

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

- - -

JAMES G. FARNER, et al., )

Plaintiffs, )

vs. ) Case No. CV96-08-3195

CUYAHOGA FALLS GENERAL )

HOSPITAL, et al., )

Defendants. )

- - -

Deposition of CALVIN M. KUNIN, M.D., a  
Witness herein, called by the Defendants for  
cross-examination pursuant to the Rules of Civil  
Procedure, taken before me, the undersigned,  
Michael G. Cotterman, a Notary Public in and for  
the State of Ohio, at the offices of Buckingham,  
Doolittle & Burroughs Co., L.P.A., 88 E. Broad  
Street, Suite 1600, Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday, the  
22nd day of April, 1997, at 4:10 o'clock p.m.

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ORIGINAL

## APPEARANCES:

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On Behalf of the Defendant Cuyahoga  
Falls General Hospital:

Messrs. Buckingham, Doolittle  
& Burroughs Co., L.P.A.

By: David J. Hanna, Attorney at Law  
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On Behalf of the Defendant Dr. Hill:

Messrs. Jacobson, Maynard, Tuschman  
& Kalur Co., L.P.A.

By: (Via telephone)  
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- - -

I N D E X

<u>Exhibit No.</u>		<u>Page</u> / <u>Line</u>
Defendant's Exhibit	No. 1	18 / 10
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MR. HANNA:	4 / 9
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MR. EDMINISTER:	82 / 21
MR. RUF:	-- / --

- - -

1 CALVIN M. KUNIN, M.D.  
2 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been first  
3 duly sworn, as hereinafter certified, deposed and  
4 said as follows:

5 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 1  
6 marked for identification.)

7 - - -

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. HANNA:

10 Q. Okay. Would you state your full name for  
11 the record please.

12 A. Calvin Murray Kunin, K-U-N-I-N.

13 MR. HANNA: Okay. And for the record  
14 this is the deposition of Dr. Kunin, he has been  
15 identified as an expert for the Plaintiffs in the  
16 case.

17 This is a discovery deposition, set up  
18 by agreement of counsel. I assume we have the  
19 usual waivers and stipulations with respect to  
20 time, notice, form, that sort of thing?

21 MR. RUF: Yes, that's correct.

22 BY MR. HANNA:

23 Q. Okay. And, Dr. Kunin, we met a moment  
24 ago, my name is Dave Hanna, I represent Cuyahoga  
25 Falls General Hospital. The fellow on the phone is

1 Mike Edminister, who represents Dr. Hill and those  
2 other Defendants in this lawsuit.

3 I'm going to take your deposition  
4 today, which I assume this process is not new to  
5 you?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And I guess we're all different so I am  
8 going to ask my questions my way. We've spent  
9 enough time with the case to hopefully be familiar  
10 with the terms of art pertinent to this, but if I  
11 ask a question that obviously doesn't make sense  
12 because I am misstating something, you tell me and  
13 I'll clarify it, okay?

14 A. All right.

15 Q. What is your -- I've got a date of birth  
16 here, and this is for Mike's benefit, of 5/3/29,  
17 with a Social Security number of 057-22-0984?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. What is your -- is your residence address  
20 still 2447 Coventry Road in Columbus?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And your professional address?

23 A. The Ohio State University Hospital,  
24 Medical Center and Hospital.

25 Q. Okay. Now, there is an address here of

1 M110 Starling-Loving; is that correct?

2 A. That's correct, that's the building within  
3 the medical center where my office is located.

4 Q. Is there a specific office number or  
5 designation?

6 A. Yes, M110.

7 Q. M110, okay. Do you have any other  
8 professional office or address at this time?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Do you currently have privileges at the  
11 Ohio State University medical facility?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. Do you have privileges at any other  
14 hospitals?

15 A. No. Well, as you know, you may know that  
16 the Ohio State University has really two hospitals,  
17 one is the James Hospital and one is the University  
18 Hospital. And actually there is a third, which is  
19 a long-term care facility.

20 They are all really part of the same  
21 complex and I have privileges at the three combined  
22 institutions.

23 Q. Okay. Have they been suspended or revoked  
24 or modified at all in the last five years?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Do you still have courtesy privileges at  
2 Grant or any **of** those facilities?

3 A. No.

4 Q. When did that end?

5 A. It just ended naturally because I really  
6 never see patients there and it was just one of  
7 those things that started years ago, there was no  
8 point.

9 Q. Is your medical license current in the  
10 State **of** Ohio? -

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And are you currently licensed in any  
13 other states?

14 A. No, all licenses have expired in the other  
15 states.

16 Q. Okay. And is that the reason for their  
17 termination in other states, just expiration and  
18 non-renewal?

19 A. Yes, that's correct, I don't practice in  
20 those regions.

21 Q. I understand you hold board certification  
22 in internal medicine and microbiology?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. But not in infectious disease?

25 A. That's correct.

1           Q.       Are you currently -- do you currently hold  
2       any administrative positions with respect to the  
      university's hospitals, the three you described?

4           A.       No.

5           Q.       When did you last hold any committee  
6       positions?

7           A.       About four or five years ago, I was  
8       chairman of the hospital infection control  
9       committee.

          Q.       Okay. I thought though those positions--  
      you held ended in 1984, when you assumed your chair  
      position, is that wrong?

          A.       No, I think I was brought, if you will,  
14      out of pasture, about five or six years ago to head  
15      up the infection control committee. I had been  
16      doing various things but I was asked to head up  
17      that committee. I can't give you the exact date  
18      but it seems like, you know, four or five years  
19      ago.

20          Q.       And that was for which institution?

21          A.       **For** the Ohio State University Hospital.

22          Q.       And today you hold no committee positions  
23      with the hospital?

24          A.       Not that I can think of.

25          Q.       Was there any particular reason for why



1     you left that committee five or six years ago?

2           A.     Not particularly. I felt that at the time  
3     that we needed a full-time hospital epidemiologist  
4     and advised that that be done. And that was  
5     essentially the transition at that point, was to a  
6     full-time hospital epidemiologist. And then there  
7     was a subsequent transition to another full-time or  
8     part-time hospital epidemiologist.

9           But I had other interests and I am a  
10    senior person and it seemed appropriate to pass the  
11    baton.

12          Q.     Okay. Your -- and when I talked about  
13    administrative positions, I think I asked for about  
14    administrative positions as well as committees. Do  
15    those pre-date five or six years ago as well?

16          A.     Yes, I had been pretty inactive in regard  
17    to hospital committees, and medical school  
18    committees for that matter, for the past four or  
19    five years.

20                 And in part because I have this chair,  
21    as you noticed, the pomerene professorship, which  
22    permits me to do things that I really like to do,  
23    which is research, I have courses that I teach, I  
24    do a fair amount of foreign travel in terms of  
25    teaching people in Taiwan and other countries

1       infectious diseases.

2                   And it was just this natural evolution  
3       of one's career that you are active in one phase,  
4       you do something else, then something else. But  
5       it's really what I would call maturation of a  
6       career, if you will, rather than any problem.

7       (2.       Okay. And I wasn't attempting to infer  
8       that.

9       A.       No, it's a good question and I am trying  
10      to answer it as best I can.

11      Q.       What I wanted to clarify, it's my  
12      assumption that you have not for at least five or  
13      six years either been on committees or been  
14      responsible as department head in the field of  
15      internal medicine, microbiology or infectious  
16      disease?

17      A.       That's correct, and the reason being that  
18      I have the pomerene chair of medicine, which  
19      permits me to do lots of things that I prefer to  
20      do.

21      Q.       Okay. Now, when did you receive that  
22      chair, the chaired position?

23                   (Discussion had off the record.)

24      BY MR. HANNA:

25      Q.       Okay. We were speaking of your chair,

1     when did you receive that appointment?

2           A.     Probably, let's see, probably about ten  
3     years ago roughly.

4           Q.     1985, somewhere in there?

5           A.     Roughly like that, that's correct. I had  
6     been chairman of the department of medicine from  
7     '79 to '84, then I was given this pomerene chair,  
8     which is a five year tenured chair, it has to be  
9     renewed. And then it was renewed about three or  
10    four years ago, three years ago, and I continue in  
11    that position.

12          Q.     Okay. Now, does that chaired position  
13    entail compensation?

14          A.     Yeah.

15          Q.     Okay. I assumed it would.

16          A.     Yes.

17          Q.     But how are you compensated under that  
18    chair?

19          A.     Well, actually for the university, I  
20    receive a full-time university salary, which is the  
21    Ohio State University chapter. The proceeds from  
22    this chair go into the kitty of the Ohio State  
23    University and are part of that compensation, it's  
24    inclusive.

25                   So it's not extra dollars to me, it

1 just replaces state dollars, I assume, that would  
2 ordinarily have been used for my position.

3 Q. Okay. Does the position of that chair  
4 have required duties?

5 A. No duties.

6 Q. They are as you choose to exercise the  
7 role?

8 A. Yes. Except that, as I mentioned, the  
9 position is reviewed every five years to be sure  
10 that you have fulfilled the expectations, which are  
11 to do good work.

12 Q. Now, under your current chair, what are  
13 your professional activities?

14 A. Well, in terms of the medical center, the  
15 most significant activity is going on right this  
16 month. I run a course, which is called  
17 therapeutics, for the senior medical students.  
18 It's an elective course but it is the most popular  
19 elective given in the senior year.

20 It's a full, intense month and we get  
21 the very best faculty to give their very best talk  
22 on their subject of expertise, so that we prepare  
23 these senior students for internship.

24 These talks are given in the morning,  
25 and of course I give mine, I arrange all these

1 lectures. In the afternoon we have what we call  
2 the journal club, where the students present papers  
3 from the literature and then we critique these  
4 together.

5 It's a very popular course, it's a very  
6 practical course and it encompasses just about  
7 everything there is, some internal medicine, some  
8 surgery, pediatrics, lots of infectious diseases  
9 obviously.

10 So that's what you might call the -  
11 crowning course that I give. And this year we have  
12 half the class elected.

13 Then for the second year, I give the  
14 lectures on antibiotics, which are obviously  
15 important for the students to know if they are  
16 going to understand how to use these important  
17 drugs for infectious diseases. And I give those  
18 lectures in the course in pharmacology, given by  
19 the department of pharmacology, I give those  
20 lectures.

21 In addition, every week I go to the  
22 infectious disease conference and I am a very  
23 active participant in that conference.

24 And then currently two months a year,  
25 although it has been three or four in preceding

1     years, I attend on the wards of the university  
2     hospital. And the unit I prefer to attend on is  
3     the general internal medicine unit, simply because  
4     although my sub-specialty is infectious diseases I  
5     prefer general internal medicine.

6                 Then I see my own private patients  
7     within the context of the Ohio State University  
8     program and conduct clinics, the equivalent of a  
9     couple days a week in terms of medical care.

10                It's very variable because it can be -  
11    seeing patients formally in the office and then  
12    just telephone calls and home visits and **all** the  
13    things that go into a medical practice, it's not a  
14    large practice but it's an active practice.

15         Q.     How many patients do you have in your --  
16    in that aspect of your practice, private practice?

17         A.     Several hundred.

18         Q.     Several hundred?

19         A.     Yes.

20         Q.     Are these employees of the hospital?

21         A.     Some are. Some are faculty of the  
22    university, some are people from the community,  
23    it's quite variable.

24         Q.     Okay. And to make sure that the question  
25    is clear, I'm not asking how many patients there

1 are of the clinic, but how many are your patients?

