

Opening Statement by Jacob S. Frenkel

Member Partner and Chair of Government Investigations and Securities Enforcement Practice

before the

United States House of Representatives

Committee on Financial Services

Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets

on

"Insider Trading and Stock Option Grants: An Examination of Corporate Integrity in the Covid-19 Pandemic"

September 17, 2020

Opening Statement of Jacob S. Frenkel for the Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets, Hearing on "Insider Trading and Stock Option Grants: An Examination of Corporate Integrity in the Covid-19 Pandemic," September 17, 2020

Good afternoon, Chairman Sherman, Ranking Member Huizenga, and distinguished members of this Subcommittee.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on critical issues impacting our capital markets. My perspective comes from 32 years of professional experience in capital markets enforcement, investigations, governance and integrity issues, including my work at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement, as a federal prosecutor of public corruption and securities violations, and as an actively practicing defense and governance lawyer for more than 21 years.

I believe that in 2020, unlike 20 or more years ago pre-Enron, most corporate boards and management want to get it right. Nevertheless, we still see capital markets activity that gives rise to questions about commitments to compliance and fundamental common law duties that are the responsibility of corporate custodians. This Committee has identified insider trading, Rule 105-1 plans and stock options grants – spring-loading and bullet-dodging – as issues of heightened interest and warranting consideration of legislation.

Beyond these undeniable vital areas of concern, I suggest to the Committee, respectfully, that Covid-19 solutions-related capital markets activities also should invite scrutiny of several other issues. They include:

• First -- Regulation FD and its inapplicability to foreign private issuers. We saw the effect of the exemption two weeks ago when Astrazeneca's CEO disclosed on a non-public call arranged by JP Morgan about its suspension of vaccine clinical trials as a result of an unexplained illness in a trial participant. If Astrazeneca had been a US issuer, then there likely would have been an obligation for prompt public disclosure of what appeared to be an unintentional selective disclosure.

• Second is the SEC's 10-day trading suspension authority, which operates like a court-imposed temporary restraining order; however, it is not an enforcement action but operates as an administrative arrow through the heart of legitimate small entrepreneurial public companies. For trading suspensions that issuers contest, the SEC takes months if not longer to resolve the challenge. Legislation should dictate a precise and narrow time frame for making the decision.

• Third is delegation of authority to authorize formal orders of investigation at the SEC. For decades, the Commission alone made the decision. Post-Madoff, the authority was delegated into the Enforcement Division, what I and others viewed as an out-of-control practice in the previous SEC administration. Although SEC Chairman Clayton has reigned in this delegation of authority, I believe that Congress intended for the Commissioners to decide whom to investigate and to make the solemn decision about authorizing subpoena power, much like a federal judge reviews and approves search warrant applications.

• And, fourth is trade clearance and conflict of interest disclosure policies, and whether they should apply to NIH Advisory panels. The question for consideration is what level of transparency should exist to enable you on Capitol Hill and the public to assess possible conflicts of interest among scientific and technical peer review advisers who are not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

These are not instead of but are in addition to the important issues already identified by this Subcommittee. I hope that we will be able to discuss each of these issues this afternoon.

Finally, you have asked that we address the importance of corporate integrity during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has on investor protection and overall market integrity. I believe that is too narrow. Corporate integrity -- a commitment to best practices and proper governance, including a conscientious discharge of common law fiduciary duties, and a constant focus on investor protection and market integrity -- was, is during the pandemic, and always will be and must be guiding principles in corporate boardrooms and c-suites for US capital markets participants.

I complement the Committee for highlighting the importance of and addressing these issues with this hearing. I look forward to answering your questions this afternoon.

Thank you.

