetary relief, comprised of a cash payment of up to \$152,500,000 (\$152.5 million) (the “Settlement Fund”) and of changes to Novartis’s employment practices valued at \$22,500,000 (\$22.5 million), as described in this Notice. As a former or current female sales force employee, you are eligible to participate in the settlement benefits.

Specifically, this Notice is being sent to all women who are currently holding, or have held, a sales-related position of Sales Representatives, Sales Consultants, Senior Sales Consultants, Executive Sales Consultants, Sales Associates, Sales Specialists, Senior Sales Specialists or District Managers I with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (together the “Proposed Settlement Class Members” or “Settlement Class Members” and each a “Proposed Settlement Class Member” or “Settlement Class Member”), excluding individuals who entered into individual releases as part of individual agreements with Novartis from the start of the class period, July 15, 2002, through the date of preliminary approval (“Preliminary Approval Date”) that did not carve out an exception for this Civil Action.

The Court in charge of this case is the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and the case is known as *Velez, et al. v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation*. This case is assigned to United States District Judge Colleen McMahon. The Court has preliminarily approved the Settlement and wishes to inform you of the general terms of the Settlement and what actions you need to take to participate in the benefits provided by the Settlement.

The Court will be holding a hearing to consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and to decide whether to give final approval to this Settlement. The Final Fairness Hearing will be held on November 19, 2010 at [] a.m., before the Honorable Colleen McMahon, United States District Judge, Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 14C, New York, New York 10007. If the Court approves the Settlement, the Court’s judgment will be final and binding, and payments will be made after the completion of all claims processing.

You may attend this hearing if you wish, but you are not required to appear at the hearing. If you are a Class Member, you will be represented by Class Counsel at no cost to you.

If you wish to remain a Class Member and receive a share of the backpay monetary relief, you do not have to do anything in response to this Notice.

However, if you wish to receive additional money in the form of compensatory damages (for pain and suffering), this Notice will describe the procedures to do so.

Or, if you wish to opt out from the settlement or object to it, this Notice will describe those procedures.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS NOTICE

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE5

LITIGATION BACKGROUND5

CLASS DEFINITION – YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CLASS6

DISCUSSION OF SETTLEMENT TERMS6

RELEASE OF CLAIMS10

THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS, FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING AND YOUR RIGHTS11

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU AND THE CLASS12

PUBLIC COMMENT13

GETTING MORE INFORMATION13

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE

This Notice explains the Civil Action, the Settlement, the certification by the Court of the Settlement Class, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them.

Your interests have been represented in the Civil Action by Class Counsel, Sanford Wittels & Heisler, LLP. This firm represents the interests of you and all Proposed Settlement Class Members. If you have questions regarding this Notice or your rights in this Settlement, you may contact Class Counsel at novartissettlement@swhlegal.com or visit www.swhlegal.com.

If you want to be represented by your own lawyer (other than Class Counsel), you may hire one at your own expense.

LITIGATION BACKGROUND

On November 19, 2004, the Class Representatives filed a Class Action Complaint against Novartis in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, on behalf of themselves and a nationwide class of female sales force employees of Novartis under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000(e) *et seq.* The Fourth Amended Complaint was filed on March 13, 2006.

On January 16, 2007, the Class Representatives filed their Motion to Certify a Class, and on July 31, 2007, the Court granted the certification motion. On August 16, 2007, the Court issued an Amended Opinion and Order certifying the proposed class, and issued notice of court approval of class certification on December 7, 2007. The notice was addressed to all women who were employed in certain sales-related positions with Novartis in the period between July 15, 2002, and November 30, 2007. A jury trial commenced on April 7, 2010.

The jury delivered a verdict on behalf of Plaintiffs on all counts and awarded compensatory and punitive damages. The trial concluded on May 19, 2010, with equitable relief and non-monetary relief to be ordered by the Court at a later date.

In order to secure certain, prompt and extensive relief for the Proposed Settlement Class and to avoid the risk of future litigation and appeals, the Parties engaged in vigorous settlement negotiations. In July 2010, the Parties reached an agreement providing for the settlement of the class action and executed a Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement"). The Parties agree that the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate and that it serves the best interest of the Proposed Settlement Class based on all the facts and circumstances.