2 A. No, I said I might have a couple hundred  
3 patients. Then I will receive consultations from  
4 time to time, usually complicated problems of  
5 infectious diseases, although we have a separate  
6 division of infectious diseases that does the  
7 predominant amount of work in that area.

8 Q. And how many months a year do you attend  
9 on one of the wards at the university?

10 A. Currently two months, used to be three or  
11 four.

12 Q. When you attend on the ward, what is your  
13 function?

14 A. Well, as you know I am the primarily  
15 responsible physician for the care of those  
16 patients on that service. And obviously I am the  
17 person who is responsible for the teaching of the  
18 residents, the interns, the medical students and  
19 various people who pass through for educational  
20 purposes.

21 Q. Okay. Are you involved in any other  
22 professional activities at this time?

23 A. Well, I do research as well. And my  
24 research right now has been very varied, my  
25 research right now is development of some new and

1 unique antibiotic compound which we discovered,  
2 which we are very excited about.

3 I just completed and have just  
4 published the fifth edition of a book of mine on  
5 urinary tract infections. It's about 450 pages  
6 long and it's a quite comprehensive book in the  
7 field.

8 Then I spend roughly about a month,  
9 anywhere from two to four weeks, variably, in  
10 Taiwan where I participate in the program to train  
11 Taiwanese doctors in infectious diseases. These  
12 are fellows in infectious diseases who are getting  
13 their final training in that field. And I am very  
14 active in that group.

15 Then I have some research work being  
16 done in Taiwan in regards to the use of antibiotics  
17 in that country.

18 Q. Anything else?

19 A. Well, I'm sure there is but I can't think  
20 of it right this minute.

21 Q. Would I be correct in an observation that  
22 the urinary tract infection has been a specialty of  
23 yours for the past several years?

24 A. Urinary tract infections have been a  
25 specialty of mine for forty years, yes.



1 Q. Much of your research in this chair has  
2 been focused on that?

3 A. Well, yes, but it varies all the time. I  
4 mean it may be sometimes the epidemiology of  
5 urinary infections, sometimes I focus on the  
6 microorganisms themselves, sometimes it might focus  
7 on pathogenicity, might focus on the urinary  
8 catheter, hospital infection control.

9 But that's been a pretty important  
10 theme in my work. Also I have done a lot of work  
11 on the use of antibiotics in people who have renal  
12 failure, kidney failure. And as I mentioned to you  
13 earlier, we have these new antibiotics that we are  
14 working on, which I'm very excited about. But I  
15 think it's quite valid to say that urinary tract  
16 infection has been one of my primary focuses.

17 Q. Okay. Since accepting the chair that you  
18 had since the mid '80s, have you done -- am I  
19 correct that the research that has been done under  
20 that chair, as part of your duties, is that all  
21 focused on urinary tract infections?

22 A. No. Well, let me give you an example,  
23 some -- a lot of it is focused on, say,  
24 antibiotics. One of our -- one of the  
25 pharmaceutical companies in this community, which

1 is now actually combined with Upjohn, asked me to  
2 help them with a drug which is used for patients  
3 with AIDS, which is used against bacteria like  
4 tuberculosis, so we studied that drug for them.

5 So that I would say that urinary  
6 infections admittedly are a very important part of  
7 my work, I've done many other things.

8 a. I notice that your CV, which we have  
9 marked here and we will attach it to your  
10 deposition as Deposition Exhibit 1, outlines a  
11 number of your professional services and  
12 affiliations.

13 Is this current, to the best of your  
14 knowledge?

15 A. Yes.

16 a. And do you also maintain a list of all of  
17 your publications?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 a. Okay. And they number now about how  
20 many?

21 A. Almost 350. And I just felt that -- well,  
22 I asked my secretary before I came whether we had a  
23 copy of those. She only had one. We would be  
24 happy to provide for you if you want it.

25 Q. Okay.

1       A.       By the way, just to complete this, one of  
2       the areas of my interest, which I've written a  
3       great deal about, is the issue of the appropriate  
4       use of antibiotics. And I have done a lot of  
5       studies of the appropriate use of antibiotics in  
6       U.S. hospitals and around the world.

7               And it just depends upon what you call  
8       upon me to do that particular day. I might be an  
9       antibiotic fellow one day, I might be a urinary  
10      infection the next day, epidemiology the next day,  
11      I might be a biochemist the next day, you know, it  
12      just depends upon the subject and interest at that  
13      time.

14      Q.       What percentage of your time would you say  
15      is dedicated to the active clinical practice of  
16      medicine at this time?

17      A.       It's very hard to state. As I mentioned  
18      to you, I have the two months, then I have the  
19      other patients I see clinically. I would estimate  
20      fifty percent. It could be a little bit more,  
21      could be a little bit less.

22      Q.       And how about teaching?

23      A.       Well, we have the full month of the course  
24      that I told you about, we have the lectures that I  
25      told you about, then the antibiotics, then of

1 course I teach during two months as an attending  
2 physician. So there is a fair amount of teaching.

3 Q. And that would represent what percentage  
4 of your active professional practice?

5 A. Oh, I would say fifteen, twenty percent.  
6 Fifteen percent I would think.

7 Q. With the balance being in research?

8 A. And the balance being research, travel,  
9 just work with Taiwan, so on.

10 Q. Okay. Doctor, when were you first  
11 contacted about consulting in this case?

12 A. I don't know the date of my first contact,  
13 of course that was telephone. I have a letter  
14 dated February 20th, 1997, so that would be around  
15 that period, shortly before then.

16 Q. Shortly before then?

17 A. Yes, before I received the letter.

18 Q. Did you formulate or render any opinions  
19 in this case prior to receiving that letter?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. If we could, let's run through what  
22 it is that you have seen and reviewed in  
23 preparation for this case and deposition.

24 A. Well, very weighty material in terms of  
25 pounds. And I have a list for you if you would

1     like me to.

2           Q.     Why don't you just run through it.

3           A.     We have some medical records of John  
4     Robinson, M.D.    The medical records of Gregory  
5     Hill, D.O.    The medical records of Stephen  
6     Francis.    The records of the Cuyahoga Falls General  
7     Hospital admissions of 2/27 to 3/6/95, 3/21 to  
8     4/7/95.   And then some prior admissions of 2/20/91,  
9     9/19/91, 9/24 to 25/91 and 8/11/92.

10                   Then there's several answers to     -  
11     interrogatories, about two or three sets of those,  
12     directed to the hospital.   Then a series of  
13     depositions, including those of Marilyn Farner,  
14     James Farner, Janice Farner, Dr. Gregory Hill, Dr.  
15     James Fordyce, Dr. Jeffrey Tharp, Esther Brothers,  
16     Delores Bell, Kathleen Carter, and then more  
17     recently Linda Farris.

18                   And then I have some colored pictures  
19     of the leg.   And the material submitted as, I--.guess  
20     you call it in response to interrogatories, which  
21     is the patients who were operated on, who were  
22     operated on at that hospital who had Enterobacter  
23     cloacae isolated from their wounds.   And then some  
24     of the susceptibility data, antibiotic  
25     susceptibility data from those patients.

1 Q. Okay. Anything else?

2 A. Not that I can think of.

3 Q. Do you know any of the people that you  
4 have listed by way of their records or  
5 depositions?

6 A. No, I don't know any of them.

7 Q. Okay. Have you spoken with any of them in  
8 connection with your review of this case?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You mentioned that you have records of -  
11 from before 1995, 1991 and 1992. Are those records  
12 material to any opinions that you have formulated  
13 in this case?

14 A. Not particularly.

15 Q. Well, not particularly is not quite no,  
16 what's the particular?

17 A. All those records, as I see it, are  
18 records of trauma, but they are not really relevant  
19 to the issues at hand.

20 Q. Okay. Have you generated any reports, any  
21 sort of written reports at this point in time?

22 A. No, I have not.

23 Q. You brought with you --

24 A. Well, this is not a report because I just  
25 did it today.

1 Q. You've got a chart that compares the  
2 sensitivities that you were provided?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Okay. But you have not generated a  
5 written report to Mr. Ruf or anyone else?

6 A. No, I haven't.

7 Q. Have you -- and Mike Edminister wanted to  
8 know about your notes -- do you have with you the  
9 sum total of your notes on this case?

10 A. Yes. -

11 Q. Okay. And those are one page yellow, half  
12 a page of notes on it that appear basically to be  
13 dates?

14 A. That's all they are.

15 Q. Okay. All right. Is there any other  
16 document or information that you have reviewed in  
17 the course of and as part of your review in this  
18 case?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. What specifically were you asked to do in  
21 connection with this case?

22 A. Well, when Mr. Ruf first called me, the  
23 question in his mind was could I state with  
24 reasonable degree of medical certainty that the  
25 Enterobacter cloacae that was isolated from his

1 knee following surgery was implanted at the time,  
2 was more likely than not to have been implanted at  
3 the time of the surgical procedure as opposed to  
4 having been carried on his skin or implanted  
5 sometime during the post-operative period, that's  
6 the initial surgery. That was his prime question.

7 And I would be happy to give you my  
8 response to that if you wish?

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. In my opinion, more likely than not, it  
11 was implanted at the time of the surgery. And I  
12 would be happy to give you the reasons if you  
13 wish?

14 Q. Okay. Well, did you tell him that at the  
15 time he contacted you?

16 A. No, I only told him that after I reviewed  
17 the material, the records.

18 Q. Okay. Were you asked to do anything else  
19 in connection with this case?

20 A. Well, then -- I can't recall, Mr. Ruf can  
21 help me, whether it was I who initiated the  
22 question of whether previous cases or he was in the  
23 process of initiating inquiry as to whether there  
24 were previous cases of this organism in patients  
25 who had been operated on in this institution.



1                   And, Mr. Ruf, I can't recall whether it  
2                   was you, I think it was you, who were initiating  
3                   some of this or I said are you doing it, he said I  
4                   am doing it, that kind of thing.

5                   So it was -- it came to mind that it  
6                   would be very important to know whether or not this  
7                   was the only instance of this organism in this  
8                   institution. And those were thoughts that were in  
9                   my mind and independently done by him.

10                  Then when I received material from him  
11                  indicating that there were individuals who prior to  
12                  the time of this procedure in the same institution  
13                  had wound infections with that organism, then  
14                  subsequent had wound infections with that organism,  
15                  then I asked him if -- to ask the hospital to  
16                  provide the susceptibility patterns, so we could  
17                  see whether or not there was evidence that these  
18                  organisms were similar to each other.

19                  And that was provided to me several  
20                  weeks ago, maybe a week or two ago.

21                  MR. RUF: It was recently.

22                  THE WITNESS: Yeah, within a week or  
23                  two weeks, whatever it was.

24                  BY MR. HANNA:

25                  Q. I understand. I provided those to Mark,

1 he gave them to you shortly after that.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were you asked to do anything else in this  
4 case?

5 A. That's all I can recall. I don't think,  
6 no, that was it.

7 There was some question as to perhaps  
8 how much permanent injury this man might have, I  
9 was asked to look at some photographs of that. But  
10 I haven't seen any information subsequent to the-  
11 last visit with Dr. Francis, so I really can't  
12 speak to how he is doing at this time.

13 Q. Okay. And have you at this time  
14 formulated your opinions as they relate to this  
15 case?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And would you tell me what those are?

18 A. Well, my opinion is, with the usual more  
19 likely than not, that the *Enterobacter cloacae* was  
20 implanted at the time of the procedure.

