

Katherine Jackson v AEG Live – September 6th 2013



Metzger, Allan (MJ Dr.)

Q. Doctor, would you please state your full name for the record.

A. Allan Lawrence Metzger.

Q. Okay. And are there any medications or anything you take that would in any way affect your memory?

A. No. I'm on a beta blocker.

Q. Okay. Does that affect your memory?

A. It can affect the memory.

Q. Has anyone ever told you that they believe that it affects your memory?

A. Yes.

Q. And who has told you that?

A. My wife.

Q. Okay.

A. And my partners.

Q. And your partners?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. So you have had the issue at times where people have thought --

A. Yes.

Q. -- there was a problem with your memory?

THE WITNESS: And my grandson.

The -- all right. Well, if there's any points here today where you think that your memory is fuzzy in some way or you're having an issue with it, obviously please let us know.

A. Okay.

Q. So with that beginning, what's the highest level of education you've completed, sir?

A. A rheumatology fellowship.

Q. And where did you do that?

A. UCLA.

Q. And did you do that after completing medical school?

A. Yes.

Q. And where did you attend medical school?

A. University of Colorado.

Q. And in what year did you graduate?

A. 1968.

Q. And what degree did you receive?

A. An M.D. cum laude.

Q. And after medical school, what did you do next?

A. I did a year of internship and a second year of internship at the University of Chicago.

Q. And was that the Billings Hospital?

A. Billings Hospital.

Q. And were those in the years 1969 and then 1970?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did you do after you completed that year of residency at Billings Hospital in 1970?

A. I went into the public health service, NIH, in Phoenix, Arizona at the Phoenix Medical Research Center for two years and took care of and did research on the southwestern American Indian population.

Q. And at the end of that two years, what did you do next?

A. Came to L.A., rheumatology fellow, and then went into practice at 450 North Bedford.

Q. And that fellowship was completed at UCLA in 1974?

A. Yes.

Q. And are you board certified?

A. Certified in internal medicine and rheumatology.

Q. I understand what -- when I see your name on materials it will say M.D., F.A.C.R., F.A.C.P. M.D. I think I have. What is F.A.C.R.?

A. Which is Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Q. Okay.

A. And F.A.C.R., Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology.

Q. And is this -- is this a -- do you have to be admitted to this?

A. Yes.

Q. And how does that occur?

A. Basically providing my experience and credentials and being honored to be chosen as a fellow.

Q. And do you know what years that occurred for each?

A. I think it was '73 and '74. The certificates are '74 and '75.

Q. Okay. Now, when you started with your practice, which, if I understand correctly, was 1974 --

A. Uh-hmm.

Q. -- what was your area of practice?

A. Mostly rheumatology, some internal medicine.

Q. And did that remain true throughout the entirety of your career?

A. Yes.

Q. For us lay people, what is the difference between rheumatology and internal medicine?

A. We do have the rest of the day, don't we? Rheumatology is the practice of treating rheumatic disease. And many of the rheumatic diseases have elements involving the other systems of the body other than the joints, so I end up practicing some internal medicine. It's predominantly taking care of autoimmune disease.

Q. Have you ever taught?

A. Yes.

Q. And when have you taught?

A. I've done teaching at UCLA. I have done innumerable lectures around the country on rheumatic disease. I've taught at Cedars-Sinai.

Q. And what do you teach at UCLA?

THE WITNESS: Almost always rheumatology.

BY MR. PUTNAM:

Q. Rheumatology. Have you published?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever published a book?

A. I've done chapters in one or two books. I've never published my own book.

Q. Did you ever provide medical treatment to Michael Jackson?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And can you recall when Mr. Jackson first became your patient?

A. I'm going to refer to my records.

Q. Okay.

A. The face sheet suggests I first saw him in my office sometime in 1983, I believe, when Michael was 24.

Q. So I'm now going to mark for the record what will now be Exhibit 2, a 25-page compilation of documents that, as noted by Miss Millett, denoted with the ALMINC Bates numbering that has gaps throughout, as she noted, thereby denoting the fact that this is not a complete set of documents but rather a subsection of those that ultimately have been provided to us as the defendants in this matter.

Q. I'll give you a second to look at it, Doctor, but I'm going to ask you if you recognize the documents here today.

A. Yes, I do.

Q. And what are these documents?

A. These are some of the records from my chart or records on Mr. Jackson.

Q. And a moment ago before we went off the record I asked you if you knew when you first met Mr. Jackson in your capacity as a doctor, and you went to look at your records to find a date. Do you see any records here that would help you know when you first met Mr. Jackson?

A. In this group of papers I do not see my original visits from 1983.

Q. Do you know when you first met Mr. Jackson in your capacity as a doctor?

A. 1983.

Q. And do you recall whether he was referred to you by someone?

A. He was referred to me by Dr. Arnold Klein.

Q. And had you worked with Dr. Arnold Klein before?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. And who is Dr. Arnold Klein?

A. He is a dermatologist who I think had treated Michael many years before referring him to me.

Q. And for how long had you known Dr. Klein at that point?

A. I had known him since 1972 or '3 from UCLA.

Q. And were you in the program together?

A. No. It so happened that rheumatology and dermatology were in the same clinic area, so we knew each other as rheumatologists in training, dermatologists in training.

