



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHUCK ROSENBERG**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **McLean Pain Doctor Convicted on 16 Counts of Drug Trafficking**

(Alexandria, VA) – Dr. William Eliot Hurwitz, a chronic pain management doctor from McLean, Virginia, was convicted today by a federal jury on 16 counts of drug trafficking, which included 7 patients. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and, Shawn Johnson, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), also announced that sentencing is scheduled for July 13, 2007, before United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema. Hurwitz faces up to 20 years in prison on each of the 16 counts. In December 2004, a jury convicted Hurwitz of multi-counts of drug trafficking. Hurwitz was retried after his conviction was reversed by an appellate court in August of 2006.

The verdict today culminated four-weeks of testimony from fifty-nine witnesses. During the trial, the evidence revealed that Dr. Hurwitz, on multi-occasions, issued drug prescriptions to known drug traffickers and abusers. On numerous occasions, Dr. Hurwitz prescribed to patients that had been arrested on drug trafficking, arson, and robbery charges.

United States Attorney Chuck Rosenberg stated: "This case is not about the lawful practice of medicine, as the jury made resoundingly clear, but rather about the unlawful drug trafficking of pain medication. Drug traffickers come in all shapes and sizes - this one just happened to wear a white coat and be a doctor."

This case is part of an Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") investigation (Operation "Cotton Candy"), which has been focusing on the illegal distribution by countless doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and patients of pain medication, including the very potent, expensive, and widely-abused oxycodone, also known as "OxyContin," "Oxy," and "O.C." This OCDETF matter, which involves support from the FBI, DEA, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosive (ATF), Department of Defense (DOD), Virginia State Police, Internal Revenue Service, and Buchanan, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, and Warren Counties, and Manassas City, Virginia, Police Departments, as well as numerous other state and local law enforcement in Virginia and elsewhere, has secured over 130 drug-trafficking convictions and guilty pleas, including numerous doctors and nurses, a pharmacists, and multiple patients and drug traffickers. A

significant number of the convictions relate to prescriptions issued by Dr. Hurwitz, who treated approximately 405 patients during 1998-2002 from a multitude of states.

This case was investigated by the FBI and DEA. Assistant United States Attorneys Gene Rossi and Jonathan Fahey, and Special Assistant United States Attorney Martha Pacold, prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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