CLASS DEFINITION – YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THIS CLASS

You are a member of the Settlement Class if you fit within this definition:

All women who are currently holding, or have held, a sales-related position of *Sales Representatives, Sales Consultants, Senior Sales Consultants, Executive Sales Consultants, Sales Associates, Sales Specialists, Senior Sales Specialists or District Managers I* with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, from the start of the class period, July 15, 2002, through [Preliminary Approval Date]. You are excluded if you entered into individual releases as part of individual agreements with Novartis up to the Preliminary Approval Date that did not carve out an exception for this Civil Action.

You have received this Notice because Novartis's records reflect that you are a female and were employed by Novartis between July 15, 2002 and [Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010], subject to the definition above, and that you are therefore a Settlement Class Member.

Your rights may be affected by the legal proceedings in this action.

DISCUSSION OF SETTLEMENT TERMS

Under the terms of the Settlement, Novartis has agreed to pay a total amount of up to \$175,000,000 (\$175 million) in monetary and non-monetary relief, comprised of a cash payment of up to \$152,500,000 (\$152.5 million) (the "Settlement Fund") and of changes to Novartis's employment practices (described below) valued at \$22,500,000 (\$22.5 million).

Both parties agree that the Settlement – under all the facts and circumstances – constitutes fair, adequate, and reasonable consideration for the settlement of all employment discrimination claims that were raised or could have been raised by the Named Plaintiffs or any member of the Proposed Settlement Class in the Civil Action, whether individually or as a class.

How Will My Settlement Award Be Calculated?

Settlement Class Members will be eligible to receive up to two monetary awards, in settlement of their claims for (1) backpay or lost wages, and (2) compensatory damages.

- (1) Monetary awards for **backpay or lost wages** will be calculated based on the number of months you worked at Novartis during the Settlement Class Period and will be distributed out of a "Class Award for Backpay" of approximately \$60,000,000 (\$60 million). **You do not need to do anything to receive your backpay award.**

A fixed monthly amount for backpay ("Backpay Monthly Amount") will be calculated by dividing the "Class Award for Backpay" by the total months worked by all class members in jobs included within the class definition during the Settlement Class Period. That monthly amount will then be multiplied by the number of months you worked in a class-eligible job during the Settlement Class Period. Your backpay award is subject to all applicable tax withholdings (which includes the employer's share of federal and state

payroll taxes). Applicable withholdings and deductions will be made prior to the mailing of your backpay award, and you will receive IRS Forms W-2 for the amounts reportable on each Form.

- (2) Monetary awards for **compensatory damages** will be calculated based on the number of months you worked at Novartis during the Settlement Class Period and will be distributed out of the “Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages” of approximately \$40,000,000 (\$40 million). **To be eligible for a compensatory damage award, you must submit a Claim Form – payment of compensatory awards is NOT automatic.**

A fixed monthly amount for compensatory damages (“Compensatory Monthly Amount”) will be calculated by dividing the “Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages” by the total months worked by all Settlement Class Members in class-eligible jobs during the Settlement Class Period. That monthly amount will then be multiplied by the number of months you worked in a class-eligible job during the Settlement Class Period.

- a. **Each Settlement Class Member who seeks to receive an award for compensatory damages MUST COMPLETE a Claim Form, which is attached hereto as Exhibit B, and submit it by December 12, 2010.**
- b. If you believe that the pain and suffering you experienced as a result of Novartis’s discriminatory treatment was particularly severe, you may choose to complete an additional form (the “Rider”) which may entitle you to an increase in your compensatory damages up to \$300,000 total. This extra form requires you to identify a “Medical Professional” (defined as a physician or clinical psychologist) who treated you at any time during the period July 15, 2002 to [Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010] for pain and suffering resulting from gender discrimination you experienced while working in a class-eligible job.
 - (i) To be eligible for an increase over the standard compensatory award, you will need to declare on the Rider under penalties of perjury (but without a notarized requirement) that you received medical treatment from a Medical Professional at any time during the relevant time period for the physical and/or emotional pain and suffering caused by the gender discrimination at Novartis which you allege in your Claim Form. You will also need to provide a reasonable explanation of your medical treatment, and will need to attach a declaration from your Medical Professional.
 - (ii) Your treating Medical Professional will need to declare in writing and under penalties of perjury (but without a notarized requirement): (1) that he or she provided medical treatment to you during the relevant time period for physical and/or emotional pain and suffering resulting from gender discrimination you experienced while working in a class-eligible job, and (2) describing the nature of the treatment

provided to you. You must attach your Medical Professional's written declaration to your Rider.