Q. So he was training at UCLA at the same time you were?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. And so, if I understand correctly, you indicated that Dr. Arnold Klein had referred Mr. Jackson to you?

A. I believe so.

Q. And were you contacted directly by Dr. Klein?

A. I probably was called.

Q. The -- when you were contacted by Dr. Klein or Dr. Klein's office, do you recall what they told you at the time?

A. I don't directly recall, but originally there was some question if Michael had discoid lupus, which is a skin condition.

Q. And do you recall why they thought that he might?

A. I think a skin biopsy suggested it.

Q. Okay. And what is discoid lupus?

A. Discoid lupus is a skin component of a disease called systemic lupus erythematosus.

Q. And is there an acronym for that?

A. Discoid lupus. Discoid refers to the word "skin." And I think Dr. Klein had biopsied something, an area on his scalp, that suggested discoid lupus, and I believe Dr. Klein wanted me to make sure there was not a systemic component to this problem.

Q. And if there was a systemic problem, what would that mean?

A. That would mean the skin was just a manifestation of a potentially more serious autoimmune disease.

Q. And then did a time come when you then met with Mr. Jackson?

A. Yes, in my office.

Q. And tell me what happened, if you can recall.

A. I looked at my records that were scribbled. I now dictate records. Basically I remember evaluating him, finding him to be in excellent health other than the skin issue, and I did laboratory studies that I don't think are in this packet --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- that corroborated that he did not have a systemic illness.

Q. And were you able to ascertain at that time during his first visit whether he had discoid lupus?

A. He had lesions that to me looked like discoid lupus.

Q. Okay. And my understanding from your testimony a moment ago was you were to ascertain whether or not there was a systemic element to this.

A. Yes.

Q. And did you ascertain whether there was a systemic element?

A. I did.

Q. And was there?

A. There was no systemic element.

Q. And what are -- what are the ramifications of that determination?

A. It's critically important. That means his prognosis and general health should be preserved and no jeopardy to his health.

Q. Okay. And could you tell at this point in your diagnosis of Mr. Jackson -- and by "this point" I mean on this initial visit -- what the extent of the health ramifications would be for Mr. Jackson's diagnosis?

A. My assumption at the time was there are no major health implications. As I recall, most of the lesions were on the scalp. There may have been some forehead lesions, but I don't absolutely recall. Did you continue to serve as one of Mr. Jackson's doctors for -- between that time and the time of his death?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And was that on an ongoing basis?

A. It was always intermittent. Michael was in town, out of town, sometimes we talked on the phone, sometimes he was in the office. On rare occasions I remember going to Dr. Klein's office to see him after hours.

Q. And did you at any time see Mr. Jackson abroad?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And at other times did you see Mr. Jackson in New York?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever see Mr. Jackson at Neverland?

A. Innumerable occasions.

Q. Did you at times see him in his Century City location?

A. I think a couple of times.

Q. Okay. And this was on an intermittent basis from this point in 1983 up until the time of Mr. Jackson passing?

A. Yes.

Q. And during that entire time did your diagnosis as to the severity of Mr. Jackson's lupus change?

A. No.

Q. And when you talk about scarring, did Mr. Jackson have scarring as a result?

A. There was some subtle scarring of the scalp.

Q. Thank you. Did Mr. Jackson have vitiligo?

A. Yes. And what, if any, other physical ramifications are typical of a person who has discoid lupus?

A. Rash.

Q. Rash. That's it?

A. That's the physical manifestation.

Q. All right. We talked about this first time you met Mr. Jackson in a professional capacity and indicated that then you served in some capacity as a physician for Mr. Jackson over the next almost 40 years. Is that right? Do I have that -- am I right? '83, '93 -- 30 years.

A. 30 years.

Q. 32 years. The -- so the question then becomes: Did you ever serve as Mr. Jackson's primary fair -- primary care physician?

A. I believe I was one of the primary care physicians, because Michael did some doctor shopping.

Q. Uh-hmm. What does that mean?

A. He had different doctors in different places, and that was one of my concerns, because I often -- he wouldn't tell me.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. And if he had a health thing, he would kind of minimize it and I wouldn't hear about it, so -- if he was abroad, particularly.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I believe if he was close to L.A. or in L.A., I would have been the first go-to person.

Q. Now, when you say he wouldn't tell you, what do you mean by that?

A. Here and there I think he had issues or problems with health that I didn't hear about.

Q. And how did you come to understand that he had those if he didn't tell you?

A. I may have heard it from Dr. Klein. Michael could have told me six months after coming back from Europe "When I was in Europe my back acted up" or "I had a terrible flu with the kids" or something and would hear about it but not hear about it at the time.

Q. And did you ever express your concern to Mr. Jackson about your not hearing about these instances?

A. I did, but it didn't seem to matter.

Q. What do you mean by "it didn't seem to matter"?

A. He was private, secretive and really minimized a lot of his health issues in terms of some of the musculoskeletal problems he had.

Q. When you said Mr. Jackson was secretive, what do you mean by that?

A. He was shy about certain things. He was secretive about things that went on in his life. And I would often not hear from him or Dr. Klein that he had a health problem on tour or in Europe or on vacation until after the fact. And often I probably never heard of a million things that went on.