Vaxart, Inc. (NASDAQ: VXRT)

Congressional Testimony of Jacob Frenkel



2020 YTD Chart for Vaxart, Inc. (NASDAQ: VXRT)





2020-07-10

2020-07-09

8.05

7.98

8.15

8.50

7.61

7.891

7.98

8.19

10.35m

12.83m

-2.56%

0.49%

-0.21

0.04

81,721,775.10

105,102,991.00

36,410

42,876

July 9-Aug. 5, 2020, Historical Data for Vaxart, Inc. (NASDAQ: VXRT)





2020-08-17

2020-08-14

2020-08-13

2020-08-12

2020-08-11

2020-08-10

2020-08-07

2020-08-06

9.155

9.15

8.99

10.56

9.38

9.61

9.89

9.86

10.49

9.54

9.59

10.70

12.49

9.86

10.20

10.04

9.155

9.04

8.93

8.91

9.27

9.19

9.04

8.8399

10.17

9.14

9.09

9.20

10.75

9.395

9.19

9.095

13.76m

9.08m

10.43m

24.33m

74.25m

12.35m

13.78m

11.93m

11.27%

0.55%

-1.20%

-14.42%

14.42%

2.23%

1.05%

-5.90%

1.03

0.05

-0.11

-1.55

1.355

0.205

0.095

-0.57

136,314,607.00

83,987,120.90

95,688,274.40

228,627,781.00

823,055,664.00

118,182,142.00

131,567,049.00

113,571,246.00

48,498

33,110

43.061

96,480

229,627

47.553

49.288

50.891

Aug. 6-Aug. 31, 2020, Historical Data for Vaxart, Inc. (NASDAQ: VXRT)





JACOB FRENKEL TESTIMONY – EXHIBIT SGBX

SG Blocks, Inc. (NASDAQ: SGBX)

Congressional Testimony of Jacob Frenkel



2020 YTD Chart for SG Blocks, Inc. (NASDAQ: SGBX)





March 30-April 6, 2020, Historical Data for SG Blocks, Inc. (NASDAQ: SGBX)



Financial Data Provided By



JACOB FRENKEL TESTIMONY – EXHIBIT MRNA

Moderna, Inc. (NASDAQ: MRNA)

Congressional Testimony of Jacob Frenkel



2020 YTD Chart for Moderna, Inc. (NASDAQ: MRNA)





May 7-May 27, 2020, Historical Data for Moderna, Inc. (NASDAQ: MRNA)



July 10-July 23, 2020, Historical Data for Moderna, Inc. (NASDAQ: MRNA)





Date	•	Open 🖨	High 🖨	Low 🗢	Close 🖨	Volume 🖨	% Chg 🖨	\$ Chg ≑	Trade Val 🌲	# Trades 🖨	
2020-07-23		82.05	82.68	72.20	75.33	29.29m	-9.49%	-7.895	2,279,546,620.00	280,298	
2020-07-22		79.61	84.12	79.11	83.225	27.27m	2.93%	2.365	2,229,446,060.00	217,910	
2020-07-21		80.91	82.43	79.07	80.86	26.19m	-2.20%	-1.82	2,115,266,980.00	232,983	
2020-07-20		87.86	90.85	78.05	82.68	78.39m	-12.83%	-12.17	6,570,373,770.00	686,438	
2020-07-17		83.35	95.21	82.61	94.85	103.51m	15.94%	13.04	9,441,572,480.00	717,456	
2020-07-16		80.16	84.29	79.60	81.81	27.28m	1.98%	1.59	2,236,544,550.00	246,927	
2020-07-15		87.65	88.37	78.01	80.22	90.77m	6.90%	5.18	7,490,582,770.00	795,582	Einancial Data Broyidad By
2020-07-14		74.00	76.949	70.62	75.04	38.71m	4.54%	3.26	2,979,442,300.00	334,696	Financial Data Provided By
2020-07-13		63.89	77.75	63.80	71.78	56.62m	14.65%	9.17	4,086,098,230.00	436,373	INVESTOR BRAND
2020-07-10		64.65	64.93	62.32	62.61	7.41m	-3.63%	-2.36	467,773,991.00	68,315	NETWORK

\$40

\$20

\$0

Aug. 24-Sept. 8, 2020, Historical Data for Moderna, Inc. (NASDAQ: MRNA)



