

## Press Release

# Carter-Ruck

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## Henrik Thomsen – GE Healthcare

Terms of settlement have been agreed in libel proceedings brought in London by GE Healthcare against Henrik Thomsen, Professor of Radiology at Herlev hospital, Copenhagen.

The proceedings related to a presentation Professor Thomsen gave at a “Management in Radiology” conference in Oxford in October 2007, and statements made in an article published in his name in “Imaging Management”, a specialist magazine for managers in the field of radiology, in February 2008.

Professor Thomsen said today:

*“My purpose was to share with fellow clinicians and healthcare professionals my experience in managing a serious problem at our hospital where we found 20 patients suffering from NSF.\* The cause was unknown, but in early 2006, it was clear to us that all of our nephrology patients with NSF had only one factor in common; they had all been exposed to Omniscan. In March 2006, after a recently published research paper reported the possibility of a link between NSF and a gadolinium based contrast agent, I discovered the agent used there was also Omniscan. After we switched contrast agent at my hospital we saw no new cases of NSF.*

*It was not my intention to suggest on the basis of the evidence then available to me that GE Healthcare had marketed Omniscan knowing that it might cause NSF. My comments were based on statements made by acknowledged experts in the development of gadolinium-based contrast agents, in particular the late Dr. Hanns-Joachim Weinmann, at the ISMRM (International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Imaging) symposium in Berlin in May 2007, which indicated that it had been known for many years that there was a specific risk arising from the formulation of gadodiamide.*

*I stand by my publicly expressed opinion, based on my experience and research on published papers that there is an association between the chemical formulation of gadolinium-based contrast agents and NSF.”*

Lynne Gailey, speaking on behalf of GE Healthcare said:

*“It was not the intention of GE Healthcare by bringing proceedings for libel against Professor Thomsen to stifle academic debate. GE Healthcare objected to statements made by Professor Thomsen which it interpreted as suggesting that it had known from the outset that Omniscan caused NSF. GE Healthcare accepts, however, that Professor Thomsen’s concerns were expressed in good faith. GE Healthcare regrets that these proceedings were necessary to reach the common understanding described in this statement.*

### Partners

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*GE Healthcare has co-operated fully and actively with global healthcare authorities and promoted a robust evaluation of the safety of gadolinium-based contrast agents in Europe, the United States and elsewhere based on evidence and science. GE Healthcare welcomes the continuation of a principled dialogue about the safety of gadolinium-based contrast agents.”*

\* Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF) is an extremely rare, but debilitating, painful and, in a small percentage of cases, potentially deadly disease, which was first identified in 1997. Its cause is not fully understood but the consensus of medical opinion is that it is associated with the administration of gadolinium-based contrast agents in severely renally impaired patients. Contrast agents are injected into patients prior to MRI scans in order to obtain enhanced images.

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