Q. Now, several times in answers here you've referred to Dr. Klein.

A. Yes.

Q. What did you understand was Dr. Klein's role in Mr. Jackson's life?

A. I understood them to be very dear friends and he was a treating physician.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. Dr. Klein and Michael socialized. Dr. Klein and Michael traveled together on certain occasions. They had a more personal relationship than I did with Michael.

Q. But you had a personal relationship?

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. You traveled with Mr. Jackson on occasion?

A. I have.

Q. And in terms of -- you also mentioned often talking to Dr. Klein. Did it -- how frequently would you -- why would you talk to Dr. Klein about Mr. Jackson's medical issues?

A. In general, Arnie would like to be a mother hen. He would like to handle everything for Michael, which kind of was appropriate in some ways, and so he would ask for curbside consults, "This is what's going on with Michael. What would you suggest?" Generally if he had a viral infection and Michael didn't want to come over to the office, if he pulled his back out, "How are we going to treat him?" General issues of a medical nature so that Michael didn't have to come in or call me himself. Because of being shy, because of being secretive and because of Dr. Klein liking to kind of be the first door.

Q. And Dr. Klein was a dermatologist, correct?

A. Yes.

Q. So several things that you mentioned, for example, these skeletal, muscular issues; this would not be Dr. Klein's specialty?

A. That's when he would call me.

Q. Okay. And if I understand you correctly, you're saying Mr. Jackson would go to Dr. Klein or Dr. Klein would come to you?

A. Or he would call Dr. Klein, tell him what's going on, and rather than saying "Call Metzger," he might call me and represent what's going on and ask advice.

Q. And the "he" there is Dr. Klein?

A. Yes.

Q. And you had a term I had not heard before, curbside --

A. Curbside consult is medical jargon for not actually seeing the patient --

Q. Okay.

A. -- and hearing the story and having an opinion.

Q. And that's what we're talking about here in terms of --

A. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. Yes. And on occasion if Dr. Klein told me something I was concerned about, I would make it clear that Michael must come in the office.

Q. Okay. Did you -- in your 30 years with Mr. Jackson did you treat him for any chronic illnesses that we've not discussed here today?

A. If we define "chronic" as something that lasts for months or years --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- the answer is yes. I've treated him for back issues off and on.

Q. And did you ever treat Mr. Jackson for -- for sleeping problems?

A. I don't particularly remember prescribing any specific drugs until the last time I saw him in April. I believe it was April. I'd have to refer to the records. Over the years I'm sure I prescribed some rare sleeping medication, but I absolutely cannot recall when or what medications.

Q. Okay. But as we sit here today, do you -- do you remember ever treating him for chronic insomnia?

A. No.

Q. Okay. Did Mr. Jackson have insomnia?

A. I believe he did.

Q. And why do you believe that?

A. Well, I've experienced it. I've heard him complain about it. I witnessed it when we were in Australia on tour.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. And particularly when he's performing, he can't sleep.

Q. And this is something that you experienced firsthand?

A. Yes.

Q. And when you say "particularly when he's performing," what do you mean by that?

A. I would remember him coming offstage in Australia. And I don't remember if I was ever anywhere else with him after performing other than seeing him after a concert here. He was stimulated --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- wanted to do better, always; certainly adrenalized, and he really had a hard time sleeping.

Q. And during that time in Australia were you serving as -- were you there in your role as his physician?

A. I was there in my role as pseudo physician and friend and companion.

Q. Were you compensated for your time there as a pseudo physician?

A. I was not.

Q. You were not compensated?

A. Not compensated.

Q. And just for the sake of the record, whenever you refer to Arnie, you're talking about Mr. -- Dr. Klein, right?

A. Yes. Sorry.

Q. The -- when you had these -- these curbside conversations, would you then write them up in your record?

A. Probably never.

Q. So was your record -- what would you write up in your record?

A. Important phone calls.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. Definitely when he was in the office or when I made an official house call. If I was visiting him as a friend or at the ranch --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- or locally, I would never write those up in general.

Q. Did you talk to Dr. Klein often about Michael Jackson in the 30 years that you served as a physician for Mr. Jackson?

A. Could you define "often."

Q. More than ten times a year.

A. No.

Q. Were -- were there times when you talked to Dr. Klein more than ten times during the year when you were treating Mr. Jackson?

A. There may have been rare years.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. But most of the time it would be three, four times a year, I think.

Q. Okay. So -- and of those three or four times a year, is it safe to say that usually you did not write up those conversations in your records?

A. Correct.

Q. Okay. I noticed in your records, the ones we're referring to there in Exhibit 2, that at points -- and we'll get to the specifics in a moment. That at points you'll talk about the idea that you didn't perform lab tests because he would -- Mr. Jackson didn't like them. Is that correct?

A. I believe that's in the records.

Q. And can you recall what that meant when you wrote that down?

A. My recollection for writing it down or dictating it was that he just didn't like any form of pain, and to him drawing blood was painful. I can recall not specific instances but generalities, that if I was adamant and adamant and pressed and pressed, I would make him do it.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. But often, if it was not critical to his care, I would not force him to do that.