\$0

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										ОМ
	25. Aug		27. Aug		29. Aug		1. Sep	3. Sep		5. Sep 9. Sep
Date	🗸 Open 🤅	High 🔷	Low 🗢	Close 🔷	Volume 🌲	% Chg 🖨	\$ Chg 🖨	Trade Val 🖨	# Trades 🕯	
2020-09-08	57.75	58.60	54.21	54.34	17.71m	-13.20%	-8.26	990,692,994.00	176,745	
2020-09-04	64.99	65.00	59.01	62.60	11.65m	-3.46%	-2.24	718,741,559.00	131,943	
2020-09-03	65.65	69.35	64.30	64.84	14.31m	0.19%	0.12	952,662,298.00	142,191	
2020-09-02	62.84	64.89	61.381	64.72	9.87m	2.21%	1.40	623,133,575.00	103,658	
2020-09-01	63.54	64.50	62.50	63.32	8.20m	-2.42%	-1.57	519,887,160.00	94,411	
2020-08-31	67.14	67.20	62.54	64.89	15.27m	-3.85%	-2.60	977,404,216.00	167,247	
2020-08-28	68.04	68.95	67.15	67.49	6.38m	-0.79%	-0.54	432,455,042.00	74,029	
2020-08-27	69.98	70.32	67.01	68.03	9.26m	-3.50%	-2.47	629,359,767.00	101,384	Financial Data Provided By
2020-08-26	67.62	71.64	66.03	70.50	28.77m	6.42%	4.25	1,994,963,870.00	241,138	INVESTOR
2020-08-25	64.32	66.696	63.55	66.25	7.80m	2.11%	1.37	512,559,432.00	75,091	BRAND
2020-08-24	67.15	67.85	62.88	64.88	13.14m	-2.36%	-1.57	853,448,216.00	143,534	NETWORK

JACOB FRENKEL TESTIMONY – EXHIBIT KODK

Eastman Kodak Company (NYSE: KODK)

Congressional Testimony of Jacob Frenkel



2020 YTD Chart for Eastman Kodak Company (NYSE: KODK)





July 27-Aug. 4, 2020, Historical Data for Eastman Kodak Company (NYSE: KODK)



Financial Data Provided By



July 17-Sept. 14, 2020, Historical Data for Eastman Kodak Company (NYSE: KODK)



(continued on following page)



