



C L A R E L O C K E

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By Email

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Mr. James Love
Director
Knowledge Ecology International
1621 Connecticut Ave NW #500
Washington, DC 20009
James.love@keionline.org

Re: August 17, 2020 Letter to Ridgeback re Comments in The Washington Post

Dear Mr. Love:

Thank you for responding to Ridgeback's July 14th letter. The Holmans asked me to thank you for your kind words concerning their daughter and they send warm regards and their sincere prayers regarding your wife's health.

We recently received correspondence from a reporter named Paul Levy who works for www.citizen.org. Mr. Levy seems to be under the misapprehension that Ridgeback has threatened to sue you for libel in connection with your statements about Ridgeback that *The Washington Post* published in its June 11th story. For the avoidance of all doubt, Ridgeback has never made such a threat, and we sent our previous letter to (1) identify the false, misleading, and damaging statements that you made and (2) determine whether you were quoted accurately. Thank you for confirming that you were not misquoted.

Even though Ridgeback is disappointed that you will not retract your statements, because you now have a more complete picture and given *The Washington Post* itself has made retractions, the company does not believe that it is productive to engage in an extended back and forth with you on the topic. The mission at Ridgeback is to safely and responsibly develop life-saving medicines. Any time taken away from that harms that mission. The facts, detailed more fully in my last letter, demonstrate that Ridgeback is not a "molecule-flipper" as the company moved the molecule from preclinical to the precipice of Phase 3 and will continue to jointly develop EIDD-2801.



It is worth noting that your refusal to retract your comments referring to Africa as “backwater” is puzzling. Especially considering the fact that *The Washington Post* made corrections to its article after Ridgeback raised its concerns that other aspects of the article appeared to have racist and sexist overtones. And while you may not believe that Ridgeback has “standing” to object to your commentary, the company thought you may appreciate the opportunity to amend it especially since based on your correspondence you were in fact unaware of the retractions by *The Washington Post*.

The facts in the public domain are more than sufficient to confirm that your characterization of Ridgeback is demonstrably false. We cannot understand why you would take time to create distraction for a company and people doing such crucial work while raising young children including one with a recent cancer diagnosis. Do you believe that is beneficial to public health or anyone for that matter? Given KEI’s stated mission and organizational goals, we expected that you would consider revisiting some of the commentary you provided to *The Washington Post*. My clients remain optimistic that you will eventually change your mind.

Regards,

Thomas A. Clare, P.C.