Q. You had indicated that Dr. Klein had a personal relationship that you thought was a -- a more extensive personal relationship than the one that you had with Mr. Jackson but you also indicated that you had some personal relationship --

A. Yes.

Q. -- with Mr. Jackson. Did you see him socially?

A. I saw him socially at Neverland.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. To me, the trip to Australia was social --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- more than medical --

Q. Okay.

A. -- clearly. I believe he really wanted me to be at his wedding. That's why he asked us. Like would I meet him at a restaurant? Is that what you mean, just socially?

Q. No, I meant actually the things you just said; seeing him at Neverland, going to Australia. You indicated you went to Neverland. On how many occasions did you go to Neverland socially?

A. With or without Michael there?

Q. Either way.

A. Maybe six to eight over the years.

Q. Okay. How many times with Michael?

A. Most of those.

Q. Most of those.

A. Most of those.

Q. And were you ever at Neverland in your capacity as Mr. Jackson's treating physician?

A. I think everything was more social.

Q. Okay.

A. You know, if -- if something happened there and he needed some advice nutritionally, I'm sure there was some medical component, but I would say the great percent would be -- 85 or 90 percent was always social.

Q. And you indicated you saw him in April of -- several months before he passed.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see him at the Carolwood residence?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you ever see him in any other residence?

A. Neverland.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. Carolwood. I think I saw him a couple of times at Arnie's.

Q. And by that you mean Arnold --

A. Yeah.

Q. -- Arnold Klein's personal residence?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. In L.A. I don't think I ever saw him at Hayvenhurst. Something sticks in my mind about some other residence or hotel. I just don't recall.

Q. Okay. That's fine. And you -- you mentioned Mr. Jackson's wedding.

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present at his wedding to Ms. Rowe?

A. Yes.

Q. I'm going to ask you some questions about the tours. You had indicated that you had gone to Australia.

A. Yes.

Q. And was that in conjunction with one of Dr. Jackson's tours?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it the "Dangerous" tour from 1992 to 1993?

A. Probably that, because I think he was married in '95 or '96.

Q. So -- that's true, so was he married to Miss Rowe during this tour?

A. I believe so.

Q. Okay. So was that the "History" tour during 1996 to 1997?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And how much of the tour were you present for? And by that I mean were you on the tour with him.

A. I think just in Australia. Definitely in -- I think just one city. I'm not sure.

Q. Can you recall whether there were any other doctors present on the tour while you were there?

A. I'm not sure. I don't really remember.

Q. Dr. Steven Hefflin. Do you know Dr. Steven Hefflin?

A. Hoefflin.

Q. Hoefflin.

A. He's a plastic surgeon.

Q. Okay.

A. To my recollection, he was not on that tour. It was -- when I -- when you say "tour" and I say "tour," I'm going to say in Sydney or in Australia.

Q. Was Dr. Hoefflin someone that you dealt with in reference to your care for Mr. Jackson?

A. Periodically I would get a phone call from Steven Hoefflin or he would call to ask a question about Michael's health. I would say this is another example of the secrecy. I never knew when he was having mild, minor plastic surgery --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- until maybe afterwards. "Never" is a strong word. I would say I virtually never knew when minor, little things were being done by Dr. Klein or Mr. Hoefflin or by anyone else.

Q. And on what occasions would Dr. Hoefflin call you, then?

A. I think he was -- if he was worried that Michael was in good shape to do surgery.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. Dr. Hoefflin always had some unusual, different views of health and how to treat health, and he would discuss certain things with me that I would or wouldn't discuss -- would or wouldn't agree with.

Q. Okay. And those unusual different views of health, were they in reference to his treatment of Mr. -- of Mr. Jackson?

A. Yes.

Q. And what examples of that unusual or different views do you mean?

A. He was always trying to advise Michael on general health issues; nutrition, exercise. He had a lot of feelings about sleep, how he wanted Michael to try herb medicines that we had tried.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I don't remember any of the particulars.

Q. So when you were -- when you were referencing that, the unusual and different views, was that in reference to Mr. Jackson's insomnia?

A. Insomnia.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. General overall health.

Q. Okay. And you said some herbal medicines that you had also tried. When you -- what were you referring to when you said you had also tried?

A. I had tried Melatonin.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I had tried some Echinacea.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. And some prescriptive drugs. I can't really recall what they were, unless they're in the record.

Q. Okay. And these are per -- and these were all in your treatment of Mr. Jackson for insomnia?

A. Yes.

Q. And if I -- if I wanted to find out what prescriptive drugs you provided to Mr. Jackson in reference to your treatment of him for insomnia, those are -- I would find in your records?

A. You would probably find some of those drugs in the record. If I didn't make a note or I was out of town and called a pharmacy, we would have to check pharmacy records.

Q. As we sit here today, what can you recall as the ways in which you attempted to assist Mr. Jackson in treating his insomnia?

A. Looking at my records, the last time I saw Michael in -- April 18th of 2009, I had prescribed, quote, a small amount of sleep meds, either Klonopin, one milligram or Trazodone, 50 to a hundred milligrams, to be used separately. Prior to that I probably tried different meds, and I don't absolutely recall, because you don't want me to speculate.

