

GSK CEO's response to editorial in USA Today
June 12, 2007

Following an editorial in USA Today entitled "Drug Thugs" on 8 June 2007, GSK responded with a letter to the editor from JP Garnier, CEO:

Dear Editor:

Your call for more transparency of safety data for medicines ignores the fact that GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has initiated the most comprehensive and rigorous program of scientific analysis for any oral anti-diabetes medicine available to patients today, with experience in over 52,000 patients – data that shows Avandia is safe and effective when used appropriately. You also ignore the fact that GSK has made this data widely available: posting online, sharing with regulators, publishing in medical journals and presenting at conferences. In fact, Dr. Nissen acknowledged that the data he used in his meta-analysis came from these public sources. Your statement that GSK hid data is not supported by the facts.

GSK's interaction with Dr. Buse followed a scientific presentation involving inaccurate or incomplete information regarding Avandia. Interestingly, USA Today fails to transparently report that Dr. Buse issued a statement of his views on interactions with the company eight years ago: "The story is an old story and not at all important now. I do believe that any inappropriate communication from the company in 1999 came out of anger and nevertheless was entirely handled between long-standing and esteemed colleagues. Afterwards, an apology was provided and accepted. It was upsetting, but not life-altering. I hold no ill-will towards GSK or any of its employees." The full text of Dr. Buse's statement is available at wsj.com.

Jean-Pierre Garnier
CEO
GlaxoSmithKline