- (iii) No one at Novartis and none of Novartis's attorneys will have access to any of the information that you or your Medical Professional provide on the Rider.
- (iv) If the Court approves this Settlement, the Rider and instructions for completion will be provided to you in the separate mailing that also provides information on the basic compensatory award Claim Form detailed above.

Will I Face Retaliation for Participation?

No.

If you are a former employee, Novartis cannot and will not inform anyone as to whether or not (a) you are a member of the Proposed Settlement Class, (b) you have participated in the settlement in any way, or (c) you have received compensation as a part of the Settlement.

If you are a current employee, Novartis cannot and will not hold against you (a) the fact that you are a member of the Proposed Settlement class, (b) whether you participate in the settlement in any way, or (c) whether you receive compensation as a part of the Settlement. In addition, Novartis cannot and will not credit you or give you any sort of benefit if you choose to opt-out of the Settlement. As a term of this Agreement, Novartis has limited the individuals who will administer the Settlement, and Field Management will not be involved in nor have access to information about the backpay award process or the compensatory settlement claims process.

Will the Women Who Litigated This Case Receive a Service Payment?

Class Counsel will apply for service payments of \$125,000 each for the Class Representatives and the other women who testified at trial to compensate them for the time and effort they devoted to representing the Class in this case, including the time they spent consulting with Class Counsel about the case. Class Counsel will seek \$150,000 for Amy Velez, the original Class Representative, who started the case in 2004.

In addition, Class Counsel will seek \$25,000 for the women who provided extensive discovery – including giving a sworn deposition – that required significant time and effort on their part. These payments come from the Settlement Fund and do **not** reduce the amounts detailed above in the “Backpay Settlement Fund” or the “Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages” from which your recovery will be drawn.

What Does Novartis Have to Do Under the Settlement?

Under the Settlement, Novartis agrees to make changes to its policies and practices regarding complaints of discrimination as well as compensation, performance evaluation and promotion of its field force employees. These changes are valued at approximately \$22,500,000 (\$22.5 million).

Novartis has agreed to be bound by the Settlement for a three-year period. The overall objective of this Agreement is to ensure equal employment opportunities for women who work at Novartis. In order to do so, Novartis has agreed to many steps, including but not limited to the following:

1. Novartis will prepare and circulate a sexual harassment policy that will cover inappropriate conduct by employees and physician customers and will make clear that Novartis does not tolerate inappropriate sexual behavior or comments by physician customers. Novartis will conduct annual training on this policy.
2. Novartis will increase the size of its Employee Relations staff designated to respond to and investigate complaints of discrimination as well as its Human Resources Business Partner staff.
3. Novartis will revise the policies and processes regarding its investigation into discrimination, including establishing a new “hotline” specific to Employee Relations complaints. Novartis will communicate to employees its policy that requires all employees to immediately report—to the BPO, Employee Relations Hotline, Alertline, his or her Supervisor, an officer of the Company, or a representative of Human Resources, Ethics and Compliance or Legal—all complaints of misconduct. Novartis will also communicate to employees its policy that requires managers or upper-level Novartis employees to immediately report—to the BPO, Employee Relations Hotline, AlertLine, his or her Supervisor, an officer of the Company, or a representative of Human Resources, Ethics and Compliance or Legal—all complaints of misconduct made by others, and that management may not exercise its discretion regarding whether or not to report such a complaint.
4. Novartis has developed a formalized complaint investigation process, which it will continue to follow, including the practice that all investigative steps taken by the Employee Relations Group either be made in writing or documented after the fact. Novartis will further maintain an electronic database of any complaints and the disciplinary action taken (if any).
5. With respect to its Performance Evaluation Process, Novartis will evaluate how to ensure that an employee’s leave of absence, including pregnancy leave, will not result in negative performance ratings for his/her manager, his/her counterparts in the territory and the employee in question, and will develop and issue specific guidance regarding implementation of the Values and Behaviors and Objective evaluation.
6. Novartis will provide mandatory training for all managers regarding the performance evaluation process.
7. Novartis will conduct an adverse impact analysis of performance ratings to determine if there are any significant gender disparities. Novartis will remedy, as soon as practicable, any gender-related problems affecting employees covered by this Agreement and evidenced in the analysis.

