

[GE Healthcare Seemingly Tries To Intimidate And Silence A Critic Of Its Omniscan Product](#)

Drug Company Files Libel Lawsuit In UK Against Prominent Danish Radiologist Henrik Thomsen

(Posted by Tom Lamb at www.DrugInjuryWatch.com on January 11, 2010; see <http://bit.ly/8zqrSu>)

[The Sunday Times \(UK\)](#) recently ran a story that demonstrates how Britain's libel laws are possibly being used by GE Healthcare to intimidate a prominent Danish radiologist, Henrik Thomsen, M.D., into stopping his criticism of its [Omniscan product, which has been in the news recently](#).

In the December 20, 2009 edition of *The Sunday Times* (UK) one found this descriptively titled article: "[Libel gag on talk of 'medical hurricane' -- A healthcare firm is seeking to silence a Danish academic from expressing doubts about one of its products by using England's draconian libel laws](#)".

Another version of this article, "[GE Suit Hushes Scientist Critical of Omniscan](#)", was published online at [ProPublica](#), which is a US-based independent, non-profit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest. Therein, reporters Jeff Gerth, of *ProPublica*, and Jon Ungeod-Thomas, of *The Sunday Times* (UK), tell us about this war being waged by GE Healthcare in the UK court system against Dr. Thomsen, a well-respected medical doctor who is not even a resident of Great Britain. From this *ProPublica* version of the article:

Two years ago in a conference room in the Randolph hotel in Oxford, England, Henrik Thomsen gave his inside account of a medical "nightmare." In a presentation to about 30 colleagues, Thomsen, one of Europe's leading radiologists, revealed how patients treated at his Copenhagen University hospital had subsequently contracted a rare and potentially fatal disease....

Thomsen, however, now refuses to speak anywhere in England on the possible risks of Omniscan. The reason is that he faces another kind of storm: GE Healthcare is suing him for libel in the UK High Court.

The company claims his presentation in Oxford — entitled "Management Aspects of NSF" — was highly defamatory. GE has already racked up costs of more than £380,000 (about \$615,000) pursuing the respected academic, who has authored or co-authored nearly 400 papers and delivered countless presentations to his peers. Thomsen will have to pay GE's costs if he loses the case.

Further, this online article at *ProPublica* about GE Healthcare, Omniscan, and Dr. Thomsen includes several background items in the sidebar of that web page:

- [GE Omniscan Investigation](#)
- [About GE Healthcare](#)
- [Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis](#)
- [Omniscan and NSF](#)
- [How Three Hospitals Handled Omniscan](#)
- [Documents](#)

The *ProPublica* site also has a 135 PDF presentation, "[GE v. Thomsen: A British Libel Case](#)", which contains the following related documents:

- [Slides from Thomsen's 2006 presentation on Omniscan cases at Copenhagen University Hospital](#)
- [GE's legal filing accusing Thomsen of libel](#)
- [Thomsen's response to GE's accusation](#)
- [GE's response to Thomsen's defense](#)

We are anxious to hear reactions from our readers about this apparent "beat-down" tactic by Big Pharma. Please let us know what you think by submitting a Comment, below.

Attorney [Tom Lamb](#) represents people in personal injury and wrongful death cases involving unsafe prescription drugs or medication errors. The above article was posted originally on his blog, **Drug Injury Watch** – with live links and readers' Comments.
<http://www.DrugInjuryWatch.com>