



## Press Release

### **BOCA RATON PERSONAL TRAINER PLEADS GUILTY TO \$7 MILLION HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE SCHEME AND TAX FRAUD**

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May 21, 2008

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

R. Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Michael E. Yasofsky, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and David W. Bourne, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation, Miami Field Office, announce that defendant **Patrick Bronder**, a personal trainer from Boca Raton, FL, pled guilty today before U.S. District Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks in West Palm Beach, FL. At today's hearing, Bronder admitted his participation in a scheme to illegally distribute human growth hormone and to commit income tax evasion for calendar year 2001. At sentencing, Bronder faces a maximum total sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$500,000.

From April 2001 through June 2002, Bronder, purchased prescription drugs, including human growth hormone and drugs for the treatment of cancer, high cholesterol and other medical conditions, from a New Jersey chiropractor. The chiropractor purchased these drugs from individuals who acquired the drugs, directly and indirectly, from Medicaid patients who had obtained the drugs through clinics in New York City.

When purchasing the prescription drugs, Bronder was aware that the drugs had been previously prescribed to patients at clinics in New York City. Bronder was also aware that the individuals from whom the chiropractor purchased these prescription drugs had sometimes tampered with the packaging to make it appear that the drugs had not already been prescribed to other patients. Finally, Bronder did not make any effort to ensure that the prescription drugs had been maintained under conditions to guarantee their safety and effectiveness.

From April 2001 to June 2002, Bronder and the chiropractor sold the drugs to a pharmaceutical wholesaler located in Boca Raton, FL, for more than \$6.8 million. During the same period, Bronder received additional compensation of \$325,000 from the same pharmaceutical wholesaler for the sale of prescription drugs. Bronder directed that more than \$3.3 million of the money received from the pharmaceutical wholesaler be wired into bank accounts in the Bahamas established by him and his ex-brother-in-law. Bronder caused most of that money to be repatriated into the United States through more than 3,000 withdrawals from automatic teller machines in South Florida.

Eventually, the prescription drugs that Bronder and the chiropractor sold to the pharmaceutical wholesaler were acquired by pharmacies. The pharmacies dispensed the drugs to patients who were unaware that the drugs had been previously prescribed to other patients and sold on the streets of New York City.

Bronder knew that this taxable income and the amount of his tax due and owing substantially exceeded the amounts he reported in his tax return. In addition, Bronder falsely deducted marketing expenses on his tax return.

Mr. Acosta commended the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorneys Kenneth C. Vert and Steven D. Grimberg, Department of Justice, Tax Division.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.

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