Q. That's correct.

A. Other specific drugs on different occasions.

Q. Did you ever -- We'll do those. What I'm going to do is as we get into the records, I'll go through specific examples so you don't have to speculate. What I am curious about is did you ever try to ascertain the cause of Mr. Jackson's insomnia.

A. Specifically did he have a sleep study?

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. To my recollection, no. I always related it to him being a creative force in the universe, end quote; not being happy with certain things coming out of the press, not being happy with a project or something he was working on and he was dedicated to making it better, always, and always thinking or up at night drawing or something. I don't think it was a -- well, I'm not sure of the exact etiology. Insomnia is multifactorial.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. We talked about sleep hygiene.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. Coffee and things like that not before going to sleep. We talked about him not watching the news late at night so his mind wasn't cluttered with good things on the news or bad things that weren't even related to him. General sleep hygiene I had discussed with him on innumerable occasions. Possibly even trying to exercise. Some people sleep better if they exercise before they go to bed; some people don't. So we had tried different avenues of non-pharmacology to help him sleep.

Q. And you also tried prescriptive drugs as well as various herbal medications?

A. Yes.

Q. And was this throughout your 30-year professional relationship with Mr. Jackson?

A. I can't answer that. I don't recall unless I look at my records if I treated him for insomnia in the '80's --

Q. Okay.

A. -- or '90's. Intermittently I would treat him. And referring to this one specific example, I would have to refresh my memory and look at records.

Q. All right. So we have the "History" tour that we were talking about, and we talked about some of the doctors, one of them being Dr. Hoefflin. Was Dr. Arnold Klein present during this tour?

A. I don't believe so.

Q. Okay.

A. And, again, Hoefflin I don't believe was present either.

Q. Okay. What about a Dr. Neil Ratner?

A. Neil Ratner was an anesthetist from New York. I don't remember how he got involved with Michael. Michael would seek out avenues of sleep helpers, and that's another aspect of his secrecy. I never knew what he was doing at times that he wasn't in L.A., and probably he did things in L.A. that I don't know or Dr. Klein doesn't know. Ratner, I think, came to Australia at the end of that tour.

Q. Okay.

A. And I think I met Ratner on that tour --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- and had a few conversations after Australia.

Q. All right. So where I want to start, then, is in what would be the beginning of that chronology, which would be ALMINC 14.

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recognize this document?

A. I recognize it.

Q. And what is it, sir?

A. It's a copy of my medical records from 3/5/93 with Joe Michaels' name at the top, which was one of Michael's aliases.

Q. When you say -- that's one of my questions. When you say "one of Michael's aliases," what do you mean by that?

A. Michael had several aliases for confidentiality in the office. One was Omar Arnold, Joe Michaels. There may be other ones in the record that I've forgotten, too.

Q. Okay. When you were seeing -- for example, on this date, March 5th, 1993, the -- would you be seeing Mr. Jackson alone or did you have an assistant or nurse who also was there with you?

A. I would say virtually 100 percent I'm alone with Michael.

Q. All right. When we talked before the break we were talking about when you first saw Mr. Jackson --

A. Yes.

Q. -- which was in 1983.

A. Correct.

Q. It's now a decade later.

A. Yes.

Q. All right. I don't want to go into all the things that happened in that decade, but did you see Mr. Jackson on an ongoing basis in that decade as a patient?

A. Yes.

Q. And as we sit here today, was there anything remarkable about your treatment of Mr. Jackson in that decade?

A. What do you mean, "remarkable"?

Q. Anything out of the ordinary.

A. I certainly treated him for the discoid lupus.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I treated him for general medical issues.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I probably, without referring to the notes, treated some back issues or leg issues from dancing.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I don't remember anything that was particularly unusual or remarkable other than what we had mentioned, helping him sleep.

Q. And, in fact, in the last sentence you say "*He's going to have elective scalp surgery for a scar revision by Dr. Gordon Sasaki --*"

A. Sasaki.

Q. -- "*and Steven --*"

A. Hoefflin.

Q. A couple of lines down -- first of all, it notes "*He is going to be having surgery in the next few days.*" Do you have an understanding as we sit here today whether he had a surgery both after the March visit and the July visit?

A. Yes.

Q. He did?

A. **(Witness nods head.)**

Q. Okay. And do you know what the surgery was for after the 7/8/93 visit?

A. It says related to the scar from the Pepsi Cola commercial, so I presume it was related to that specific reference.

Q. And the earlier one in March, do you know if that was a related surgery?

A. To the burn?

Q. Yes.

A. Again, no.

Q. You don't. But you do recall there was some surgery that was occurring shortly thereafter?

A. There were many surgeries related to the injury with the fire.

Q. All right. Going on to this, I'm now going to go to -- again, I'm trying to stay chronological, which I think means we go back to Page 13.

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. You'll see that that is an August 17, 1993 date.

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And how did you come to understand that Karen Faye played that role?

A. Karen was really the most constant person that was around Michael all the time, to my knowledge.

Q. Okay.

A. He had his makeup -- he had his wardrobe guys that he was close to, the dancers and things like that, but she -- she to me was the most constant companion through touring here, everywhere.