8. Novartis will conduct calibration sessions at the District Manager and second-line manager level for representatives (and at the second-line manager and Vice President level for District Managers) to ensure consistency in the evaluation of employees against a uniform understanding of the expectations. Human Resources will continue to play an active role in the calibration process.
9. Novartis will conduct two different types of analysis on its current pay structure. First, Novartis will analyze the base salaries of its employees to check for any gender-related discrepancies within the range of pay for each job. In case of any discrepancies versus range, Novartis will correct the problem within 18 months by making adjustments in base salaries based on these findings. Second, Novartis will perform an annual adverse impact analysis on annual rates of pay to identify any discrepancies based on gender and will make necessary adjustments based on these findings in the next merit cycle.
10. Novartis will provide clear written materials regarding the pre-Management Development Program (“MDP”) checklist and the Management Development (“MD”) classes, how each stage progresses, what individuals need to do to move through each stage, and the frequency at which each of the MD classes are offered. Novartis has created and will continue to maintain a system that allows interested employees to self-register their interest in management electronically.
11. Novartis will work with Luke Visconti, CEO from DiversityInc, and Joyce Dudley from Dudley Hamilton to work on the overall culture at Novartis and improve the Novartis work environment for all employees and report annually to the Novartis Executive Committee on recommendations and actions taken.

RELEASE OF CLAIMS

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, then all Settlement Class Members who do not opt out will fully, finally, and forever release employment claims covered by the Settlement Agreement against Novartis up to the Preliminary Approval Date. When claims are “released” it means that a person granting the release cannot sue Novartis for the same claims that are covered by the lawsuit as set forth below and in the Settlement Agreement.

What this means for you is that you will not be able to bring a lawsuit in any form for anything related to any kind of employment discrimination at Novartis that happened before [the Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010]. More specifically, you will be releasing any and all employment discrimination claims including, but not limited to, claims of alleged pay or promotion discrimination, sexual harassment claims, hostile work environment claims or benefits claims under Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 1981a (“Section 1981a”), and any other applicable federal, state, or local statutes, common law, or regulation. This is true whether or not you are aware of those claims now.

The release, however, will not include the Wage and Hour class action lawsuits now pending against Novartis.

This Release does not affect your rights, if any, to recovery in existing certified class actions in which you are currently a class member regarding non-discrimination related employment matters. It also does not affect your rights to any claims that might arise from any of Novartis' actions or omissions occurring after the Preliminary Approval Date.

The terms of the Release are set forth in Paragraph 2.20 and Section V of the Settlement Agreement. You may obtain a copy of the Settlement Agreement by contacting Class Counsel, as listed below, or you can view the Settlement Agreement in hard copy in the Office of the Clerk of the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007.

THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS, FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING AND YOUR RIGHTS

In order to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement, Judge McMahon will consider related papers and comments submitted by the Parties or others and will hold a hearing in open court. **This Final Fairness Hearing will be held at [TIME] on November 19, 2010 at the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 14C, New York, New York 10007.**

You do not need to appear at the hearing. However, you may attend and you may also enter an appearance in the case through your own attorney, if you so desire. This appearance must be filed with the Clerk's Office and served on the Claims Administrator and Class Counsel no later than forty-five days after this Notice is postmarked.

You also may decide to "opt out" or ask to be excluded from the Settlement. If you exclude yourself from the Class, you will not be legally bound by the Court's judgments in this Civil Action but you also will not receive any money from this Class Action lawsuit – even if the proposed Settlement is approved. Of course, even if you exclude yourself from this lawsuit and you are currently employed by Novartis, any changes made to Novartis's policies about the treatment of women would still apply to you. To ask to be excluded:

- (1) You must send a request for exclusion that contains your name, address and telephone number and must be personally signed by you.
- (2) The request for exclusion must contain the following language: "I understand that I am requesting to be excluded from the class monetary settlement and that I will receive no money from the settlement fund created under the Settlement Agreement entered into by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. I understand that if I am excluded from the class monetary settlement, I may bring a separate legal action seeking damages, but may receive nothing or less than what I would have received if I had filed a claim under the class monetary settlement procedure in this case. I also understand that I may not seek exclusion from the Class for programmatic relief and that I am bound by the programmatic relief provisions of the Settlement Agreement entered into by Novartis."

- (3) You must mail your request for exclusion postmarked by [], 2010 to [Claims Administrator Address].

