

For Immediate Release
August 29, 2011

**FORMER UNMH PHARMACY INTERN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR
CONVICTION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONSPIRACY OFFENSE**

ALBUQUERQUE – Today in federal court in Santa Fe, **Paul N. DeSantis**, 26, of Albuquerque, was sentenced to eight months of imprisonment for conspiring to obtain prescription drugs with forged and fraudulent prescriptions. After completing his prison sentence, DeSantis will be on supervised release for a year, including eight months of home confinement with electronic monitoring. DeSantis also must forfeit \$29,748.29 in cash, a residence located at 7509 Jackrabbit Street NE, Albuquerque, and two firearms. DeSantis is required to surrender to a federal correctional facility to be designated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons within 60 days.

Court records reveal that DeSantis was arrested on federal drug trafficking, prescription forgery and firearms charges by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on June 23, 2010. According to the criminal complaint, the DEA initiated an investigation into DeSantis in early June 2010 after receiving information from administrative staff at the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) that DeSantis had stolen secure prescription paper from UNMH while he was completing his Doctorate in Pharmacy and working as a pharmacy intern at UNMH. The DEA's investigation revealed that the stolen prescription paper had been used to generate fraudulent prescriptions for oxycodone. On June 23, 2010, the DEA conducted surveillance of DeSantis as he facilitated the purchase of oxycodone using a fraudulent prescription. Thereafter, DeSantis attempted to flee when the DEA arrested him near his residence. When arrested, DeSantis was in possession of a loaded firearm and bottles of oxycodone. A search executed at DeSantis' residence pursuant to a court authorized search warrant yielded drug ledgers, UNMH

prescription paper and another loaded firearm.

On December 12, 2010, DeSantis pled guilty to an information charging him with conspiracy to acquire a controlled substance by misrepresentation, forgery, fraud, deception or subterfuge.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Samuel Hurtado and was investigated by the DEA.

###

11-361