Q. Okay. And what was -- what was the reason for meeting with Akasha?

A. Michael really wanted healthy food.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. He was mostly a vegetarian except for fish. He really, when the kids were born, was adamant about proper nutrition for the whole family.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. And he had around him, if he -- if he could, I guess, a cook who was advising proper nutrition.

Q. Dr. Metzger, did a time come where you believed that Mr. Jackson had a problem with Demerol?

A. Intermittently I was aware that he was given Demerol for procedures in the office.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. That was when I first became concerned, because of his pain threshold, that we should try to do something differently, but I had no control over that.

Q. Do you recall if this was a period of time in this two weeks where you had a concern about Mr. Jackson's use of Demerol?

A. No, I do not recall.

Q. You don't recall that. And do you recall whether this was a time that you had concern over Mr. Jackson's use of any painkillers?

A. I don't recall any concern. I just don't

Q. Okay. So -- and so as we sit here today you can't recall having helped treat Mr. Jackson for an addiction to any medication?

A. No. I never treated him. I heard concerns --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- from Karen, from Debbie, from Hoefflin, from Klein that Michael was doctor shopping and took pain medication that the average person wouldn't. For example, I know he had some kind of treatment for his minor procedures in Arnie's office. I don't know what that treatment was. I had heard it was Demerol from probably Debbie. Michael never would tell me what he was doing. And if I didn't prescribe something or I didn't hear it from a health professional, I really wasn't sure what was specifically happening.

Q. Did you ever discuss these concerns with Mr. Jackson?

A. I think -- I think I did discuss with him that I want him letting me know what's going on, that I was concerned that he would get A from Dr. A, B from Dr. B and could hurt himself, whether it was sleep meds, antibiotics, nutrients or pain meds. And I think on occasion I told Michael that his pain threshold was not average and he needed to try to minimize pain medication, particularly in Klein's or Hoefflin's or anyone's office where he had a minor surgical procedure.

Q. Okay. And you talk here about the idea of given -- giving certain medications to Miss Faye for Mr. Jackson. Can you recall doing that?

A. I don't recall it. I see it's here. I don't -- I don't remember what those meds were.

Q. Okay. But you do recall providing such medication?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay.

A. I provided something for that tour, and he really basically left against my wishes.

Q. And related to the same, can you recall ever prescribing medications for Mr. Jackson in Miss Faye's name?

A. I do recall prescribing something in Miss Faye's name. I don't remember what it was.

Q. Was it --

A. There was so much anonymity in Michael's world that I'm sure I did that.

Q. And do you recall whether it was in this time period or more recently around the time of his passing?

A. Oh, definitely not around the time of his passing.

Q. Not at that time?

A. No.

Q. The next page, also Omar Arnold, 8/18/93. This is Wednesday, P.M., so this is a second entry. It says: "*Wednesday P.M. patient was seen in his Century City house for severe temperature over 100.0, viral influenza complaints and severe scalp pain and headache. Various analgesics, liquids, Tylenol and Elavil for pain management and sleeping were prescribed. The patient was visited at his home with Debbie and myself. I anticipate that the patient will be in the office tomorrow.*" Do you remember that visit?

A. I think I remembered going and seeing him there when he was terribly ill. Debbie was concerned and wanted me to come over.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I presume Arnie wasn't there or nobody else was there. I would have dictated it, I think. And I remember he was very sick. And Elavil I use for sleep management, I use to raise the pain threshold. It is used for depression and it's also used for a million other conditions, including bowel issues that certainly were not a reason here.

Q. And did you use it here to help him sleep?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And had you used it previously to help him sleep?

A. I don't recall.

Q. Is this a drug that you used with Mr. Jackson on occasion to help him sleep?

A. Yes.

Q. So Tylenol and liquids. And you say analgesics. What do you mean by analgesics?

A. Something for pain. I don't -- I didn't dictate what was described or what he had there.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. It may have -- it could have been from Arnie or Michaelson. I don't recall exactly what that word meant on that occasion.

Q. Was there any other issue you were visiting for at this time?

A. Scalp pain and headache.

Q. Anything beyond those?

A. Well, I mentioned sleep management.

Q. The next entry is for August 21st, 22nd and 23rd of '93 and it says: *"No communication from the patient or directly from his physician or any other sources. Dr. Forecast assured me he would be calling me but he has not."* Do you recall this?

A. Correct. Yes.

Q. Shortly thereafter, on August 24th, Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. it says: *"Dr. Stuart Finkelstein seen at 66 --" well, at a number, "and Bill Bray," B R A Y, "have spoken to me about Michael's severe and profound headaches which we have been managing as a complication of his scalp surgery with medications. The patient has not done very well and he is still having persistent and profound pain."* Do you remember that conversation?

A. I don't remember the specific conversation but I remember that wherever Michael was, the message from these two people were -- was that he was in pain. And I don't know if managing medications was something I had given him or Forecast or these -- or Dr. Finkelstein. I don't have any recollection of what these medicines were.

Q. It says *"Omar Arnold - 8-25-93."* So that is a day after the last entry.

A. Right.

Q. It says: *"Michael called and I spoke with him through my home at 7:00 A.M. in Los Angeles from Bangkok. A conference call was made with Dr. Klein and Debbie with reference to his sleep difficulties, beginning depression, concern about the tour and the severe, profound scalp pain. On 8-25 also, Dr. Forecast called me at 1:00 P.M. and we outlined a pain management program."* So going to that entry, it notes that now after several days of not speaking with your client, you now receive a call from Michael; is that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. And he was calling from Bangkok?