21 My second opinion is that the same  
22 organism was implanted in other individuals in that  
23 institution prior to and subsequent to this  
24 surgery.

25 That more likely than not the

1 Enterobacter cloacae was an environmental  
2 contaminant, not carried on the skin of the  
3 individual or his urine or stool or other places.

4 And that the organisms appear from the  
5 pattern to be the same, have the same fingerprint,  
6 antibiotic fingerprint, which lends very strong  
7 support that it's an environmental contaminant in  
8 the O.R. general area.

9 There obviously were individuals who  
10 had -- who were in different operating rooms, so \_  
11 it's something general about it in the O.R. set-up  
12 of that institution.

13 Then I suppose I would have the opinion  
14 that the institution has an obligation to monitor  
15 post-operative wound infections, to consider  
16 Enterobacter cloacae as a very unusual organism,  
17 probably an environmental contaminant, and  
18 therefore make efforts to find the source,  
19 eradicate it, review policies and procedures of  
20 cleaning of equipment, so on, to make sure that  
21 patient's aren't exposed to this organism.

22 I think that's the sum **of** my opinions.

23 Q. Are you expressing the opinion in this  
24 case that either the institution or Dr. Hill were  
25 negligent in connection with the care and treatment

1 of this patient?

2 A. I have no opinion about Dr. Hill. I have  
3 no reason to believe that Dr. Hill was negligent.  
4 So Dr. Hill, as far as I can see, did his job, and  
5 so I have no reason to criticize Dr. Hill.

6 As far as the institution is concerned,  
7 the institution does have an obligation to insure  
8 for the protection of their patients. That's why  
9 they have a hospital infection control committee,  
10 that's why they have the epidemiologist, or as they  
11 are now called, a hospital infection control  
12 officer.

13 And one of the jobs is to --  
14 post-operative wound infections are obviously very  
15 important because they can be disastrous. And one  
16 of the jobs of the hospital and their delegated  
17 people is to monitor this.

18 That's called surveillance, which is a  
19 commonly accepted practice, a requirement actually,  
20 depending upon the accrediting agency, and really  
21 is the standard of care that we expect of any  
22 hospital.

23 And so it appears that the hospital  
24 infection control committee was not alerted by  
25 anyone that these infections were occurring until

1 the Farner case was identified. That's what I  
2 gather from what I've read in the depositions. And  
3 so that would fall below the standard of care and  
4 therefore would be negligence.

5 I hope that responds to your question.

6 Q. Well, I'd like you to -- I think you have  
7 responded. I would like you to articulate further  
8 the specific acts of negligence on the part of the  
9 hospital institution or its personnel in connection  
10 with James Farner. -

11 A. Well, I will repeat, I will try not to be,  
12 you know, too difficult. Mr. Farner more likely  
13 than not acquired this infection at the time of his  
14 first operation in this hospital. The organism, as  
15 I said before, is an environmental contaminant more  
16 likely than not.

17 There were cases in that hospital, in  
18 the operating rooms of that hospital, at least  
19 three cases within the year prior to that, maybe  
20 more but there were those three cases.

21 The job of the hospital, their  
22 obligation, is to monitor post-operative wound  
23 infections and when they see something unusual,  
24 unexpected, probably an environmental contaminant,  
25 to take measures to look into the matter, to find

1 out whether there is a common source, a common  
2 source of operative fluids, it could be  
3 instruments, it could be sterilization, so on.

4 That's their **job**. And not doing that  
5 job, which is part of their obligation to the  
6 people that come to the hospital for care, they  
7 were negligent.

8 That's all I have to say. I really  
9 just repeated myself, I apologize but that's all I  
10 can say. -

11 **a.** Well, first of all, Doctor, are you  
12 suggesting that the hospital's infection control  
13 people were not aware of Mr. Farner's infection and  
14 the bacteria of origin at the time it was  
15 identified?

16 A. Obviously it was in the records, this  
17 information was in the records. The only basis I  
18 have in that regard, and I think we would have to  
19 go to the depositions, would be the deposition of  
20 the nurse epidemiologist.

21 And I read that deposition and from  
22 what I gathered, and you may want to correct me  
23 because it may be fresher in your mind, it was my  
24 assessment that the nurse epidemiologist was not  
25 aware of this infection or the preceding ones or

1 even the subsequent ones from what I read in the  
2 document.

3 Now if I am wrong, please correct me.

4 Q. Now, if you are wrong about that, does  
5 your opinion change?

6 A. Well, if you can show me the records, that  
7 they identified these cases ahead of time, then  
8 took measures to look for the source of the  
9 organism within the environment of the operating  
10 room, did all that kind of stuff and yet he still  
11 developed an infection, of course, then I would say  
12 they were within the standard of care.

13 If they did an actual, went through the  
14 surveillance mechanisms that were necessary to  
15 culture all the equipment, the fluids, watched the  
16 motions, so on, to determine what the source would  
17 be of these infections, if they did that, why then  
18 obviously they are fulfilling the standard of care,  
19 which is to detect that unusual organism is --  
20 occurring and to take measures to try their best to  
21 prevent them.

22 And also to alert the physicians to the  
23 fact that there are organisms which are very  
24 different than the usual post-operative wound  
25 organisms and make suggestions to the change,

1 perhaps of the prophylaxis prior to surgery to  
2 prevent infections.

3 Because this organism is resistant to  
4 the commonly used drugs for prophylaxis, in this  
5 case I remember Ancef was used and cefazolin, **and**  
6 this organism is resistant to cefazolin.

7 So if any measures were to be taken,  
8 they couldn't find the source, they could at least  
9 tell the physicians use prophylactic drugs and  
10 other procedures that would be effective against --  
11 this particular contaminant organism. That's all  
12 part of the things you do.

13 Q. Let's back up because as I was following  
14 your opinion, the first opinion was that it wasn't  
15 known or recognized by the infection control  
16 people, and you say you based that upon the record  
17 as you read it.

18 And my question to you was, if they  
19 were aware of Mr. Farner, Mr. Farner's bacteria and  
20 the infection, would that change your opinion?

21 A. Well, you see, it's always -- forgive me  
22 for this, it's always a definition of what **do** you  
23 mean by aware.

24 Now aware might be that there is a  
25 record in the hospital, in the hospital laboratory,



1 and therefore that's awareness in a certain sense.  
2 There is awareness on the part of Dr. Hill and the  
3 consultant in infectious diseases, that's another  
4 kind of awareness.

5 There is an awareness by reporting the  
6 case in the black book someplace or on the  
7 computer, that's another kind of awareness.

8 But you can be aware but are you awake,  
9 that would really be the question. And so if you  
10 raise all those hypothetical awarenesses, I say --  
11 sure, you know, within that construct, sure they  
12 are aware.

13 But were they awake to the fact that  
14 this was an unusual organism, were they awake to  
15 the fact that there were preceding cases, did they  
16 do anything about this or what was their action?  
17 This is almost like a theological discussion of  
18 whether you, you know, do you believe in God, then  
19 do you do good works?

20 Q. Well, Dr. Kunin --

21 A. It sounds like that a little bit but I  
22 have to dissect it out to that level. And to my  
23 knowledge, reviewing the materials, they may have  
24 been aware of, within the definition I gave you,  
25 but they certainly weren't awake and they certainly

1 weren't doing anything about it.

2 Q. Okay. Well, you have formulated your  
3 opinions about that there was negligence because of  
4 a failure to do several things. First is  
5 awareness, you have divided that now into two  
6 parts, awareness and awake in terms of reacting to  
7 it, okay, I'm following that.

8 The next step is the question, if they  
9 are aware both by record and consciously, what is  
10 it within the standard of care are you saying -  
11 should have been done in response to -- well, I  
12 guess you are saying that there should have been  
13 some activity prior to Mr. Farner's surgery?

14 A. Well, yes, because this is an unusual  
15 organism. Enterobacter infection in wounds is  
16 unusual and usually represents an environmental  
17 contaminant.

18 Now, you know, we're nice guys so you  
19 can miss the first case because the first case is  
20 the first case and sometimes it's hard to wake up.  
21 But when you have the second, and then the third,  
22 and then the fourth, there comes a time when you  
23 recognize that you've got more than just a single  
24 incident.

25 You can always forgive, you know, the

1 first or second because things happen by chance.  
2 But the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, then  
3 you need to be concerned about whether this group  
4 is awake, to use that word.

5 And there is no point in simply  
6 recording the fact that these infections occur.  
7 The reason for having an infection control unit is  
8 to do something about it.

9 And to do something about it is to find  
10 the source, if you can, and correct that. And if-  
11 you can't, alert the physicians to the fact that  
12 this organism exists, so we can take proper  
13 precautions.

14 That's the obligation. It's very  
15 simple, this is not very, you know, high level  
16 thinking.

17 Q. Well, Doctor, if you have a single  
18 post-operative infection in which there is an  
19 Enterobacter isolated, what is it that you are  
20 suggesting that this institution was required to  
21 do?

22 A. Well, I think I just responded to that  
23 earlier.

24 Q. Well, let me recount that because I don't  
25 -- I don't want to ask you to just keep repeating,

1       because I'm not sure I'm understanding.

2                       Your suggestion is that standard of  
3       care is that on the identification of a single  
4       post-operative wound infection with *Enterobacter*  
5       *cloacae*, that the standard of care for the  
6       infection control committee and its personnel in  
7       the hospital is to begin a process of testing the  
8       environment of the operative suite for an  
9       environmental contamination with *Enterobacter*?

10       A.       Well, you know, I don't want to be       ~  
11       combative with you but you weren't listening to  
12       me.

13       Q.       Okay.

14       A.       Because with all due respect, because you  
15       remember I said earlier that the first case, you  
16       remember I said, you forgive that because sometimes  
17       you don't notice that one. Even the second one I  
18       said you could forgive that one because, you know,  
19       you have to have two or three.       ~

20                       By the third or fourth, that's what I  
21       said earlier, you restated my position as the first  
22       when just a few minutes ago I said I am a forgiving  
23       fellow, the first, the second, the third, the  
24       fourth is when you get excited. So please, quote  
25       me correctly.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. With all due respect.

3 Q. And it is simply the presence of a  
4 post-operative wound -- is there any significance  
5 to time?

6 A. Well, obviously the closer the episodes  
7 are together, is that what you are trying to  
8 imply? I don't know what you mean by the time?

9 Q. Well, what's the significance of cluster?

10 A. Well, there's many definitions of --  
11 clusters. There's clusters in time, there's  
12 clusters in space, you know, there's clusters of  
13 the same agent, depends upon how you want to define  
14 cluster. A cluster can be defined in several  
15 different ways.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. For example a cluster of grapes is a bunch  
18 of grapes together.

19 Q. I am talking about in terms of care of  
20 infectious disease?

21 A. And I am responding to you. A cluster can  
22 be defined several ways.

23 Q. Okay. My question then, my next question  
24 is, is it your testimony that there was evidence of  
25 a cluster from Enterobacter post-operative wound

1 infection at the hospital?

2 A. Clearly.

3 Q. Now, did you --

4 A. By definition.

5 Q. Did you assist in formulating the  
6 questions that have been put to the hospital about  
7 information that's material to your review?

8 MR. RUF: Objection, that's work  
9 product.

10 MR. HANNA: Not for him it's not. --

11 MR. RUF: Don't answer.

12 THE WITNESS: Well, I have no problem  
13 with that. When I was asked by the attorney to say  
14 what do you expect, you know, hospital people to  
15 do, I am knowledgeable in that subject, that's my  
16 business.

