

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release – December 4, 2008**

### **TRASYLOL CLASS ACTION COMMENCED IN CANADA**

**LONDON, ONTARIO** – The law firm Siskinds <sup>LLP</sup> has launched a class action against Bayer Inc. ("Bayer") regarding its drug Trasylol.

Trasylol ("aprotinin") was approved by Health Canada in 1995 for use during heart bypass surgery to help reduce bleeding and the need for blood transfusions. On November 5, 2007, Bayer suspended marketing of Trasylol following results from a clinical trial that suggested an increased risk of death. Use of Trasylol during surgery has been linked to an increased risk of developing cardiovascular or cerebrovascular adverse events, renal dysfunction, or death.

A hearing was scheduled for yesterday with a panel of experts asked to advise Health Canada on future use of the drug. A review of Trasylol was rushed to print on Tuesday by the Canadian Medical Association Journal in advance of the hearing. The lead author of the review stated that the data did not allow them to identify a subgroup in whom the benefits of Trasylol outweigh the harms.

The Statement of Claim alleges that Bayer failed to adequately warn patients and physicians of the increased risk of serious adverse injury associated with use of Trasylol as compared to safer alternatives. Charles Wright, a partner with Siskinds <sup>LLP</sup>, describes the purpose of the proceeding as "We believe that through this lawsuit Bayer will be required to explain to Canadian consumers what it knew about the risks associated with Trasylol and when it first became aware of those risks. In this case, as with all of these types of cases, we are concerned about whether Canadians were adequately warned of the risks associated with using the product in question."

It is too early at this stage to quantify the claims of potential class members, but it is anticipated that the amount is significant. Canadians who have experienced adverse events from Trasylol use are encouraged to visit [www.classaction.ca](http://www.classaction.ca) or to call 1-800-461-6166. Quebec residents can contact Claude Desmeules at (418) 694-2009.

For further information: Please contact Charles Wright at (519) 660-7753 or Matthew Baer at (519) 660-7782.