A. Uh-hmm.

Q. And was this a continuation of his tour, did you understand?

A. Yeah.

Q. And do you recall him talking about his sleep difficulties during this conversation?

A. Yes.

Q. And what was he saying, if you can recall?

A. He wasn't able to sleep with the jet lag, the traveling, being very ill with the viral syndrome.

Q. Okay.

A. He could have been on decongestants, which could have restricted his sleep. I don't remember the particulars, but I remember that we discussed all these things.

Q. Okay. The -- in the next entry the next day it says *"from 8-26 through 8-29-93, no specific contact with Michael."* So over the next four days, no contact. Then there's an entry without a specific date and it says: *"My general concerns have been with the management of Michael's scalp pain due to the scar contracture. I spoke again with Dr. Sasaki and Dr. Klein about the management of this and the short-lived nature of his need for pain medication for this recognized complication of scalp surgery several weeks earlier. Dr. Sasaki called me from Hawaii where he was on a professional business trip and we concurred on medication that was required. Dr. Hoefflin and I did not speak more than one time. Medications for Michael were written and given to Karen Faye with reference to the ongoing treatment of Michael. As because of his schedule and rehearsals, Michael does not take medication regularly and Karen Faye would be the responsible individual with Dr. Forecast."* This paragraph here is kind of like a summation paragraph.

A. Uh-hmm.

Q. All right. And in that vein -- maybe the same answer, you can't recall -- you talk here about the short-lived nature of his need for pain medication.

A. It was my impression that this complication that often will occur weeks later, either a contracture or a neuroma, required short-term pain medication.

Q. What's contracture or neuroma?

A. Oh, contracture is the scar healing up and pushing on nerves.

Q. Okay.

A. Neuroma is the development of a tumor on the nerve as it's healing. And those can be painful. And short-lived healing, it would just be a short time that he needed medication to get over the healing process.

Q. And does that necessarily mean, since it was pain medication, that it was a narcotic?

A. No.

Q. So it could not be a narcotic, right?

A. We have several medicines that are not narcotics that are analgesics.

Q. And what we're now going to go into are your '95 and '96 records.

A. Okay.

Q. So this is about two years after the records that we did a moment ago, correct?

A. Right.

Q. And do you recognize this as your records?

A. Yes, it is.

Q. Okay. And it says here that he's being -- that Mr. Jackson is being seen for a physical exam?

A. Yes.

Q. His energy is quite good. It says *"He's been under a moderate amount of stress finishing his new album."* Again, would that be something Mr. Jackson would have told you?

A. Uh-hmm.

Q. It says: *"He is exercising regularly and taking only vitamins. He does not drink or smoke and takes no recreational drugs."* Again, this would be something Mr. Jackson would have told you?

A. Yes, or I would have asked.

Q. It is July 17, 1995. Do you see that entry?

A. Yes.

Q. And there it says: *"The patient is seen as an emergency at approximately 1 P.M. today. He has been in the office about two hours with a severe chest, upper back and costochondral --"* is that correct?

A. Costochondral pain syndrome.

Q. Okay. That's C O S T O C H O N D R A L pain syndrome. *"This is associated with a moderate degree of fear and anxiety and shortness of breath which is clearly related to the musculoskeletal pain syndrome."*

A. Right.

Q. MUSCULOSKELETAL pain syndrome. *"This may have its origin in relationship to some minor trauma which occurred while filming his most recent video. He was treated --" pardon me -- "over the weekend by myself and Dr. Arnold Klein, and has required low dosages of Ultram," U L T R A M, "and Vistaril," V I S T A R I L, "25 milligrams IM on 2 or 3 occasions for moderate anxiety. He comes in with exaggerated pain and under a great deal of stress. He is somewhat tearful at times related to severe pain. Upper, greater than lower costochondral joint sensitivity is noted."* Do you note all that?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember this visit?

A. Specifically, no. From looking at the records, it -- I can recall that there had to be a visit like this.

Q. But you don't recall this visit?

A. I don't remember that exact visit, no.

Q. So you don't remember him coming in on an emergency?

A. Well, there were many times he came in as an emergency or at the end of the day. If you would say to me as a specific recollection do you remember seeing him in July of '95 with a severe pain syndrome, I would say I don't remember.

Q. All right.

A. But seeing the notes, it brings back some recollection.

Q. And what recollection does it bring back?

A. Most importantly, that when he was in pain he had a very low pain threshold.

Q. What does that mean?

A. That his neuro receptors, his brain, would detect a grade seven or eight or ten, whereas the average person would detect from their body signals a three or four or five.

Q. And did you have any understanding as to why that was?

A. I don't think the medical profession has any understanding at the moment.

Q. Okay.

A. Clearly it's a neurochemical phenomenon.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. There may be a psycho overlay from childhood incidents or treatment or surgery. I think -- I don't know.