You also may submit any objections to this proposed settlement in writing. For any such written objections to be considered, you must follow the steps detailed below:

- (1) You must file your written objection with the Clerk of the Court, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10007. Please do not send any comments directly to the Court or attempt to reach Judge McMahon in person. **Your objection must be postmarked within 45 days after the postmark date of this Notice.**
- (2) Copies of all such papers must be mailed and postmarked by the same date to both (i) the Claims Administrator at [INSERT ADDRESS] and (ii) Class Counsel at 1666 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 310, Washington DC 20003.

Any objection must detail the specific reason for the objection.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU AND THE CLASS

As a Settlement Class Member, you are represented in this litigation by Class Counsel, as follows:

David Sanford, Esq.
Katherine Kimpel, Esq.
Steven Wittels, Esq.
Grant Morris, Esq. Of Counsel
SANFORD WITTELS & HEISLER, LLP
1666 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 310
Washington DC, 20009
Email: novartissettlement@swhlegal.com
Fax: 202-742-7776
www.swhlegal.com

Unless you elect to exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will continue to be represented by Class Counsel in connection with implementation and monitoring of the Settlement throughout the three-year term of the Settlement at no cost to you.

How Will The Lawyers Be Paid?

In connection with the Settlement, the Court is expected to award Class Counsel reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses out of the Settlement Fund.

If you are a Settlement Class Member and receive an award from the Settlement Fund, you will not owe any fees or expenses to the lawyers who have represented you as a

part of the Settlement Class. Whatever the Court awards to Class Counsel in fees and expenses will be paid only if and after the Settlement has been approved by the Court.

As is routine in class actions, Class Counsel will file a motion seeking court approval for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses already incurred, as well as the fees and expenses that will be incurred during the three-year term of the Settlement. For more than six years, Class Counsel has vigorously litigated this case which involved extensive discovery including approximately 100 depositions, voluminous motion practice and appeals, and a 7-week trial. Class Counsel has litigated this case on behalf of you and the rest of the Settlement Class without receiving any compensation for their services or reimbursement of their out-of-pocket litigation expenses and has undertaken significant risks in pursuing this matter. They have done so with the understanding that, if they obtained a recovery for the Class, their expenses would be reimbursed and they would receive fees from the fund recovered. Accordingly, Class Counsel will request that the Court award them approximately \$2,000,000 in expenses they have incurred, plus attorneys' fees for the work performed and results achieved to date in an amount no greater than 25% of the proposed \$152.5 million Settlement Fund. All fees and expenses include all future work Class Counsel will do associated with the next three years of monitoring the Settlement Agreement, responding to over 6,000 Class Members, and overseeing the claims process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

If you receive a compensatory damages award, you are bound by a specific confidentiality provision regarding the compensatory award. Specifically, this confidentiality provision requires a promise that you will not make a public comment regarding the amount of money you receive from Novartis as a part of this Settlement. You can discuss the amount you receive with members of your immediate family, your attorneys, accountants and/or tax or financial consultants, state and federal tax authorities or other persons as may be required by law. If and when you discuss your settlement with those individuals, you are expected to remind your listener in advance that the information is strictly confidential. If anyone other than the aforementioned individuals attempts to discuss the matter, you should indicate only that your lawsuit has been "resolved."

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

If you have further questions or are still not sure whether you are included, you can get free help by contacting Class Counsel in this case at the contact information listed above. You may also contact the Claims Administrator at the contact information listed above.

This Notice contains only an overview of the Settlement and related matters. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the proposed Settlement of this Action, you may examine the pleadings, the Agreement relating to the Settlement of the Action, and all other papers and documents filed with the Court in the Action, which may be inspected during normal

business hours at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE, THIS ACTION, THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OR THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING THEREON, YOU SHOULD DIRECT THEM TO CLASS COUNSEL IN THIS ACTION, AT THE ADDRESS SET FORTH ABOVE. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT.

Dated: [], 2010

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DECLARATION

I, _____, DECLARE UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE INFORMATION AND FACTS I HAVE STATED IN THIS CLAIM FORM ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Signature

Printed Name

You MUST complete and SIGN your Claim Form in order for it to be considered.

To be valid, your Claim Form must be postmarked on or before DECEMBER 12, 2010. Late Claim Forms will not be considered.