17 BY MR. HANNA:

18 Q. I understand.

19 A. And so I told them, I said you ought to  
20 find out does the hospital have an infection  
21 control committee, does it have a hospital  
22 infection control officer, what is the background  
23 of the hospital infection control officer, are they  
24 knowledgeable in this area, are they part-time, are  
25 they full-time, what do they do on a day to day

1 basis?

2                   These are natural questions that anyone  
3 who is trying to find out how a hospital proceeds  
4 would ask. And I'd be happy to respond to that.

5       Q.       Did you make inquiry as to whether there  
6 were any post-operative wound infections for  
7 surgeries performed within two weeks before or two  
8 weeks after James Farner?

9       A.       No, I didn't ask anything with any  
10 specified period of time. I simply said, and you-  
11 heard him earlier, that both of us said, well, if  
12 there is one infection, are there going to be  
13 several? He spontaneously was looking into it and  
14 I myself was interested. But I didn't formulate an  
15 opinion a week, two weeks, a month, just what the  
16 dates are.

17       Q.       Do you know how many surgeries were  
18 performed at this institution in 1995?

19       A.       No, I don't.

20       Q.       How about 1994?

21       A.       I have no idea.

22       Q.       Or '96?

23       A.       No.

24       Q.       Do you know how many orthopedic surgeries  
25 were performed during that time period?

1           A.       No, I don't.

2           Q.       Do you know how many infections there were  
3 of any kind post-operatively for orthopedic cases  
4 in that hospital in that time period?

5           A.       No, I don't.

6           Q.       Is there a recognized risk of infection  
7 associated with surgery in general, inclusive of  
8 orthopedic surgeries?

9           A.       Yes, there is.

10          Q.       And why is that?

11          A.       Because there is a baseline frequency of  
12 surgical wound infections, usually caused by  
13 organisms in the skin that just cannot be  
14 eradicated by the topical antiseptics that we use  
15 or by antibiotics that you use prophylactically.

16                   In other words, you usually have  
17 staphylococcal infections, staphylococcus aureus,  
18 staphylococcus epidermidis, and some other skin  
19 organisms. And you just simply can't clean the  
20 skin to the point of preventing all infections, so  
21 they occur.

22          Q.       Would you agree with the general  
23 observation that the --

24          A.       May I?

25          Q.       I'm sorry.



1           A.       I'm sorry, I thought I finished but I  
2       really hadn't finished. Because I was simply  
3       talking about incisions made of the skin, which  
4       would be orthopedic.

5 Obviously if you are operating on the  
6 abdomen or the pelvis, then there are organisms, in  
7 the vagina, in the gut, that can contaminate the  
8 operating site and then you can have an infection  
9 from those. I want to be complete.

10	Q.	Okay.
----	----	-------

11           A.     I'm sorry to interrupt you.

12 Q. Would you agree generally with the  
13 observation that there is a -- given a recognized  
14 risk of infection in surgery, that is because of a  
15 recognition that regardless of the best precautions  
16 known and available to medicine, a certain  
17 incidence of infection is going to occur no matter  
18 what?

19 MR. RUF: Objection, does that include  
20 Enterobacter or bacteria in general?

21 BY MR. HANNA:

22 Q. Including Enterobacter.

23           A.       Well, I would have to reserve that because  
24   Enterobacter would not be an acceptable kind of  
25   wound infection unless this was an abdominal

1 operation, where you might be opening the gut, you  
2 might get that organism, or it might be a urologic  
3 procedure where you have a long-term indwelling  
4 catheter.

5 But where you have a clean surgical  
6 procedure, such as an orthopedic surgery, where  
7 there is no break in the skin or continuity with  
8 the gut or urine or other sources, then that  
9 organism would be unexpected and unusual and more  
10 likely than not from an environmental source within  
11 the operating room facility.

12 It does not imply that the physician  
13 was negligent, it does not imply that at all. It  
14 implies there was an organism within that  
15 environment.

16 And the first instance, as I mentioned  
17 earlier, or the second, you can say, well, it's  
18 unexpected but not preventable because we didn't  
19 know about it. It's the third, fourth, fifth or  
20 sixth which has a specific kind of pattern that  
21 requires detective work and that detective work was  
22 **not** done.

23 Q. You indicated that it's -- that you said  
24 it's more probable than not that that was the  
25 source. What are the other possible sources of

1 that bacteria in this case?

2 MR. RUF: Objection as to possibility.

3 THE WITNESS: I can't think of any.

4 BY MR. HANNA:

5 Q. Is Enterobacter an endogenous flora within  
6 the body?

A. Well, it exists in our gut probably very,  
very low count. You would have to look very hard  
to find it. But it is part of the bowel flora in a  
very, very small niche.

11 Q. Is it a waterborne bacteria?

12	A. Often waterborne.
----	----------------------

13	Q. Soilborne?
----	---------------

14           A.       Could be in the soil.

15	Q. Airborne?
----	--------------

16	A. Not particularly.
----	----------------------

17 Q. Is it possible for Enterobacter to exist  
18 on the skin?

19 MR. RUF: Objection as to possibility.

20 THE WITNESS: Of course it's possible.

2 1 BY MR. HANNA:

22 Q. Do you know anything about James Farner's  
23 activities on the day or two prior to his surgery,  
24 as to whether or not he may have done anything that  
25 might have allowed that bacteria to be on his

1 skin?

2 A. I can't think of anything. I know he  
3 climbed the ladder, he was doing physical labor  
4 around the house, but that's all I know.

5 Q. Okay. But he could have engaged in  
6 activities during that time period which this  
7 bacteria could somehow have been applied to his  
8 skin?

9 MR. RUF: Objection as to possibility.

10 MR. HANNA: I understand. -

11 THE WITNESS: Everything is possible,  
12 as you know.

13 BY MR. HANNA:

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And as you know I am not relying in my  
16 judgment on just one piece of information, I am  
17 relying on several pieces of information.

18 Q. I understand. Now, let's go back to -- I  
19 didn't mean to derail this by the first case versus  
20 the second case versus the third case.

21 A. I wanted to be sure you understood.

22 Q. What I was trying to clarify was at  
23 whatever case you're saying it, I am gathering now  
24 that I misunderstood and what you meant was  
25 somewhere around the third or fourth case, that the

standard of care is that they engage in a search  
2 for this bacteria somewhere in the environment of  
3 this operating suite?

4 A. Well, I think the first thing that you  
5 would do, if I might respond, is you say was it the  
6 same Enterobacter that occurred in Mr. Farner that  
7 occurred in preceding individuals?

8 Because if you find an Enterobacter in  
9 Mr. Farner and the preceding cases which have  
10 entirely different susceptibility patterns or they  
11 differ in some physical manner or biochemical  
12 manner, then you can say, you know, I doubt whether  
13 Enterobacter cloacae number one was the same as  
14 number two and that these are unrelated episodes.

15 So the first thing you do is look at  
16 the organism, go to the laboratory and say let's  
17 look at the profile.

18 Now, if you're at an advanced  
19 institution, which is not the standard of care,  
20 such as ours or some of the large tertiary  
21 hospitals, they might even do DNA typing to see  
22 whether or not -- fingerprints, to see whether or  
23 not the organisms are identical. But that's not  
24 the standard of care.

25 But certainly to look at the antibiotic

1 pattern would be a good enough reason to alert one  
2 to a difference.

3           And after they did that and said, you  
4 know, case one, case two, case three, case four,  
5 have all this material and you really can't do DNA  
6 patterns because you have to save the organisms,  
7 after all, all you have is the record of  
8 susceptibility because laboratories don't save  
9 organisms for ten years, so you can't even look  
10 back unless you were specifically planning to do-  
11 that kind of work.

12           You can say, based on the fact that  
13 these organisms look the same, more likely than not  
14 they have been -- they have occurred from some  
15 common source. And that's where the cluster issue  
16 comes in. Common source, cluster, whichever you  
17 wish, whatever term you wish to use.

18           **If** you then see what looks like a  
19 common source, common source is usually the  
20 environment for these organisms, and then you go  
21 ahead and do everything you can to be sure that all  
22 the environmental measures are correct.

23           Now you can also say it's possible that  
24 there might be a carrier, some human carrier. So  
25 you look at the personnel who were present in the

1 various operating rooms to see whether or not there  
2 is a common individual.

3 We have people who pass on hepatitis,  
4 for example, surgeons who pass on hepatitis during  
5 a surgical procedure, or even AIDS. So you look  
6 for a person, or in this case an environmental  
7 contaminant.

8 That's all, it's not very complicated.

9 Q. Did you formulate an opinion in this case  
10 as to whether there was a common carrier? ~

11 A. I don't think there is a common carrier in  
12 terms of human beings, no.

13 Q. And what is it is your testimony as to the  
14 standard of care in terms of attempting to identify  
15 a source in this case?

16 A. Well, it wasn't done.

17 Q. Well, what should have been done?

18 A. Well, the nurse or whoever was delegated  
19 to be responsible for the hospital infection  
20 control should have gone into the operating room  
21 and observed the kind of procedures that are done  
22 in terms of the aseptic precautions that are taken  
23 by the unit.

24 To look at all fluids that are present  
25 in the operating room and to culture those fluids,

1     because fluids so often are the source. To check  
2     the sterilization procedures within the unit, to,  
3     you know, just for the hospital itself.

4                 In other words, to look for a break in  
5     technique or a common environmental source such as  
6     fluids.

7                 I would doubt that it would be the air  
8     that would be a common source for this kind of  
9     organism. It's usually water or some fluid. And  
10    the fluid sometimes is as subtle as a sterilizing-  
11    fluid. You can sterilize things in benzethonium  
12    chloride or some other kind **of** pseudosterilizing  
13    agent that doesn't work, that's a very common  
14    source.

15                You might find that there is a bottle  
16    of Procaine or local antiseptic -- I'm sorry, local  
17    -- what is the term, local anesthetic, that has  
18    been used repeatedly, you know, as opposed to being  
19    disposed of.   '-

20                All those things are common. I could  
21    tell about some epidemics that I've investigated  
22    where we found a common source, but I'm sure you  
23    don't want to hear about that right now.

24                Q.     so -- well, is it your testimony there was  
25    an epidemic?



1           A.       Epidemic means more than an expected  
2       number of cases. The number of expected cases of  
3       Enterobacter cloacae infection in the operating  
4       room should be zero, so that's more than the  
5       expected number of cases, that's all an epidemic  
6       is.

7           Q.       And is it your testimony that the number  
8       of cases reported here represents a cluster?

9           A.       Yes, on the basis -- a cluster on the  
10      basis of the fact that they all have essentially-  
11      the same antibiotic susceptibility profile.

12                   MR. HANNA:   Okay. Now, have we marked  
13      a copy of this?

14                                   (Defendant's Exhibit No. 2  
15                                   marked for identification.)

16      BY MR. HANNA:

17           Q.       Okay. Doctor, we have marked what has  
18      been marked as Defendant's Exhibit 2, a sheet that  
19      you brought, would you tell us for the record what  
20      that is?

21           A.       I looked at the information that was  
22      provided by the hospital in terms of the antibiotic  
23      susceptibility of Enterobacter cloacae that were  
24      isolated from Mr. Farner and eight other  
25      individuals.

1                   And I placed it in a template where I  
2 took each of the antibiotics that were tested and  
3 just listed them on a vertical axis. I then placed  
4 in columns the name of the individual, in this case  
5 Mr. Farner, and then subject one, two, three, and  
6 number four is Mr. Farner as well, and then subject  
7 five, six, seven, eight, nine.

