

Dear Retirees,

This message is being shared now that the first opioid court trial involving Johnson & Johnson has started in the United States. Below is a message by our General Counsel, Mike Ullmann, which was written and initially distributed to employees in the U.S. prior to the start of the trial.

We also have launched a new [microsite](#) that shares facts and context related to our prescription opioid medications and our legal response. This microsite will serve as our public hub of information related to these issues in the weeks ahead. We will continue to add statements, documents and other information when appropriate.



A Message on the Opioid Litigation

May 17, 2019

Dear U.S. Colleagues,

Over the last few years, there has been extensive media coverage and discussion about the opioid crisis in the United States. Thousands of lawsuits have been filed against pharmaceutical companies (including Janssen and Johnson & Johnson), pharmaceutical distributors, retail pharmacies and physicians.

At the end of this month, we expect the first opioid trial involving Johnson & Johnson to begin in Oklahoma. You may have already seen some articles about this case, and it is likely you will see an increase in coverage in the news and on social media about the Company's products, and how they relate to these lawsuits.

As General Counsel, I want all of you to understand the facts and feel confident in the actions our Company has taken and continues to take. As the focus of the opioid litigation shifts to Johnson & Johnson in the coming weeks, it is important to understand that **the allegations made against our Company are not true.**

There are two main allegations I want to address:

First, it is not accurate that the marketing and promotion of Janssen's opioid-based medicines DURAGESIC® and NUCYNTA® were conducted inappropriately.

- These two products – a patch and a crush-resistant tablet – have strong safety profiles and were not subject to widespread abuse. In fact, these medications have some of the lowest rates of abuse among this class of medications and provided critical treatment of pain in patients.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved labels for these prescription opioid pain medicines provide clear information about their risks and benefits.
- The market share of these products was less than 1% of prescription opioid-based medicines sold in the U.S. over the last 12 years.

Second, it is not accurate that Johnson & Johnson, by previously owning a raw materials supplier and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) manufacturer, 'fueled' the opioid crisis.

- This claim is absolutely false and reflects a lack of understanding of how prescription medicines are manufactured and regulated. The production of raw materials and active pharmaceutical ingredients used to manufacture Schedule II medications in the U.S. is strictly controlled, limited and monitored by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which sets quotas based on the agency's assessment of the need for medicines containing these substances. Our businesses complied with these laws and regulations.
- Importantly, as a supplier, **we did not have any role in the manufacturing, sales and marketing of other manufacturers' finished products.**

This is an emotionally charged issue and the State of Oklahoma is asking for billions of dollars in damages. We are confident that if there is an adverse decision at trial, our position on the law and the facts will ultimately prevail on appeal. (By way of example, to date, not a single talc verdict against the Company has been upheld on appeal.) It is also possible that we may settle this case. In our litigation

we often view settlements, in an appropriate amount, as a way to resolve matters, without acknowledging wrong-doing, so that we can focus the attention and resources of the Company on helping patients and consumers, rather than fighting lawsuits.

We recognize that substance abuse and addiction are serious public health issues. Separate from the litigation, Johnson & Johnson continues to advance our collaborative efforts to help address abuse and addiction through enhanced education and strengthened external partnerships. This is where we can have the greatest impact in supporting frontline healthcare practitioners, as well as mothers and babies. Most recently we provided an educational grant to the [University of South Florida and CME Outfitters](#) to support their independent development of an accredited continuing medical education (CME) program on appropriate pain management and prevention of opioid misuse. In addition, our support of continuing education modules on [Nurse.com](#) has enabled more than 100,000 nurses to complete free courses on patient counseling and responsible pain management.

From our employees and our communities, to patients and frontline healthcare providers, we are committed to using our legacy in public health to drive solutions to the opioid crisis. On behalf of Johnson & Johnson, thank you for all the work that you do every day and your commitment to all of Our Credo stakeholders we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ullmann". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Ullmann
Executive Vice President, General Counsel