Your Completed and Signed Claim Form must be mailed to:

**Novartis Claims Administrator
[Address]**

**RETALIATION AGAINST A PERSON FOR
FILING A CLAIM IS ILLEGAL**

RIDER TO CLAIM FORM

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUBMIT THIS RIDER TO RECEIVE A MONETARY AWARD FOR COMPENSATORY DAMAGES. YOU NEED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU WANT TO SEEK ADDITIONAL COMPENSATORY DAMAGES BECAUSE THE HARM YOU SUFFERED REQUIRED YOU RECEIVE THE CARE OF A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL.

COMPLETION AND TIMELY SUBMISSION OF THIS RIDER MAY BE USED BY THE CLAIMS ADJUDICATOR ONLY TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF YOUR COMPENSATORY DAMAGES AWARD.

NOTE: All medical information will be kept strictly confidential. It will not be disclosed to Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. It will be reviewed only by a Court appointed Claims Adjudicator to make determinations regarding your monetary award.

1. Did you receive medical treatment from a “Medical Professional” (defined as a physician or clinical psychologist) during the period July 15, 2002 to [Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010] for the physical and/or emotion pain and suffering you contend was caused by the gender discrimination you allege in the accompanying Claim Form?

Yes []

No []

If you answered “Yes”, please provide an explanation in Item 2, attach to this Rider the declaration described in Item 3, and sign the accompanying declaration.

2. Provide in the lines below or as an attachment to this Rider an explanation of the medical treatment you received from a Medical Professional during the period July 15, 2002 to [Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010] for physical and/or emotion pain and suffering you contend was caused by the gender discrimination you allege in the accompanying Claim Form.

Relevant information can include the name(s) and address(es) of each Medical Professional you have seen, the number of times you sought treatment, the duration and/or time period of any treatment, any diagnosis, and whether medication or any other treatment regimen was prescribed.

DECLARATION

I, _____, **DECLARE UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE INFORMATION AND FACTS I HAVE STATED IN THIS RIDER ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.**

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Signature

Printed Name

You MUST complete and SIGN this Rider in order for it to be considered.

**To be valid, the Rider must be postmarked on or before DECEMBER 12, 2010.
Late Riders will not be considered.**

Your Completed and Signed Rider must be mailed to:

Novartis Claims Administrator
[Address]

**RETALIATION AGAINST A PERSON FOR
FILING A CLAIM IS ILLEGAL**

CLAIM FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Velez, et al. v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.

Read Carefully Before You Complete the Attached Claim Form and Rider.

1. You do not have to submit this Claim Form to receive a monetary award for backpay from the Class Award for Backpay portion of this settlement, described in the Notice of Class Action Settlement accompanying this Claim Form. This monetary amount will be sent to you automatically.
2. To be eligible to file a claim in this case, you must be a member of the Settlement Class.
3. For purposes of monetary relief, the Settlement Class consists of all women who are currently holding, or have held, a sales-related position of Sales Representatives, Sales Consultants, Senior Sales Consultants, Executive Sales Consultants, Sales Associates, Sales Specialists, Senior Sales Specialists or District Managers I with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation from the start of the class period, July 15, 2002, through [Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010], excluding individuals who have entered into individual releases as part of individual agreements with Novartis up to the Preliminary Approval Date that not carve out an exception for this Civil Action.
4. To be eligible to receive a monetary award for compensatory damages from the Maximum Class Award for Compensatory Damages portion of this settlement, described in the Notice of Class Action Settlement accompanying this Claim Form (“Eligible Claimant”), you must complete and submit this Claim Form to the Claims Administrator by the above deadline.
5. To qualify as an Eligible Claimant, you must declare under penalties of perjury that you believe that during the period July 15, 2002 to [Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010] you were discriminated against because of gender in seeking a promotion, in the level of pay received, and/or on account of pregnancy.
6. To qualify as an Eligible Claimant, you must declare under penalties of perjury that you believe that, during the period July 15, 2002 to [Preliminary Approval Date, i.e. July 14, 2010], you suffered physical and/or emotional pain and suffering as a result of being discriminated against on account of your gender in seeking a promotion, in the level of pay you received, or on account of pregnancy.
7. To qualify as an Eligible Claimant, you must provide a reasonably detailed explanation of the circumstances giving rise to your belief that you suffered pain and suffering as a result of being discriminated against on account of your gender in seeking a promotion, in the level of pay you received, or on account of pregnancy as well as an explanation of the nature of the pain and suffering that you believe you experienced.
8. To qualify as an Eligible Claimant, you must satisfy each of the conditions for eligibility set forth in Section Paragraph 10.13 of the Agreement.