8                   And the date of isolation. I did not  
9 indicate the source of the isolate, that is whether  
10 it was the ear or finger or wherever it was, just-  
11 simply the organism.

12                  Now, in going over this, it's extremely  
13 difficult as you know to read these records, and I  
14 had a lot of difficulty just in reading when the  
15 culture was taken as opposed to when it was  
16 recorded.

17                  And so I had to edit what I did by  
18 eliminating two columns where actually it was  
19 redundant because I confused -- and many of these  
20 sheets were duplicates, where I confused a little  
21 bit of report date versus the culture dates. But  
22 that's -- they have been scratched out, these two  
23 columns have been scratched out of this as you can  
24 see.

25           Q.       I think I have it here.

1           A.       I think you can see on your copy, I just  
2   sort of scratched through that, okay.  So that's --  
3   they are of no significance.

4 I also discovered, as I mentioned, that  
5 individual number four was Mr. Farner. And the way  
6 I did that was to look at the serial number of the  
7 individual and I saw the serial number was the same  
8 as Mr. Farner, therefore that's his culture, okay.  
9 And number four fits in fine because number four  
10 was the fourth case.

11                   So what we then look at is a report  
12   called S means susceptible, R means resistant, and  
13   I means intermediate, not quite sensitive,  
14   susceptible, and not quite resistant.

15                   Now people who do susceptibility tests,  
16   and I do a fair amount of that in my own  
17   laboratory, recognize that the susceptibility tests  
18   can vary a bit, depending on the inoculum size,  
19   that is the number of organisms you put in the  
20   plate, and just the reading by the technical  
21   people.

22                   So you can have a strain which is  
23       called I, intermediate, <sup>one day</sup>, and it can be  
24       reported as R or S the other days, because it's a  
25       borderline kind of organism.   So when I looked at

1 I, I can throw I either way.

2 Also the drug ampicillin sulbactam is a  
3 peculiar combination and it's a little difficult to  
4 interpret susceptibility for that organism. Now  
5 those are the caveats, if you will.

6 Looking at this, we see a remarkably  
7 similar pattern among all. First of all they are  
8 all susceptible to amikacin. But that's not  
9 surprising because most organisms of the  
10 gram-negative variety would be susceptible to  
11 amikacin. So that's okay.

12 If we look at ampicillin sulbactam,  
13 most of them are either intermediate resistant or  
14 sensitive, and that's, as I say, is a difficult one  
15 to interpret. Ampicillin, if you notice they are  
16 all resistant to ampicillin.

17 Aztreonam, which is an entirely  
18 unrelated drug, all are susceptible.

19 Cefazolin, they are all resistant.

20 Cefotetan, they are all sensitive or  
21 intermediate.

22 Cefoxitin, they are all resistant,  
23 ceftazidime and so on, cefalothin, they are all  
24 resistant.

25 And then you look at all the other

1 drugs, ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, imipenem, all of  
2 that, they all are uniformly susceptible.

3 Now my interpretation is -- I have  
4 several interpretations of this. The one is that  
5 this is strong evidence that these organisms  
6 resemble each other very close. The ultimate proof  
7 would be DNA technology, which we can't obviously  
8 use. But this is strong support for the notion  
9 that these are related strains.

10 There is a second point that reinforces',  
11 in my opinion. And that is that if you have an  
12 Enterobacter cloacae, which is in the community,  
13 say in the hospital, say in a urinary infection or  
14 an abdominal infection or a superficial wound  
15 infection, a diabetic for example, those people get  
16 antibiotic therapy pretty intensively and fairly  
17 soon the Enterobacter take on the characteristics  
18 of the antibiotics that were used.

19 So that you would expect to see strains  
20 that are resistant to ticarcillin or resistant to  
21 trimethoprim or resistant to another antibiotic  
22 because of the antibiotic pressure of the  
23 institution, you see those changes.

24 Here all the organisms are susceptible  
25 to commonly used antibiotics, as if there were no

1     antibiotic pressure on them. And that suggests to  
2     me that they were in an environmental source which  
3     was not subjected, as it would be in a person, to  
4     an antibiotic pressure.

5                     Now, those are what you might call --  
6     what is it when you have an individual die,  
7     disappear and you can't find the body, that's --  
8     what kind of evidence is that you use?

9         Q.         Speculation?

10                    MR. RUF:  Objection.

11                    THE WITNESS:  No, it's not  
12     speculation. I think it's very amusing that you  
13     say that but it's not. It's called -- what is the  
14     term you use for that kind of evidence, Perry Mason  
15     kind of evidence that's real strong stuff?

16                    You fellows no the word very well,  
17     you're not going to give it to me. What is that  
18     word?

19     BY MR. HANNA:

20         a.         Circumstantial?

21         A.         Circumstantial evidence, thank you for  
22     helping me. Very strong circumstantial evidence,  
23     that this is a strain which has not been subjected  
24     to antibiotic pressure and it's the same strain  
25     throughout.

1                   And it supports, it strongly supports  
2     the concept that this is an environmental source,  
3     same organism, not new organisms, not subjected to  
4     the wards where antibiotics are used, which is  
5     infecting all these individuals.

6                   That's my speech. That's what this  
7     says to me.

8           (2.       Okay. Do you have any other observations  
9     that are drawn from this chart?

10          A.       I think I said it pretty well.                   -

11          Q.       If I am following your observations then,  
12     you do not have any criticisms of the techniques of  
13     any of the individuals that were involved in Mr.  
14     Farner's surgery?

15          A.       I have no, no evidence one way or the  
16     other. I mean I didn't observe the surgery, I have  
17     no reason to believe that they departed from the  
18     standard of care in terms of how they proceeded  
19     with the operation.

20                   I have no information that says they  
21     did anything other than standard surgical  
22     procedures.

23          Q.       You mentioned before, I don't want to  
24     forget about this, the -- you were asked whether  
25     you had an opinion about whether or not he

1     sustained any permanent injury as a result of  
2     this. Did you formulate any opinion on that  
3     subject?

4           A.     Only a partial opinion. And the partial  
5     opinion is based upon the photographs that I was  
6     shown and the fact that I know the hardware, I  
7     believe, is still in place.

8                   But I really have -- I can't say any  
9     more because the last point I have is the  
10    information from the infectious disease doctor, Dr.  
11    Francis, who saw him sometime in I think August or  
12    so of '95, which was sometime ago. So I can't say  
13    any more.

14          Q.     Do you have any criticism of the  
15    timeliness of the identification of the infection  
16    and the treatment of the infection?

17          A.     No.

18                   MR. RUF: You mean with respect to  
19    James Farner --

20                   MR. HANNA: Right.

                  MR. RUF: -- individually?

                  MR. HANNA: Right.

                  THE WITNESS: That's what I assumed.

24                   MR. HANNA: Right.

25                   THE WITNESS: I assumed that the way he



1 was cared for, I have no criticism of the  
2 operation, of the surgeons. I have no criticism of  
3 the detection of the infection, I have no criticism  
4 of the way it was managed, nor of the infectious  
5 disease consultant, nor of the hospital in regards  
6 to the care of Mr. Farner once the infection  
7 occurred.

8 BY MR. HANNA:

9 Q. I am not clear on what you meant by a  
10 partial opinion about permanency. --

11 A. All I --

12 Q. We know that he had a graft as part of the  
13 treatment of the infection. In the absence of the  
14 infection he would not have had that and that  
15 leaves a certain scar, that we know.

16 Other than that, are you aware of any  
17 permanent problem he has secondary to the infection  
18 itself?

19 A. No, I am not prepared to speak to Mr.  
20 Farner's injury without having specific information  
21 from a physician, a knowledgeable physician who saw  
22 him recently and made that assessment or my own  
23 assessment. I can't speak to that.

24 Q. Have you -- do you hold any sort of  
25 opinion as to whether or not Mr. Farner had any

1 sort of an infectious process going on prior to his  
2 surgery?

3 A. I have no reason to believe that he had an  
4 infectious process going on prior to the surgery,  
5 except for one point, which I think I can explain  
6 but it's a little difficult to explain.

7 And that is he had a fever, an elevated  
8 temperature when he came in the hospital. But that  
9 elevated temperature may have been related to the  
10 crush wound, you know, the tissue damage. We see  
11 elevated temperature in relation to tissue damage.

12 But that's the only point I could pick  
13 up.

14 I see no reason whatsoever to take that  
15 information, however, and in any way say that that  
16 was responsible for the infection of his knee. For  
17 all the other reasons I've stated, the nature of  
18 the organisms, the patterns, how these organisms  
19 are acquired in the environment and so on.

20 And certainly I can't think of him  
21 having, say, a blood stream infection with this,  
22 proceeding to the knee, that's inconceivable.

23 Q. Do you have an opinion as to the cause of  
24 the fever that he experienced on the first  
25 post-operative day?

1           A.       As I mentioned to you, that could have  
2       been related to what you see in anyone  
3       post-operatively, it occurs.

4                    The surgeons love to talk about that as  
5       being an inability to clear secretions,  
6       atelectasis, so on, that's all possible. **But I**  
7       have no specific opinion about it other than that.

8           Q.       Okay. Is there any other information that  
9       you have requested or feel that you need to  
10      accurately formulate your final opinions in this-  
11      case?

12          A.       If my final opinions are related to the  
13      nature of the source of the infection, the  
14      infection control issues, all the ones we have  
15      discussed, I believe I have sufficient  
16      information.

17                    If I am asked to make an assessment of  
18      the damages done to Mr. Farner, in terms of  
19      permanent disability and so on, then I would have  
20      to have more current data.

21          Q.       Okay. Now, I realize that you conclude  
22      that this bacteria was more than likely introduced  
23      from an environmental source during surgery because  
24      of the analysis you have done of the sensitivities  
25      of the bacterias and the existence of other cases.

1           A.       And also, I didn't mention it to you, that  
2       since the skin was not broken at the time **of** the  
3       procedure, I can't see how it was introduced by  
4       some contaminant that might have occurred as you  
5       see with a comminuted fracture, you know, that's  
6       full of manure and things.

7                        So there is no reason to believe it was  
8       implanted at the time of the accident, because it  
9       wasn't broken.

10                      Second, once you close the skin it is  
11       extremely unusual, I'm not aware of any instances  
12       where you have a secondary infection coming through  
13       the sutures and everything else. They are almost  
14       always implanted at the time.

15                      So those are parts of the argument  
16       that, as I said earlier, more likely than not it  
17       was implanted at the time of the procedure, not  
18       prior to the procedure, not after.

19           Q.       Okay. But of course on that narrow  
20       subject, if the bacteria was on his skin, it could  
21       be introduced to the operative site the same way  
22       any other skin bacteria could, would it not?

23                      MR. RUF: Objection.

24                      THE WITNESS: If it were on the skin, I  
25       agree with you. But then we have the issue of were

1     these same organisms on the skin of all these other  
2     people, you know, and would they have the same  
3     pattern, and I doubt that.

4                     So you can't take any one piece of  
5     information, you have to put it together.

6     BY MR. HANNA:

7         Q.       Well, that's why I bring it back, because  
8     apparently you are distinguishing -- I want to talk  
9     to you about other mechanisms by which a bacteria  
10    could be introduced.                     -

11                    And I don't want you to feel you have  
12    to keep going back to the fact that, well, remember  
13    these, I think these are all the same strain  
14    because of the sensitivities. I realize that's a  
15    distinguishing point for you, okay?

