



SPECIALTY LABORATORIES

2211 Michigan Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90404

800•421•4449

July 22, 2004

Dear Colleague,

Specialty Laboratories recently announced the availability of its 6-MP Drug MonitR™ assay, to be used in azathioprine drug monitoring. However, following our announcement, and on the eve of our launch of the 6-MP test, we received notice from Prometheus Laboratories Inc. that it had filed a patent infringement lawsuit against us, alleging that the use of our 6-MP test infringes certain of its patent rights.

Over the past few weeks we have attempted in good faith to resolve Prometheus' allegations in a manner that would allow us to offer the test without engaging in a protracted legal battle. Unfortunately, our attempts to date have not been successful. Prometheus has not been willing to entertain any solution to this problem other than an absolute prohibition on Specialty offering this test for the treatment of IBD and autoimmune diseases. In order to avoid the service disruptions to our clients that Prometheus' lawsuit could have we have decided to not offer the test at present.

We realize this is an inconvenience to many of our clients, and we will do what we can to help you get your 6-MP tests performed in a timely manner. However, we will continue to offer our TPMT GenotypR™, along with the 200 other Gastroenterology-oriented tests that *Specialty* provides. We also will continue to serve the medical community through introduction of new and improved tests and cost-effective solutions to delivering these tests to our clients.

We appreciate your support and understanding in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Client Services at 800-421-4449.

Michael C. Dugan, M.D.
Vice President and Co-Director of Laboratory