



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates  
Northern District of Georgia

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## **ATLANTA V-A HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN INDICTED FOR CONSPIRING TO OBSTRUCT INVESTIGATION OF HIS SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A PATIENT**

ATLANTA, GA - DEVASHISH RAY, 46, of Alpharetta, Georgia, was arraigned today before United States Magistrate Judge Russell G. Vineyard on federal charges of sexual assault on a patient, sexual assault, and making false statements to federal investigators. He was released on bond.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "Our military veterans deserve the best medical care available by medical professionals who are committed to the patient's well-being. Allegations of abuse and obstruction at a Veteran's Administration hospital will be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted."

Special Agent in Charge Quentin G. Aucoin, Southeast Field Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) expressed profound disappointment in the betrayal of trust by Dr. RAY, whose co-workers at VA devote themselves to serving veterans, saying "this office vigorously investigates every allegation of criminal activity made against any VA employee in the conduct of their duties."

"The welfare of our patients is our utmost concern. We take reports of misconduct very seriously and are committed to swift and aggressive action in responding to such reports," said Gregory Kendall, Public Affairs Officer, Atlanta VA Medical Center.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the indictment and other information presented in court: On November 17, 2008, the victim, a veteran of the Armed Forces and hemophilia patient, went to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in Decatur, Georgia, for treatment of a sore hip that she believed to be related to her condition. Contrary to the VA hospital's policy that female patients be given the option of requesting the presence of a female staff member during physical examinations by male doctors, RAY ordered the victim to remove her blouse and undergarment so that he could examine her breasts. While the victim was alone with RAY in the examination room, RAY groped the victim's breasts with his bare hands and tried, on several occasions, to convince the victim to allow him to remove her pants to conduct a pap smear. The victim refused and, following the incident, reported the assault.

Agents employed by the V-A's Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veteran Affairs (OIG) interviewed RAY about the victim's allegations. RAY insisted to the agents that he had only examined the victim's abdominal area. Further, RAY allegedly telephoned a nurse at the V-A hospital and asked her to falsely claim to federal investigators that she was present in the examination room on November 17, 2008, with RAY and the victim.

Subsequently, when V-A OIG agents interviewed the nurse, the nurse claimed that she had been present in the examination room with RAY and the victim, just as RAY had requested she say. However, in a follow-up interview, the nurse admitted to agents that RAY had asked her to falsely claim that she was present in the examination room with RAY and the victim, and that he had only examined the victim's abdominal area.

The indictment charges RAY with conspiring to make false statements to federal investigators about the victim's allegations of sexual assault and his request that a nurse at the V-A hospital lie to investigators about having been present in the examination room with RAY and the victim on November 17, 2008. The indictment also alleges several substantive counts, including RAY's commission of a sexual assault on the victim and his false statements to federal investigators concerning his sexual assault of the victim.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Assistant United States Attorneys Katherine M. Hoffer and Richard S. Moultrie, Jr. are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Quillian Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).