16         A.       Okay.

17         Q.       All right. But barring that distinction  
18    to other cases, there is the possibility of  
19    introduction from the skin, the way any other skin  
20    bacteria would be entered?

21                    MR. RUF: Objection to the  
22    possibility.

23                    THE WITNESS: But it would be unusual,  
24    because the usual organisms are skin bacteria, like  
25    staphylococcus, as I mentioned earlier, and this is

1 an unusual contaminant of the skin.

2 BY MR. HANNA:

3 Q. I understand.

4 A. Anything is possible, however, and I grant  
5 you that.

6 Q. Okay. Now, is the drainage from a  
7 post-operative wound an avenue for the introduction  
8 of bacteria to the wound?

9 A. Not particularly.

10 Q. No? -

11 A. No. What it would be would be if you had  
12 a tube inserted into the wound, like a Penrose  
13 drain or a catheter, something like that into the  
14 wound, then you get it externally. But if it's  
15 closed, then draining spontaneously, no.

16 Q. Can it be -- are you saying it could be  
17 entered back through that drain?

18 A. If you have a physical drain, a mechanical  
19 drain, if you will, a physical body, a foreign body  
20 inserted into the wound, then bacteria can colonize  
21 that external body, like a catheter, and bring  
22 organisms into the wound. But if you have a closed  
23 wound and drainage occurs, you don't get it the  
24 other way.

25 Q. Do you know whether there was a drain

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52. Do you know whether Mr. Farner had contact with the surgical wound prior to the time he went home?

A. You mean?

Q. Let me ask you this, do you know whether -- do you know whether Mr. Farner removed the bandages himself and touched his wound?

A. It's totally irrelevant. You can touch wounds, you can take off bandages, that does not cause post-operative wound infection.

Q. You can't introduce bacteria to the site by reason of that, even if a drain is in place?

A. If a drain is in place, a physical drain, that's possible. But once you close the wound, it's pretty well sealed, any surgeon will tell you that.

Q. Is there specific literature or articles that you intend to use to support your opinions in this case?

A. No.

Q. Now, you indicated that the -- that there were certain common -- more common than not

1 organisms that would produce a post-operative  
2 infection in an orthopedic case, and those consist  
3 of what?

4 A. They would consist of skin organisms such  
5 as staphylococcus aureus, staphylococcus  
6 epidermidis, sometimes diphtheroids, which are  
7 other kinds of skin bacteria. And there are a  
8 variety of other skin bacteria which are in that  
9 family.

10 Every once in a while there is a -  
11 peculiar skin organism, but those would be the  
12 common ones.

13 And the support for that notion is that  
14 the prophylaxes that the orthopedic surgeons use,  
15 the antibiotics that they give prophylactically  
16 just before or right after the procedure, are  
17 antibiotics directed against those organisms,  
18 that's the cefazolin, they are directed  
19 specifically against that group of common  
20 contaminants.

21 It is so unusual to have a  
22 gram-negative bacteria, like Enterobacter cloacae,  
23 that it's unusual for the surgeons to use  
24 prophylaxis for those. So this sort of reinforces  
25 the notion of what is seen, what is customary.



1 Q. Now, the -- in the exercise of all  
2 possible standards of surgical care, sterilization,  
3 what have you, there is going to be a certain  
4 percentage of post-operative wound infection with  
5 that type of bacteria, regardless of the exercise  
6 of all good standard of care?

7           A.       That's correct.

8 Q. Now --

9 MR. RUF: Well, objection, what type of  
10 bacteria?

11 MR. HANNA: The bacteria he just  
12 described.

13 THE WITNESS: The gram-positive  
14 bacteria, staphylococcus aureus, epidermidis, other  
15 organisms, diphtheroids, that we mentioned earlier,  
16 that's what I assumed you were asking.

17 BY MR. HANNA:

18 Q. Right. And **Mr.** Farner, entering this  
19 surgery, bore at the same risk of those -- of that  
20 infection as any other similarly situated patient,  
21 correct?

22 MR. RUF: Objection.

23 THE WITNESS: I think that's a fair  
24 statement.

25 BY MR. HANNA:

1           Q.       Okay. Now, if Mr. Farner had developed a  
2 post-operative wound infection in his knee with one  
3 of those bacteria, take for instance staph, do you  
4 have an opinion as to how his outcome in terms of  
5 short or long-term prognosis would have been  
6 different?

7           A.       If his infection was caused by a staph as  
8 opposed to this organism?

9           Q.       Right.

10                   MR. RUF: Objection.                   -

11                   THE WITNESS: It's very variable.  
12 Staphylococcus is often a more virulent organism,  
13 that is it produces much more of a reaction. It  
14 could, if it grew to a large enough inoculum size,  
15 get into the blood stream and be manifested by  
16 chills, it could be a very vicious organism.

17                   But there are different strains of  
18 staphylococcus. Some are very vicious, some not so  
19 vicious. And in this regard, it could also be  
20 interesting to determine for staphylococcus whether  
21 it was a mezlocillin resistant staphylococcus or a  
22 mezlocillin susceptible staphylococcus. And if you  
23 wish, I could go into that?

24 BY MR. HANNA:

25           Q.       No, my point is, Doctor, I have seen

1 testimony you have given in other cases discussing  
2 staph bacteria. I believe you repeated terms I  
3 heard before, being extremely virulent and very  
4 dangerous --

5 A. Good.

6 Q. -- a very dangerous bacteria.

7 A. So that I am consistent?

8 Q. That's right.

9 A. Wonderful.

10 Q. It can be difficult to treat? -

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It can quickly turn into a septicemia type  
13 of problem?

14 A. Definitely could, sure.

15 Q. Okay. By comparison, from the standpoint  
16 of treating infections caused by different  
17 bacteria, how would you compare staph to  
18 Enterobacter?

19 A. Would I rather have an Enterobacter than  
20 the staph infection?

21 Q. If you can. If you can't do that, say  
22 so.

23 A. Well, it's very, very well known that the  
24 staphylococcus is a primarily virulent organism and  
25 could kill you. It's also known that there is a

1       tremendous amount of variation, it sometimes could  
2       kill you in a day, it could kill you in a week,  
3       kill you in a month, you know, there's variation.

4               But certainly it's a very virulent  
5       organism and one that we don't like to have, and  
6       you wouldn't want it and I wouldn't want it.

7               So if I had my druthers, I would rather  
8       have an *Enterobacter cloacae* than a *staphylococcus*  
9       aureus. I hope that answers your question. It's a  
10      vicious organism.                               -

11              On the other hand, when you have a  
12      foreign body in place, like an orthopedic device,  
13      then it becomes very difficult to eradicate either  
14      organism.

15       Q.       I understand. Now, following the  
16      discussions about this, we have bacteria, bacteria  
17      is kind of everywhere, isn't that basically a fair  
18      statement?

19              MR. RUF: Objection.                               --

20              THE WITNESS: Well, it's not on the  
21      moon, it's not on Mars.

22      BY MR. HANNA:

23       Q.       I'm with you.

24       A.       But it's in the human body certainly, and  
25      in the environment, that's correct.

1       Q.       We have bacterias on our skin and in our  
2 mouth and places, bacteria that basically has the  
3 ability to kill us, correct?

4       A.       That's correct.

5       Q.       Now, why is it that one person develops an  
6 infection from those bacteria and another does  
7 not?

8       A.       That's a wonderful question.

9       Q.       Thank you very much.

10      A.       You're welcome.

11               Well, there are a whole host of  
12 reasons. I'm not sure you want to hear them all.

13      Q.       Well, I'd like the basic list of them.

14      A.       Well, let's begin, then you can tell me  
15 when to stop. Let's take the bacteria in the  
16 mouth.

17               Ordinarily the bacteria in your mouth  
18 doesn't cause any problems, although I suppose if  
19 you eat a lot of sugar, it can metabolize the sugar  
20 and cause dental care.

21               If you happen to have a rheumatic heart  
22 valve or a valve that's been damaged by rheumatic  
23 fever or a valve which is congenitally abnormal or  
24 --

25      Q.       Maybe this is going to go the other way.

1 Let me ask you this --

2 A. We can give you thirty lectures on this.

3 Q. Well, would you agree that any operative  
4 site will have colonies of bacteria of some form  
5 introduced in every surgery?

6 A. Theoretically and likely, I am sure that  
7 small numbers of bacteria get introduced all the  
8 time, that's correct.

9 Q. All right. But not everybody gets an  
10 infection? -

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. So what I am looking for, and we can limit  
13 it to even orthopedic surgery, a knee surgery  
14 involving a tibial plateau fracture --

15 A. Fine.

16 Q. -- why despite that phenomena does one  
17 person develop an infection and another does not?

18 A. Again, I don't want to shake your hand  
19 again but it's an excellent question. And it may  
20 relate to a simple factor.

21 First of all, I am doing my best here  
22 because I am not prepared to give you a lecture,  
23 but obviously the foreign body is critical.

24 Because everyone knows, it's just  
25 experience, you can go into the theories of this,

1 as soon as you have a foreign body in place, then  
2 the whole equation between the organism and the  
3 host changes.

4 And the organism is dominant when a  
5 foreign body is in place. Probably because the  
6 host cannot mount a defense, a local defense with  
7 that foreign object.

8 The second may be very subtle. The  
9 surgeons will tell you that for example one of the  
10 key things that surgeons know is that the longer -  
11 the operation, the greater the risk of infection.

12 Now that may be because more organisms  
13 are implanted or because there is more necrotic  
14 tissue because of the nature of the procedure being  
15 a long, complicated procedure, dead tissue, where  
16 our own host leukocytes, little white blood cells,  
17 it can't get in.

18 Or there may be a blood clot. And if  
19 bacteria are in the middle of a blood clot, then  
20 the host can't get in, it can't penetrate the blood  
21 clot. It can be a very small blood clot.

22 So it's probably related to what you  
23 might call the microenvironment, the number of bugs  
24 that drop dead and whether or not they are virulent  
25 or avirulent, that's going to vary.

1           The anatomy of the wound, how big it  
2    is, the duration of the procedure, whether or not  
3    there are clots, dead tissue from, you know, the  
4    surgeons are always burning things all the time,  
5    and under those circumstances host cells can't get  
6    in, or the foreign body. And those are a series of  
7    equations, a series of probabilities. So it's host  
8    micro, okay?

9       Q.     Got it.

10      A.     It's a superficial answer but I hope it \_  
11    satisfies you.

12      Q.     Okay. Are there any other opinions or  
13    observations you believe you have formulated in  
14    connection with this case I have not -- that you  
15    can think of at this time that I've neglected to  
16    inquire about?

17      A.     No.

18      Q.     Let me ask a couple of questions  
19    surrounding just some of the technical issues  
20    here.

21            Do you have an assessment of the time  
22    that you've spent in reviewing this case thus far?

23      A.     I would say, let's see, six hours -- about  
24    ten hours.

25      Q.     Okay. And are you charging the Plaintiffs



1 by the hour for your work in this case?

2 A. Yes, I am.

3 Q. At what rate?

4 A. 250.

5 Q. What are your current charges to the  
6 Plaintiff in this case to appear as a witness at  
7 trial?

8 A. I never have a set fee for that. But it  
9 depends on where the trial is going to be. But if  
10 you ask me generally what usually occurs, it would  
11 be roughly twenty-five hundred dollars to three  
12 thousand dollars for the half day or whatever the  
13 time would take.

