

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense announced today that on January 12, 2001, in U.S. District Court, New Haven, CT, Urology Consultants Incorporated, PC, Dr. Steven K. Brooks, Longwood, FL and Dr. Elias J. Jacobo, Winter Park, FL, pled guilty to a one count criminal information charging prescription drug marketing act fraud (unlicensed wholesaling of prescription drugs) and conspiracy. The criminal plea for the corporation was entered, on behalf of the corporation, by Dr. Jacobo. The corporation will also forfeit \$1,125,000 to the U.S. Government.

These pleas are the result of an ongoing investigation into pharmaceutical drug diversion, kickback payments, false claims and mail fraud between and by physicians, pharmaceutical drug representatives and pharmaceutical drug wholesalers. In the aforementioned case, Lupron, an oncology pharmaceutical, normally prescribed for prostate cancer patients was diverted by the physicians to circumvent federally controlled pricing markets for profit. This diversion actually lowered the physicians cost of the pharmaceutical and that cost savings was not reflected in health care claim submissions for reimbursement to Medicare, Tricare and private health insurance carriers as provided by federal regulation.