KODK July 17-Sept. 14, 2020, Historical Data, Continued

Date 🗸	Open 🗘	High 🗘	Low 🗢	Close 🔷	Volume 🖨	% Chg 🌲	\$ Chg 🖨	Trade Val 🔷	# Trades 🖨
2020-09-14	6.23	6.73	6.11	6.50	8.85m	1.56%	0.10	57,117,905.60	33,080
2020-09-11	6.26	6.60	6.02	6.40	20.41m	7.93%	0.47	128,902,924.00	60,364
2020-09-10	5.82	6.25	5.73	5.93	11.68m	1.89%	0.11	73,218,254.60	38,355
2020-09-09	5.6399	6.53	5.55	5.82	15.52m	5.24%	0.29	93,621,160.90	52,905
2020-09-08	5.90	5.93	5.51	5.53	9.64m	-9.34%	-0.57	54,780,646.00	36,975
2020-09-04	6.40	6.50	5.95	6.10	8.76m	-5.57%	-0.36	53,772,081.30	33,661
2020-09-03	7.00	7.08	6.41	6.46	13.21m	-9.78%	-0.70	88,302,149.90	47,390
2020-09-02	7.32	7.50	6.77	7.16	19.29m	-1.92%	-0.14	138,421,665.00	62,758
2020-09-01	9.48	9.87	7.21	7.30	106.24m	22.07%	1.32	874,037,926.00	407,380
2020-08-31	5.90	6.37	5.85	5.98	17.45m	-0.66%	-0.04	119,337,527.00	70,928
2020-08-28	5.86	6.40	5.66	6.02	13.99m	2.38%	0.14	84,404,044.50	51,467
2020-08-27	6.17	6.24	5.72	5.88	11.43m	-6.82%	-0.43	67,738,956.30	53,023
2020-08-26	6.75	6.75	6.085	6.31	11.77m	-6.66%	-0.45	75,128,664.00	50,427
2020-08-25	6.98	7.44	6.57	6.76	13.93m	-3.43%	-0.24	96,187,169.80	60,070
2020-08-24	6.83	7.50	6.70	7.00	13.82m	1.74%	0.12	97,060,618.80	52,814
2020-08-21	7.00	8.02	6.52	6.88	26.17m	-4.18%	-0.30	185,990,527.00	98,410
2020-08-20	7.78	8.00	7.09	7.18	13.59m	-7.83%	-0.61	101,141,406.00	50,927
2020-08-19	8.20	9.09	7.73	7.79	32.14m	-2.75%	-0.22	263,257,655.00	118,549
2020-08-18	7.34	13.69	6.68	8.01	72.55m	4.84%	0.37	647,004,355.00	257,240
2020-08-17	8.34	8.37	7.55	7.64	9.25m	-9.37%	-0.79	72,358,709.60	45,774
2020-08-14	9.07	9.18	8.22	8.43	10.49m	-8.37%	-0.77	89,415,207.20	51,096
2020-08-13	9.50	9.67	9.01	9.20	8.75m	-5.35%	-0.52	80,563,895.20	43,788
2020-08-12	10.40	10.47	9.54	9.72	9.50m	-2.90%	-0.29	93,656,257.10	55,165
2020-08-11	11.26	11.35	9.95	10.01	19.24m	-6.71%	-0.72	205,939,365.00	91,884
2020-08-10	8.90	11.60	8.50	10.73	47.30m	-27.89%	-4.15	486,229,938.00	221,027
2020-08-07	15.79	16.75	14.57	14.88	16.09m	-7.64%	-1.23	244,323,654.00	87,637
2020-08-06	15.11	17.50	14.80	16.11	39.43m	8.12%	1.21	644,870,227.00	203,270
2020-08-05	15.51	16.00	13.72	14.90	25.55m	3.47%	0.50	382,309,489.00	123,148
2020-08-04	15.08	17.88	12.86	14.40	65.70m	-3.61%	-0.54	1,009,301,930.00	301,090
2020-08-03	21.13	21.16	14.74	14.94	46.70m	-31.63%	-6.91	812,287,676.00	266,124
2020-07-31	25.02	25.70	20.27	21.85	57.45m	-26.75%	-7.98	1,310,222,540.00	397,450
2020-07-30	43.58	44.44	27.50	29.83	98.35m	-10.15%	-3.37	3,568,137,650.00	717,903
2020-07-29	18.50	60.00	17.50	33.20	275.05m	318.14%	25.26	8,372,570,010.00	1,657,142
2020-07-28	9.63	11.80	6.00	7.94	273.63m	203.05%	5.32	2,521,959,630.00	1,344,124
2020-07-27	2.13	2.65	2.13	2.62	1.62m	24.76%	0.52	3,863,325.22	4,520
2020-07-24	2.11	2.16	2.09	2.10	74.89k	-1.87%	-0.04	158,000.86	456
2020-07-23	2.14	2.20	2.09	2.14	80.84k	-0.93%	-0.02	174,063.14	430
2020-07-22	2.20	2.20	2.1403	2.16	52.42k	-1.82%	-0.04	113,882.35	372
2020-07-21	2.23	2.26	2.16	2.20	107.21k	-1.79%	-0.04	235,087.40	546
2020-07-20	2.26	2.28	2.21	2.24	117.17k	2.75%	0.06	263,730.19	571
2020-07-17	2.08	2.2699	2.08	2.18	214.99k	3.32%	0.07	471,416.27	1,240

Financial Data Provided By



AstraZeneca (LSE/STO/NYSE: AZN)

Congressional Testimony of Jacob Frenkel



2020 YTD U.S. Chart for AstraZeneca (LSE/STO/NYSE: AZN)





2020 YTD London Stock Exchange Chart for AstraZeneca (LSE/STO/NYSE: AZN)