9. Each person who wishes to make a claim must submit her own Claim Form.
10. You must answer all applicable questions and fill in all applicable blanks in Items 1 through 13 on your Claim Form to participate in the claims process. Failure to complete that portion of your Claim Form will result in your claim being denied.
11. You must sign the Claim Form. By doing so, you are declaring under penalties of perjury that the information on the form is true and correct.
12. Completion and submission of the attached Rider is not required to receive a monetary award. If you complete the Rider and you also attach the declaration described in Item 3 of the Rider, that information may be used by the Claims Adjudicator to set the amount of your compensatory award. Completion of the attached Rider will allow the Claims Adjudicator to consider whether you should receive compensatory damages in excess of the amount you would receive based on the formula detailed in the Agreement. The Claims Adjudicator may award a total compensatory damages award of no more than \$300,000.
13. If you complete the attached Rider, you must also sign the accompanying declaration. By doing so, you are declaring under penalties of perjury that the information on the Rider is true and correct. In filling out your Claim Form, please print legibly or type.
14. Your Claim Form, including the Rider, if applicable, must be completed in full and must be mailed and postmarked on or before **December 12, 2010** or your claim will be denied.
15. A designated representative at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (who is not part of Field Management or the Human Resources Department) will receive a copy of your Claim Form from the Claims Administrator and will be provided an opportunity to submit a written response. The representative will not reveal your identity or the fact that you are seeking compensatory damages with anyone in Field Management. In sum, the information contained in your Claims Form will be kept confidential by Novartis. In addition, the designated representative will **not** receive a copy of Rider A or any attachment thereto. This means that your claim will not result in an internal Novartis investigation regarding the substance of your claim. If you believe that you or anyone else is being subjected to **ongoing** discrimination, you must report the situation to the Novartis Business Practices Officer (“BPO”), the Employee Relations hotline, the Alertline, your Supervisor, an officer of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, or a representative of Human Resources, Ethics and Compliance or Legal for investigation and resolution. Novartis will not be able to investigate and resolve any ongoing problem unless you report it through one of these reporting methods.
16. You do not need to nor will you be allowed to submit anything other than the Claim Form, and, if you choose, the Rider and attached declaration. Submission of a Claim Form is sufficient to make a claim for the formula compensatory damage award. Submission of the Rider and attached declaration is sufficient to make a claim for additional compensatory damages. The Claims Adjudicator’s decision on whether to award compensatory damages, and the amount, if any, of compensatory damages to award is final and non-appealable.

17. If you want further information about the settlement or have questions about these instructions or about how to complete the Claim Form, please e-mail Class Counsel at novartissettlement@swlegal.com or call the Novartis Claims Administrator, at 1-800-[____]. Do not call the Court, the Clerk of Court, or Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.
18. Filing this Claim Form does not automatically guarantee that you will receive an award of monetary relief as part of the Settlement of the *Velez Action*. Your Claim Form will be subject to review and verification by the Claims Administrator and Claims Adjudicator.
19. It is your responsibility to keep the Claims Administrator advised of any change in your address. If you do not keep the Claims Administrator advised of your current address, any monetary award to which you may be found entitled could be forfeited. Any change of address should be reported along with your complete name and signature, Social Security number, and former address.
20. All communications to the Claims Administrator should be sent to:

Novartis Claims Administrator
[Address]

21. You do not need to have an attorney to help you submit a Claim Form. However, you may contact Class Counsel at novartissettlement@swlegal.com for any assistance or with any questions. In addition, if you wish to consult with your own attorney other than Class Counsel, you may do so at your own expense.
22. Retaliation against a person for filing a claim is illegal and violates the Agreement. If you are a former employee, Novartis cannot and will not inform anyone whether you participate in the settlement in any way or whether you receive compensation as a part of the Settlement. If you are a current employee, Novartis cannot and will not hold against you or otherwise take into consideration whether you participate in the settlement in any way, or whether you receive compensation as a part of the Settlement. As a term of this Agreement, Novartis has limited the individuals who will administer the Settlement.
23. **Field Management will not be involved in nor have access to information about the backpay award process or the compensatory damages claims process.**
24. Claim Forms will be used only to administer the Settlement, and will not be admissible in a court or other legal proceeding for any other purpose.