14 Really, if you had me on the stand for  
15 two days, I would charge a little bit more. So it  
16 really depends on how much pain you extract, okay.  
17 If you're real nice to me he won't get charged very  
18 much.

19 Q. How many cases have you reviewed as an  
20 expert witness in the past year?

21 A. Oh, at least a dozen. The last year,  
22 yeah, a twelve month period, yes.

23 Q. Okay. And how many have you averaged a  
24 year going back to around 1985?

25 A. Well, it's so variable, I'm going to give

1     you just -- I can only give you just a guess. A  
2     dozen, ten, eight, twelve, in that range. It would  
3     be more frequent in the last year, presumably  
4     because I'm getting older.

5           Q.     Why is that?

6           A.     I don't know.

7           Q.     Have you advertised your services as an  
8     expert at any time?

9           A.     At no time, never.

10          Q.     On how many occasions -- do you know how-  
11     many depositions you have given?

12          A.     I don't know.

13          Q.     Can you average those on a yearly basis?

14          A.     I would say two or three, sometimes four.

15          Q.     How many times have you testified in  
16     trial? And I mean that by way of either live or a  
17     deposition that's intended to be read at trial?

18          A.     At least a half a dozen times.

19          Q.     For lack of a better way to phrase this,  
20     how far have you gone geographically to serve as an  
21     expert in a medical malpractice case?

22          A.     Well, I've gone within the state of Ohio,  
23     Toledo, Cleveland, then I've skipped, then I've  
24     been to once to North Carolina, and then I think  
25     once or twice to Florida. And no place else --

1 wait a minute, once to Louisiana -- no, not even  
2 that. That's all.

3 Q. Have you served as an expert witness in  
4 any cases other than medical malpractice?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What types of cases?

7 A. Some product liability cases. Period.

8 Q. And in terms of consultation and serving  
9 as an expert witness in medical malpractice  
10 litigation, has it been exclusively for the  
11 plaintiffs?

12 A. No, I've reviewed this back and forth over  
13 the years, it's fifty-fifty, defense, plaintiffs.

14 Q. And have you maintained a record of all of  
15 the cases in which you have served as an expert  
16 witness?

17 A. I have all the cases, I have files in my  
18 office of all the cases. Now if you call that a  
19 record, fine.

20 Q. You still have that?

21 A. I still have those files. They get  
22 thinned out.

23 Q. Do you handle your own financial  
24 accounting --

25 A. Yes.

1       Q.       -- in terms of your income, all that sort  
2 of thing?

3       A.       Yes, I do.

4       Q.       You prepare your own tax returns?

5       A.       My wife prepares the tax returns in  
6 conjunction with an accountant, but I don't do it,  
7 no.

8       Q.       Okay. Do you know what your percentage of  
9 income is on an annual basis as divided between --  
10 well, I am assuming that your income is divided -  
11 between your salary position and that the work that  
12 you do is generally handled through that chaired  
13 position, that process.

14               Other than this work, do you have  
15 another source of income?

16       A.       I have several other sources of income.

17       Q.       And I don't mean investments.

18       A.       No, I understand that. We have a practice  
19 plan at Ohio State, so I have the income from the  
20 university, from my salary, and then I have  
21 additional income from my practice, which is all  
22 contracted out according to the rules and  
23 regulations of the university.

24               But that's a separate entity, it's run  
25 by the department of internal medicine

1 exclusively. In other words, I don't have any  
2 practice outside of the practice plan of the  
3 university. So that's a source of income.

4 Then I receive honoraria for talks, and  
5 then I consult for pharmaceutical and equipment  
6 manufacturers from time to time. And then during  
7 travel I may receive honoraria, expenses, so  
8 forth. So those are the multiple sources.

9 Of course malpractice or legally  
10 related areas, and then I have another source, that  
11 is I have royalties from the book that I publish.

12 Q. Okay. What is the approximate percentage  
13 of your income from -- generated from serving as an  
14 expert witness, I mean your professional income as  
15 opposed to any investments?

16 A. I would say it's -- it's varied from ten  
17 percent, you know, in the past, it may be this year  
18 it might be higher, might even go up to fifteen to  
19 twenty percent. That is a peculiar year.

20 Q. And if I am following you, other than this  
21 year being a little higher, basically it's averaged  
22 about the same amount of time, number of cases,  
23 depositions, so forth, going back to when?

24 A. Well, I have been involved in these kind  
25 of cases since 1970, I did my first case. At first

1     it was two or three cases a year, and then it just  
2     accelerated. And I think that's simply because --  
3     I'm sure it's the same in your world, that someone  
4     knows you, an attorney you have worked with before,  
5     you get called upon.

6                 As I mentioned to you, I do no  
7     solicitation whatsoever but it just becomes more  
8     and more common that attorneys have been calling me  
9     from either side.

10                And very often it's an attorney that-I  
11     worked with before or had been the adversary, it's  
12     very common for an adversarial attorney to ask me  
13     to work for him or her on the other side. And I  
14     just take the cases as they come along and I try to  
15     be as honest as I can.

16                And as you know from your own  
17     experience, most of the time, most if not many  
18     cases, many of the cases have no merit whatsoever,  
19     one way or the other, and I just don't get involved  
20     with them beyond that. I give some advice, say I  
21     don't see any merit in this case, that's it.

22                Most of the time the cases **do** not end  
23     in deposition and most of the time they don't go to  
24     court. So it's really a matter then of lots of  
25     cases but not much action.

1           Q.       The only other thing I would ask of you in  
2       connection with that would be a list of your  
3       publications. And given your collection of those  
4       files, the identification **of** the cases in which you  
5       have served as a defense expert.

6           A.       Going back to how long?

7           Q.       I don't know, the last five years.

8           A.       And **do** you want defense expert at what  
9       level? Having reviewed a case or having given a  
10       deposition or going to court?                               -

11          Q.       How about a deposition, cut it off there  
12       for you.

13          A.       All right. Let me write it down, you want  
14       five years, defense, depositions or court, right?

15          Q.       Right.

16          A.       And/or court. And you want the  
17       geography.

18          Q.       What is the recognized or the accepted or  
19       whatever the term of art should be for you in  
20       infection, in the subject of infectious disease,  
21       recognized incidence **of** infection in orthopedic  
22       surgical cases?

23                   MR. RUF: Objection, in general or  
24       Enterobacter?

25                   MR. HANNA: Well, let me -- I realize

1     you have raised this objection before.

2     BY MR. HANNA:

3         Q.     To my knowledge the -- from the standpoint  
4     of infectious disease, a person attempting to  
5     track, control, assess infectious rates, C.D.G. and  
6     otherwise, they are not tracked by the specific  
7     bacteria in terms of calculating percentage risk as  
8     it relates to individual procedures, am I correct  
9     about that?

10        A.     I can't speak to that. It depends on what  
11     level you are talking about. There is the national  
12     nosocomial infection study, which is very, very  
13     comprehensive, but it encompasses, I don't know,  
14     seventy or eighty sentinel hospitals, and they ask  
15     everything, they want to know the bug and the  
16     drugs, the whole thing.

17                So I am not quite sure if you are  
18     referring to that or you're referring to  
19     surveillance in general. But that study, my  
20     goodness, they ask for lots of stuff.

21        Q.     Well, in terms of an open, an orthopedic  
22     surgical procedure such as Mr. Farner's, there is a  
23     recognized risk of infection on a percentage basis,  
24     correct?

25        A.     You asked two questions, you know that,



1 you asked two questions, one was the rate of  
2 infection in orthopedic surgery, and then you asked  
3 some other question in regard to what the national  
4 something or other, I sort of answered your  
5 question in parts. So I don't want to be tough but  
6 --

7 Q. No, I was responding to the objection.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. There is a recognized rate of infection  
10 for certain types of surgical procedures? -

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. And do you know what that is for  
13 orthopedic surgeries such as Mr. Farner's?

14 MR. RUF: Objection.

15 THE WITNESS: I have a reasonable  
16 guess, which could be corrected by, you know, by  
17 the numbers. But I would expect it to be much less  
18 than one percent. This is clean surgery, so it  
19 would be less than one percent.

20 That's the rate I would expect. Now  
21 maybe it is a little higher but I think that's the  
22 rate.

23 BY MR. HANNA:

24 Q. Now the second part that was raised by the  
25 objection is, in terms of surveillance practices in

1 observance of surgeries, that percentage is not  
2 divided amongst different types of bacteria, is  
3 it?

4 A. Yes, it is. And I am surprised that you  
5 ask that question. It depends who you are asking.  
6 But if you look at the national nosocomial -- I  
7 cited it earlier, that study, which is a huge study  
8 and it's published in the morbidity and mortality  
9 report which comes out weekly, you can see all  
10 sorts of rates coming in by organism and studies of  
11 microepidemics by organism. I am surprised you  
12 asked that question the way you did.

13 Q. Well, I may not have phrased it properly.  
14 I'll let it drop at this point.

15 MR. HANNA: Let me look through my  
16 notes. Mike, do you have any questions for him?

17 MR. EDMINISTER: Only one. Do you want  
18 me to go ahead?

19 MR. HANNA: Go ahead.

20 - - -

21 BY MR. EDMINISTER:

22 Q. Doctor, I represent Dr. Hill in the case,  
23 as you know already.

24 And if I have been paying attention  
25 throughout, and I believe that I have, I understand

1     that you have thoroughly reviewed all of the  
2     records, all of the depositions that you have  
3     listed previously, and that you have no criticism  
4     of Dr. Hill's care in this case, is that accurate?

5     A.     That's correct.

6             MR. EDMINISTER:   Thank you.   I have no  
7     further questions.

8             THE WITNESS:   Off the record?

9             (Discussion had off the record.)

10            MR. RUF:   Are we done?                             -

11            MR. HANNA:   Almost.

12                             - - -

13     BY MR. HANNA:

14         Q.     Two areas briefly here.   Do you  
15     participate in your practice in the process of  
16     discussing risks of surgery with patients prior to  
17     surgery?

18     A.     Yes, of course.

19         Q.     And do you consider yourself to be  
20     basically familiar with the procedures that  
21     surgeons follow in explaining a risk, that there  
22     are risks of infection in undergoing surgery?

23     A.     Oh, yes.

24         Q.     Okay.   Now, when risk of infection of  
25     surgery is described to a patient, would it be

1 standard of care for the surgeon to discuss with  
2 the patient different types of bacteria?

3 A. Not particularly. I can't see, I wouldn't  
4 think so. And if you look at the various  
5 disclosure forms that are issued by surgeons or  
6 hospitals, I don't think it describes the nature of  
7 the bacteria as far as I know.

8 Q. Would you agree with me that in the usual  
9 practice and in accordance with accepted standards  
10 of care, when a physician is preparing a patient  
11 for trial -- for surgery, and is securing their  
12 informed consent, that what he discusses is  
13 generically a risk of infection, and that is the  
14 issue and not the bacteria?

15 A. To the best of my knowledge, that's  
16 correct.

17 Q. Okay. In the instance of hospital  
18 patients that have an infection in which  
19 Enterobacter is isolated, do you know generally in  
20 what percentage of those cases the flora is  
21 considered to be endogenous?

22 A. Enterobacter?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. Well, it might be, if this were a knife  
25 wound to the abdomen or a ruptured appendix, you

1 know, an operation of the abdomen, where the  
2 organism might be present among others, it would be  
3 unusual but it could be present.

4 It might be in a urologic procedure  
5 where a catheter is in place for some time, where  
6 the organism *Enterobacter* is a common organism.