Q. You don't know?

A. And I'm not sure if science knows.

Q. Okay. Do you recall a time where Mr. Jackson was rehearsing for an HBO special in New York later in that year?

A. Yes.

Q. In 1995?

A. I think it was '95. When he collapsed?

Q. Yes. In December of '95?

A. Yeah.

Q. And do you remember that was similar severe chest, upper back and costochondral pain syndrome?

A. I don't know if it was similar.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. He had a syncopal episode. He fainted. He had a documented arrhythmia by the paramedics, a super ventricular tachycardia, which would make somebody faint. I don't think it was a pain thing. I think it was an exhaustion/dehydration thing.

Q. You were actually there with him, correct?

A. Yes. They called me to come, and I left my office and came right to New York.

Q. And -- and just to make sure I understand, so you were in Los Angeles at the time?

A. And I got a call.

Q. And under the 8/25/96 again it says "*Omar Arnold.*" It says: "*The patient is seen and examined for physical as required for his world tour. He will be leaving L.A. within the next*

week and is having no specific health complaints. He is taking high dose nutrients and liquids in high doses. He has no difficulty with keeping up a busy, hectic schedule. He has no chest pain, palpitations, stomach complaints, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. He is having minor cosmetic interventions through Drs. Hoffman and Klein over the last several weeks, but no major surgery, anesthesia, etc."

A. That should be Hoefflin. My transcription people heard Hoffman, and I didn't correct it.

Q. All right. *"He is eating and exercising quite well. He has no excess stress. He is very muscular."* It goes on to talk about various of his conditions that we talked about before such as lungs clear. And then towards the end it says: *"I have recommended low dose Xanax and/or Ambien and/or Dalmane. His medications will go with him. He will be leaving approximately September 1, returning about January 1. During that time he will prob --"* and it says *"not be back in U.S.,"* or probably not be back in the U.S. *"We anticipate no health problems."* Do you see that entry?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall Mr. Jackson coming to you in advance of his '96 world tour?

A. Yes.

Q. And do you have a recollection as to why he was coming to see you in anticipation of that world tour?

A. I think it refers to that he needed a physical for the people in charge of the tour.

Q. Okay. And when -- when you did such a physical, would you fill out a form and provide it to the people who had requested it?

A. Sometimes they would want a note.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. Sometimes they had a form. Sometimes there was a checklist for different insurance companies. And I would -- I would have no recollection of in this instance. Sometimes I'll write a letter saying he was examined and he's cleared to travel.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. I think it differed with each tour and each insurance company. It then goes on to make various prescriptions; Xanax, Ambien and Dalmane.

Q. What are they each a prescription for?

A. Okay. I have recommended low-dose Xanax, which is basically for anxiety --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- but it can be used to sleep. Ambien, which is sleeping only. And Dalmane, which is a very mild, safe sleeping medication.

Q. And would this be to address what we had talked about earlier, which is Mr. Jackson's insomnia?

A. Yes.

Q. Nothing extra. And did Mr. Jackson ask you to come on tour to serve as his doctor?

A. Michael asked me to come on tour to, quote, "be in my wedding."

Q. Okay. Meaning to be in his wedding?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. So that was the reason why you went to Australia?

A. Yes. So we talked earlier about the time that Mr. Jackson was rehearsing for a possible HBO performance and that he had collapsed and that you had been called and that you went to New York to assist.

Q. And I'll ask you a little bit about that. So you received that call, you noted, and you went to New York to help and there were a series of doctors. How long were you there for?

A. Three to four days, I think.

Q. And you were not there prior to Mr. Jackson's collapse, correct?

A. No.

Q. Okay. What is cardiac arrhythmia?

A. Instead of being a regular beat --

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. -- there's lots of extra beats, fast beats, dropped beats. Something like that.

Q. And is that what caused Mr. Jackson to collapse at that time?

A. It could have contributed to it. He had an SVT, which is a very rapid pulse.

Q. Uh-hmm.

A. And if the pulse -- if the heart is beating too quickly, it doesn't have enough time to get blood into it. Therefore, there's not enough blood in it to bathe the brain. So you could faint from arrhythmia, a fibrillation, a tachycardia. Any number of cardiac arrhythmias can cause fainting.

Q. Did you have any understanding as to any other cause of Mr. Jackson's fainting other than the cardiac arrhythmia?

A. Oh, yeah. He was dehydrated --

Q. Okay.

A. -- he had a gastroenteritis.

Q. What is that?

A. A stomach inflammation with diarrhea, that we didn't know about until in the intensive care unit. As I said, one of the things I absolutely documented in Sydney is every performance he lost seven or eight pounds.

Q. And you actually --

A. Weighed him.

Q. -- weighed him?

A. Absolutely.

Q. And you saw that after each of those?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did you weigh him?

A. Because I tried to convince him logically he had to drink more fluids. And if he was rehearsing a lot, he probably got very dehydrated.

Q. And --

A. If he's having diarrhea, he could get dehydrated.

Q. Now, we also talked about the two German doctors. You don't recall as we sit here today him tell you about them. Do you remember ever meeting them?

A. Never.

Q. Do you remember having any communication with them?

A. I don't think so.

Q. Can you recall whether one of them was named Dr. Christian H. Stoll?

A. No.

Dr Metzger Part 2 September 18th 2013

<http://teammichaeljackson.com/archives/9791>