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Plaintiffs and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, a US subsidiary of Novartis AG, agree to resolve all gender discrimination claims associated with class action

- *Agreement reached between Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (NPC) and Class Plaintiffs – company to make monetary payment of up to USD 152.5 million to eligible class members*
- *As part of its commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce, NPC is implementing comprehensive programs designed to ensure that all members of its sales force are treated fairly*

Basel, July 14, 2010 –Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (NPC), a US subsidiary of Novartis AG, and Sanford Wittels & Heisler, LLP, Counsel to the Plaintiffs and the Class, have announced an amicable end to their litigation. Today the parties filed papers in the Southern District of New York memorializing a settlement agreement including up to USD 152.5 million in payments to eligible class members and NPC's funding, over three years, of improvements to policies and programs valued at an estimated USD 22.5 million.

While the company maintains that the alleged behavior described during the trial is not systemic, NPC has agreed with the Plaintiffs to end the ongoing proceedings and make monetary payments to eligible class members for back-pay and compensatory damages in the amount of up to USD152.5 million. "While we believe that there was not systemic discrimination at NPC, the trial revealed that some of our associates had experiences influenced by managerial behavior inconsistent with our values" said Joe Jimenez, CEO of Novartis AG. "As a company we are now even more strongly resolved to ensure that all our employees act and behave in accordance with our corporate values. We aspire to be a leader in diversity and inclusion, and I am committed to implementing decisive measures to ensure that we act in accordance with our values."

"Novartis has agreed to a momentous settlement," explained David Sanford, lead counsel for the Plaintiffs. "The terms of this agreement allow for full compensation of both former *and* current female field force employees, ensuring that every woman who worked at Novartis over the past eight years has been compensated fairly."

As part of the agreement and consistent with its philosophy to foster a diverse and inclusive workforce, NPC is implementing comprehensive programs designed to ensure

fair treatment of all members of the NPC sales force. The measures agreed to by the parties set high standards, and the company is committed to occupy a leadership position for gender equity in the industry.

“In this settlement, Novartis establishes itself as a leader on issues for women in the workplace,” said Katherine Kimpel, co-lead counsel for the Plaintiffs. “In particular, NPC is committed to substantially revising its human resources policies, revamping its personnel management systems, and strengthening its commitment to ensuring gender equality in the workplace.”

As part of the measures, NPC will enhance many of its ongoing commitments to all employees and will add additional programs and initiatives to further strengthen its commitment to a diverse and inclusive environment. For example:

- NPC will revise its sexual harassment policy and training, making it even clearer that the company will not tolerate inappropriate behavior or comments from employees, customers or healthcare providers.
- NPC will also further strengthen its complaint process to ensure employees can safely raise concerns and that those concerns will be addressed in a timely and thorough fashion;
- NPC will retain an external specialist to conduct adverse impact analyses aimed at identifying and remedying, with recommendations from Class Counsel, unjustified gender disparities;
- NPC will revise its performance management process to ensure it is fair to all employees.

The full range of changes and improvements that NPC will be making are detailed in the settlement agreement filed with the Court. The agreement remains subject to final court approval.

About Novartis

Novartis provides healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Focused solely on healthcare, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals, preventive vaccines, diagnostic tools and consumer health products. Novartis is the only company with leading positions in these areas. In 2009, the Group’s continuing operations achieved net sales of USD 44.3 billion, while approximately USD 7.5 billion was invested in R&D activities throughout the Group. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ approximately 100,000 full-time-equivalent associates and operate in more than 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

About Class Counsel

The Plaintiffs and the Class are represented by Sanford Wittels & Heisler, LLP. Sanford Wittels & Heisler is a law firm with offices in Washington, D.C., New York, and San Francisco that specializes in employment discrimination, wage and hour, consumer and complex corporate class action litigation and has represented thousands of individuals in some of the major class action cases in the United

States. The firm also represents individual clients in employment, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblower, public accommodations, commercial, medical malpractice, and personal injury matters. For more information, please visit <http://www.swhlegal.com>.

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Disclaimer

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements that can be identified by terminology such as “committed”, “continues to”, or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding the potential outcome of any appeal which may be filed in the litigation which is the subject of this press release. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of the Company regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that NPC would be successful in any appeal which may be filed in the litigation which is the subject of this release. In particular, management’s expectations could be affected by, among other things, the inherent unpredictability of the litigation process, and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG’s current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.