



Press Release

BOCA RATON MAN AND NEW JERSEY MAN SENTENCED IN \$7 MILLION HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE AND TAX SCHEME

July 31, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R. Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Michael E. Yasofsky, Jr., Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation - Miami Field Office, and David Bourne, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations, announced today that defendants, **Patrick Bronder**, a personal trainer residing in Boca Raton, Florida and **Michael Manno**, a former chiropractor living in Lodi, New Jersey were sentenced for their participation in a scheme to illegally distribute human growth hormone and other pharmaceuticals and to commit tax evasion.

On Wednesday July 30, 2008, U.S. District Court Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks sentenced Bronder to 87 months imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and forfeiture of \$325,913 in illegal proceeds. Judge Middlebrooks sentenced Manno to 38 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, a \$10,000 fine and forfeiture of \$128,533 in illegal proceeds.

As previously outlined in documents filed with the Court, 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 Manno. Manno purchased these drugs from individuals who acquired the drugs, directly and indirectly, from patients who had obtained the drugs through clinics in New York City through Medicaid.

During that same time period, Bronder and Manno sold the drugs to a pharmaceutical wholesaler located in Boca Raton, Florida for more than \$6.8 million. At the same time, 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 another co-conspirator, Michael Sherman. Bronder caused most of that money to be repatriated into the United States through more than 3,000 withdrawals from automatic teller machines in southern Florida. Sherman has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the IRS by allowing Bronder to use his Bahamian accounts and is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge William J. Zloch on August 25, 2008.

Eventually, the prescription drugs that Bronder and Manno 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.

Mr. Acosta commended the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Trial Attorneys Kenneth C. Vert, Steven D. Grimberg and Jeffrey McLellan, 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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