

FOR RELEASE: After 7 p.m., Sunday, March 12

NEW BRUNSWICK, March 12--Russell E. Watson, counsel for Dr. Selman A. Waksman and the Rutgers Research and Endowment Foundation today described as "baseless and preposterous" the legal action instituted by Dr. Albert Schatz against Dr. Waksman and the Foundation in the Chancery Division of New Jersey's Superior Court.

Watson commented as follows:

"Dr. Albert Schatz's charge that Dr. Waksman induced him to assign the streptomycin patent application to the Foundation by fraud and coercion is baseless and preposterous; in this action Dr. Schatz is ill-advised. The action will be fought vigorously by Dr. Waksman and the Foundation.

"Streptomycin is the result of nearly 30 years of continuous, systematized study by Dr. Waksman in the field of microbiology. Dr. Schatz was a graduate student under Dr. Waksman. He was one of about 20 graduate students and assistants who aided Dr. Waksman from time to time in the study of this problem.

"Dr. Schatz's work prior to the discovery of streptomycin covered a period only of a few months and was performed in the capacity of a carefully supervised laboratory assistant. He assisted in the prosecution of a definite part of a comprehensive plan of research, utilizing technical procedures devised and directed by Dr. Waksman, based upon his many years of scientific research and experience in microbiology.

"The trial of Dr. Schatz's unfounded action will conclusively demonstrate that his charge is false."