



e: david.healy@rxisk.org
m: +44 (0)7771897792

2-8 Farrar Road, Bangor,
Gwynedd LL57 1LJ,
United Kingdom

www.rxisk.org

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Sir Andrew Witty
Chief Executive Officer
GlaxoSmithKline
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Dear Sir Andrew

GlaxoSmithKline & Rxisk.org

It is difficult to know how to start a letter like this, given that I have been an expert witness against GSK in a range of actions involving Seroxat/Paxil and suicide, birth defects and dependence.

I am writing despite my involvement in these actions in which I made a case that the company did not warn when it would have been appropriate to warn about hazards, because many of my contacts suggest that at least at present GlaxoSmithKline is one of the more responsible pharmaceutical companies in the field. It is with this in mind that it seemed to me, when thinking about contacting a major pharmaceutical company about a development I'm involved in, that it made sense to write to you first.

The development is that along with colleagues I hope to set up a website where patients will report the adverse effects of treatment and will engage their doctors in the reporting process thereby leading to better quality patient and medical reporting of adverse events and a greater quantity of reports than have been hitherto been available. This site Rxisk.org has just gone up in Beta test form. We hope to go live in April.

There is a philosophy behind this which is laid out in a book just out Pharmageddon, which contrasts the need for and importance of Data Based Medicine rather than Evidence Based Medicine and in other articles on the need to create a new comparative safety market for drugs in lieu of the comparative efficacy market we have at present.

The spirit in which this is being undertaken is that we are trying to find a market solution for a market problem. We also believe that the difference between a drug and a chemical lies in the quality of information that comes with one not found with the other.

It is this that has led my colleagues and I to think that at this early stage in the development process it would be worth contacting you to see whether it is possible to get GSK input to the process in the hope that a collaborative effort has something to offer both you and us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Healy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

Professor David Healy