7 If it were a patient in an intensive  
8 care unit, I could visualize where it might be part  
9 of the colonization, doing a procedure such as a  
10 tracheostomy, it might implant that organism. -

11 But it would have to be sort of a gross  
12 contamination of the abdomen, the pelvis. A  
13 diabetic, that kind of thing, where you could see a  
14 urinary catheter. But in clean orthopedic surgery  
15 you don't.

16 Q. Well, take the intensive care situation  
17 you are describing. Do you know what the  
18 percentage of colonization is considered to be  
19 attributable to endogenous flora in that type of  
20 setting?

21 A. I just don't know how to respond to you in  
22 that. Because when we talk about nosocomial  
23 infection, hospital acquired infections, the  
24 organisms are usually environmental organisms, the  
25 urinary catheter, transmitted from person to

1 person, from wounds, so on. That's a nosocomial,  
2 would be a hospital acquired infection, that's  
3 usually the way it counted.

4 The way you talk about a community  
5 acquired infection would be the fellow that comes  
6 in with a stab wound or the person that ruptured  
7 their appendix, the perforated diverticulum,  
8 something of that sort, that's the way it's  
9 distinguished.

10 If it were a staphylococcus that was -  
11 unusual in the community but was common in the  
12 hospital, it could be called a nosocomial  
13 staphylococcus.

14 And I was trying to make that point  
15 earlier, not all staphylococcus are simply normal  
16 floras of the skin, it can be implanted on the  
17 hospital environment. Hospitals are dangerous  
18 places.

19 Q. Well, my question was, in the **ICU** setting,  
20 *Enterobacter* infection in respiratory, in  
21 respiratory infections, do you know, have an  
22 opinion as to whether or not the majority of those  
23 types of infections are from endogenous flora?

24 A. They would be considered nosocomial and  
25 not endogenous. They become endogenous because the

1 patient becomes colonized with it, but it's not  
2 part of the normal flora that they obtain at the  
3 hospital. When you're talking about normal flora,  
4 you have to -- the assumption would be a person  
5 otherwise healthy, not exposed to antibiotics, and  
6 comes in the community, that would be normal  
7 flora.

8           People are not running around with  
9 Enterobacter cloacae in those numbers with normal  
10 flora. If you're in a hospital, where you are -  
11 exposed to these organisms from the environment,  
12 where you receive lots of antibiotics that select  
13 out the normal flora, you get superinfected by  
14 hospital organisms, that's not normal flora.

15       Q.     So your answer is no?

16       A.     No, okay. I am just trying to figure out  
17 exactly, the reason I asked it the way I did is  
18 because I am trying to figure out the reasoning  
19 that went into your question.

20       Q.     I appreciate the explanation, I just want  
21 to make sure I interpret that the answer is no?

22       A.     You're right, no.

23           MR. HANNA: I have no further  
24 questions. What do you want to do with signature?

25           MR. RUF: Doctor, you have the right to

1 read this transcript or you can assume it's been  
2 taken down correctly and waive that right. What  
3 would you like to do?

4 THE WITNESS: Well, I prefer not to do  
5 anything, I prefer just to let it go.

6 MR. RUF: It's up to you.

7 THE WITNESS: I feel comfortable, I  
8 don't feel I have to read it. If you want me to  
9 read it, I'll be happy to do that.

10 MR. RUF: I'll leave it up to you -  
11 then.

12 THE WITNESS: Then I won't read it.

13 - - -

14 (Deposition concluded at 6:10 o'clock p.m.)

15 (Signature waived.)

16 - - -

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C E R T I F I C A T E


STATE OF OHIO, )  
                  ) ss:  
SUMMIT COUNTY.)

I, Michael G. Cotterman, Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within named witness, CALVIN M. KUNIN, M.D., was by me first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given by the witness was by me reduced to Stenotypy in the presence of said witness, afterwards transcribed upon a computer; and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony so given by the witness as aforesaid.

I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified, and was completed without adjournment.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or otherwise interested in the event of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand and affixed my seal of office at Akron,  
Ohio on this 25th day of April, 1997.

  
Michael G. Cotterman, Notary Public in  
and for the State of Ohio.

My Commission expires October 25, 1997.

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**DEFENDANT'S  
EXHIBIT**

4-22-97

Kunin

Name: Calvin Murray Kunin, M.D, F.A.C.P.

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MHO Starling-Loving Hall  
320 W. 10th Avenue  
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Columbus, OH 43221

Office Telephone: (614) 293-8976  
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Home Telephone: (614) 488-3634

Personal: Birthdate: May 3, 1929, Burlington, Vermont  
SSN: 057 22 0984

Education: 1949 A.B. - Columbia College, with honors  
1953 M.D. - Cornell University Medical College

Student Fellow of the National Foundation for  
Infantile Paralysis

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, NIH 1958 - 1959

Career Development Award, USPHS 1966-1967

1953-1954 Intern in Medicine, The New York Hospital, N.Y.

1954-1956 S.A. Surgeon (R) Communicable Disease Center  
USPHS, Department Health, Atlanta, GA  
Education and Welfare

1956-1957 Resident in Medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital  
Boston, MA

1957-1959 Research Fellow, Thorndike Memorial Laboratory  
(Preceptor - Dr. Maxwell Finland)  
Boston City Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Academic  
Positions: 1959-1963 Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine and Internal  
Medicine, University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Charlottesville, VA

1963-1967 Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Internal  
Medicine, University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Charlottesville, VA

## Academic

### Positions cont:

1967-1970 Professor/Chairman of Preventive Medicine and Internal Medicine, University of Virginia School of Medicine Charlottesville, VA

1970-1979 Professor/Associate Chairman, Department of Medicine The University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

1970-1979 Chief, Medical Service, William S. Middleton Memorial V.A. Hospital, Madison, WI

1979-1984 Professor/Chairman, Department of Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH

1982-Present Pomerene Professor of Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH

### Military:

U.S. Public Health Service (Reserve), Active Duty 2 1/2 Years  
Surgeon (R) Promotion as of April 1965, Inactive Reserve, Resigned 1980

### Board Certification:

#### and Licensure

#24977 - Massachusetts June 13, 1957 (Inactive)  
#14161 - Virginia December 1, 1959 (Inactive)  
#17242 - Wisconsin July 15, 1970 (Inactive)  
#43864 - Ohio August 9, 1979 (Active)

## Professional

### Memberships:

President - Infectious Diseases Society of America, 1986-1987  
Councilor - Infectious Diseases Society of America, 1973-1975  
Chairman, Antimicrobial Committee, Infectious Diseases Society of America, 1988-1992  
1963 American Board of Internal Medicine  
Principle Investigator, IDSA/FDA contract to prepare Guidelines for the Clinical Evaluation of New Anti-Infective Drugs (1990-1993)  
Secretary-Treasurer, Association of V.A. Chiefs of Medicine, 1973-1979  
National Advisory Committee, Physicians for Social Responsibility, 1981-1990  
1963 American Board of Microbiology, Emeritus 1980  
American Society for Clinical Investigation (Emeritus)  
Association of American Physicians  
Central Society for Clinical Research  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Immunologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Epidemiological Society, through 1977  
American Federation for Clinical Research  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Microbiology

Professional

Memberships cont: American Society of Internal Medicine (Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio)  
American Society of Nephrology  
Association of Veterans Administration Chiefs of Medicine, 1970-1979  
Epidemic Intelligence Service Alumni Association  
Society of Epidemiologic Research

The Ohio State University

College of Medicine, Executive Committee  
Dean's Committee for Veterans Administration  
Infection control committee  
Executive Committee of the OSU Hospitals  
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee  
Physicians for Social Responsibility (Student advisor)  
Chairman, Hospital Infection Control 1988-1990  
University Senate, 1989-1990

Honors/Awards:

Phi Beta Kappa  
Alpha Omega Alpha  
Sigma Xi  
John and Mary Markle Scholar in Medical Sciences, 1961-1966  
Fellow, American Academy of Microbiology  
Fellow, American College of Physicians  
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science  
President and Visitors Research Prize, Sigma Xi  
AOA Visiting Professor, West Virginia University, 1970  
George R. Minot Memorial Lecturer, AMA Meeting, San Francisco,  
June 19, 1972  
Visiting Professor of Medicine, Makerere University Medical School  
Kampala, Uganda, East Africa, August, 1972  
Paul Kimmelstiel Memorial Lecturer, Oklahoma City, 1974  
McLaughlin Lecture, Galveston, Texas, 1974  
Physicians Recognition Award AMA, 1976  
Honorary Associate Fellowship in the American Academy of  
Pediatrics, 1977-Present  
The Rockefeller Foundation Scholar-in-Residence, Bellagio Study and  
Conference Center, Italy, 1978  
David Earle Lectureship, 1979  
Distinguished Achievement in Antibiotic Review, March, 1979  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States  
Sustaining Membership Award, 1980  
Frank E. and Mary W. Pomerene Professorship of Infectious Diseases,  
1982-Present  
Meiklejohn Lectureship, University of Colorado, 1985  
Bowman Lecture, University of Virginia, 1985  
M. Glen Koenig Visiting Professor, Vanderbilt University, 1986  
Franz J. Ingelfinger Visiting Professor, Boston City Hospital, 1986  
John K. Lattimer Lecture, The American Academy of Pediatrics, 1988  
Maxwell Finland Visiting Professor, Brockton & West Roxbury VA  
Medical Center, 1991

	FARNER		NO. 1	NO. 2		NO. 3	NO. 4	
	3/24/95	4/7/95	7/8/94	9/14/94	8/26/94	1/7/95	3/21/95	3/29/95
AMIKACIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AMP/SULBACTAM	I	I	S	R	R	R	R	I
AMPICILLIN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
AZTREONAM	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CEFAZOLIN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
CEFOTETAN	S	S	S	S	S	I	S	S
CEFOXITIN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
CEFTAZIDIME	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CEFTRIAXONE	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CEFUROX-AXET	I	I	S	I	I	I	I	I
CEFUROX-SODIUM	I	I	S	S	S	I	I	I
CEFALOTHIN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
CIPROFLOXACIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
GENTAMICIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
IMIPENEM	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
MEZLOCILLIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
PIPERICILLIN	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
TICAR/CLAV	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
TICARCILLIN	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
TOBRAMYCIN	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
TRIMETH/SULFA	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
	NO. 5			NO. 6	NO. 7	NO. 8	NO. 9	
	6/1/95	7/10/95	7/17/95	8/4/95	8/18/95	6/26/96	10/21/96	10/23/96
AMIKACIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AMP/SULBACTAM	S	S	R	R	I	I	I	I
AMPICILLIN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
AZTREONAM	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CEFAZOLIN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
CEFOTETAN	S	S	S	S	S	S		
CEFOXITIN	R	S	R	R	R	S	R	R
CEFTAZIDIME	S	S	S	S	S	R	S	S
CEFTRIAXONE	S	S	S	S	S	S		
CEFUROX-AXET	I	I	R	I	I	I	I	I
CEFUROX-SODIUM	S	S	R	S	I	S	S	I
CEFALOTHIN	R	S	R	R	R	R	R	R
CIPROFLOXACIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
GENTAMICIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
IMIPENEM	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
MEZLOCILLIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
PIPERICILLIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
TICAR/CLAV	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
TICARCILLIN	S	S	S	S	I	S	S	S
TOBRAMYCIN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
TRIMETH/SULFA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CEFOPERAZONE						S	S	S
CEFOTAXIME						S	S	S