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Baseless Raids and Arrests of Compounding Pharmacists and Physicians Administering Human Growth Hormone

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In early 2007, a multistate coordinated federal raid was conducted on a Florida compounding pharmacy, which fulfilled valid physician orders for human growth hormone (HGH) prescribed to adult patients with documented deficiency. In addition, a Florida physician was arrested for prescribing HGH for use in adult patients. Guns were drawn and the targeted individuals were led away to jail in full display of news cameras, as if these people were the most hardened and dangerous criminals to society.

The use of HGH has been presented at scientific conferences co-sponsored by the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine (A4M), by some of the most world renowned experts on the subject. The HGH therapy described is well within established international medical guidelines and is well documented both by hundreds of published studies in medical journals and textbooks, physicians' patient treatment experiences and backed by fifty years of clinical experience. However, anti-aging medicine does not equate solely, or exclusively, to HGH therapy to establish growth hormone deficiency in the patient. HGH is just one of many modalities employed by anti-aging physicians, and it is only medically appropriate to a small percentage of anti-aging patients. HGH is utilized by only less than 10% of the total anti-aging patient population.

Speakers at past A4M conferences only recommend replacement of HGH at physiological levels, which have never been shown to have any permanent or significant risks when administered by licensed, trained physicians in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. In addition, the A4M conference speakers recommend regular, routine laboratory testing throughout the course of HGH therapy to establish growth hormone deficiency in the patient. HGH therapy is discontinued if adverse effects — which are few and transient — are reported. To-date, no deaths or permanent morbidity has been reported in the treatment of Adult Growth Hormone Deficiency (AGHD).

HGH is administered in adults for adult somatomedin deficiency, an approved FDA use. The dose for this use is often 1/7 to 1/2 of the dosages administered to children (for short stature syndrome). Proportionately by-weight, then, this dosage use in adults is miniscule when compared to the use in children. In sum, HGH is a safe and effective therapy for appropriate patient populations, when applied under proper supervision and laboratory surveillance, and done in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Physician-prescribed HGH is legal and approved by the US government. A recent federal law that says that any off-label use of HGH is a punishable felony was designed to curtail HGH abuse among athletes, administered by their sports coaches and non-medical personnel, and was enacted before anti-aging medicine even existed, with its jurisdiction of coverage specifically aimed at athletes and not for the legitimate therapeutic use as dispensed by physicians.

The continued growth of advanced preventive medicine, including anti-aging medicine, is dependent upon doctors who prescribe by conscience and act in the best interests of their patients, rather than blindly prescribing as dictated by the government. The potential impact of the recent actions against nutritional interventions and HRT, as well as the raids of compounding pharmacies, which all are driven by biased corporations that wish to main the status quo of hospital-based medicine, is chilling.