Novartis statement on the decision of the Supreme Court of India on the patent for Glivec

The Indian Supreme Court on April 1, 2013 denied a patent for the Novartis breakthrough medicine Glivec® (imatinib mesylate). This decision discourages innovative drug discovery essential to advancing medical science for patients.

Novartis has never been granted any other patent for Glivec in India. The Court denied an appeal challenging the rejection of a patent for Glivec, a life-saving medicine for certain forms of cancer, patented in nearly 40 countries including China, Russia, and Taiwan. Novartis filed a Special Leave Petition with the Indian Supreme Court in 2009 challenging the denial of the Glivec beta crystal form patent on two grounds, based on Sections 3(d) and 3(b) of the Indian patent law. In addition to seeking a patent for Glivec, the company filed the case to help clarify these unique aspects of the patent law.