

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail
Mail Stop 4720

May 14, 2010

Daniel G. Darazsdi
Chief Financial Officer
Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc.
929 North Front Street
Wilmington, North Carolina

**Re: Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc.
Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2009
Filed February 26, 2010
File Number: 000-27570**

Dear Mr. Darazsdi:

We have limited our review of your filing to those issues we have addressed in our comments. In our comments, we ask you to provide us with information to better understand your disclosures. Where a comment requests you to revise disclosure, the information you provide should show us what the revised disclosure will look like and identify the annual or quarterly filing, as applicable, in which you intend to first include it. If you do not believe that revised disclosure is necessary, explain the reason in your response. After reviewing the information provided, we may raise additional comments and/or request that you amend your filing.

Please understand that the purpose of our review process is to assist you in your compliance with the applicable disclosure requirements and to enhance the overall disclosure in your filing. We look forward to working with you in these respects. We welcome any questions you may have about our comments or on any other aspect of our review. Feel free to call us at the telephone numbers listed at the end of this letter.

General

1. We have not yet reviewed the Part III information that is included in your Form 10-K. We may have further comments after reviewing that information and we will not be able to clear our review of your filing until we have the opportunity to resolve any resulting comments.

Item 1. Business
Intellectual Property, page 18

2. Please revise your disclosure to include a more robust discussion of your material patents, including which product groups they relate to, the expiration dates for each, and the jurisdictions in which they were granted. See Item 101(c)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K for guidance.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
15. Business Segment Data, page F-45

3. Please tell us why you concluded that your service areas (i.e., Phase II-IV services, laboratory services and Phase I clinic), as you disclose on page 43, were not separate reportable segments. In your response, address ASC 280-10-50-10.

* * * *

Please provide us the information requested within 10 business days or tell us when you will provide us with a response. Please furnish a cover letter with your response that keys your response to our comments. Detailed cover letters greatly facilitate our review. Please furnish your letter on EDGAR under the form type label CORRESP.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes all information required under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that they have provided all information investors require for an informed investment decision. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

In connection with responding to our comments, please provide, in your letter, a statement from the company acknowledging that:

- the company is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing;
- staff comments or changes to disclosure in response to staff comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

In addition, please be advised that the Division of Enforcement has access to all information you provide to the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance in our review of your filing or in response to our comments on your filing.

Daniel G. Darazsdi
Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc.
May 14, 2010
Page 3

Please contact Staci Shannon, Staff Accountant, at (202) 551-3374 or Joel Parker, Accounting Branch Chief, at (202) 551-3651 if you have any questions regarding the processing of your response, as well as any questions regarding comments on the financial statements and related matters. You may contact Rose Zukin, Staff Attorney, at (202) 551-3239 with questions on any of the other comments. In this regard, do not hesitate to contact me, at (202) 551-3679.

Sincerely,

Jim B. Rosenberg
Senior Assistant Chief
Accountant