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For Immediate Release

December 15, 2008

**DR. MARTIN BLOCH SETTLES WITH UNITED STATES OVER
ILLEGAL PRESCRIPTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

PHILADELPHIA - Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced that Dr. Martin Bloch has agreed to pay \$100,000 in fines to the U.S. government over four years and has agreed to restrictions on his future prescription practices in order to settle allegations that he prescribed drugs over the internet, without meeting or speaking with the individuals to whom the drugs were being prescribed.

Dr. Bloch, a physician who practiced medicine in the Philadelphia area, was accused of prescribing controlled substances over the internet to thousands of individuals.

The Controlled Substances Act requires those who prescribe drugs to do so in the usual course of a medical practice, which normally includes personal contact with the recipient of the controlled substances and which generally occurs in the course of a typical doctor-patient relationship. The Act imposes civil penalties for violations of this requirement as an incentive to help DEA combat illegal diversion of these drugs.

“DEA is often our first line of defense against illegal drug activity, including the illegal sale of prescription drugs on our streets,” said Magid. “When a physician prescribes controlled substances to individuals without having met or spoken with them, he has no way of knowing whether the recipients need those drugs, whether they are acquiring the drugs to sell them on the street, or whether the recipients are even real people. With the power to prescribe comes the duty to prescribe responsibly.”

The case was investigated by DEA Drug Diversion Investigator Scott Doubet. The case was handled by AUSA Paul Kaufman.

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae>*