



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
Southern District of Mississippi

*188 East Capitol Street, Suite 500
Jackson, MS 39201 (601) 965-4409*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2008

Gulfport, Mississippi - U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced the arrests today of Dr. Thomas Trieu, Dr. Thu-Hoa Van, Pharmacist Nick Tran and Richard Trieu associated with the Family Medical Center and Tran's Pharmacy in Biloxi, Mississippi. As a result of a long term police undercover operation, Dr. Thomas Trieu, owner of the Family Medical Center in Biloxi, MS, along with his wife, Dr. Thu-Hoa Van and Pharmacist Nick Tran with the aid of Office Manager Richard Trieu, have been dispensing large volumes of controlled substances outside the scope of professional practice.

This investigation, initiated after numerous citizen complaints of illegal drug dealing activity and drug overdose deaths associated with the Family Medical Center, was conducted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in conjunction with members of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), Biloxi Police Department (BPD), Waveland Police Department (WPD), Moss Point Police Department (MPPD), Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), Mississippi Highway Patrol (MHP), Gulfport Police Department (GPD), Waveland Police Department (WPD), Harrison County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), Harrison County Coroner's Office, Jackson County Coroner's Office, United States Marshal's Service (USMS), United States Postal Service (USPS), and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Dr. Thomas Trieu, along with his wife, Dr. Thu-Hoa Van and Pharmacist Nick Tran, have been charged by federal indictment with violations of Title 21 of the United States Code, for dispensing large volumes of controlled substances outside the scope of professional practice. These substances have been primarily identified as Hydrocodone, a schedule III narcotic; Alprazolam (Xanax) a schedule IV controlled substance, and Promethazine with Codeine, a schedule V narcotic. The alleged activity involved the dispensing of these substances to patients all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and as far away as Tennessee. The investigation included the use of undercover agents who posed as customers of Family Medical Center and were able to obtain dangerous controlled substances with only a " cursory" examination and for no valid medical reason. The investigation also revealed that Trieu and Van were conspiring with pharmacist Nick Tran and others to dispense these controlled substances. As a result, from October 2007, through May 2008, the Gulfport R.O. conducted twenty (20) undercover purchases from Trieu's Family Medical Center utilizing undercover officers from the DEA, the

Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Moss Point Police Department, and the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

To date, there are a total of eight (8) drug overdose deaths that have been identified through the investigation involving patients of the Family Medical Center.

The investigation also showed large sums of currency being generated through the drug distribution scheme and used to purchase properties that the United States now seeks to forfeit through the federal drug laws. A total of 22 properties, including vacant lots, residential and commercial properties between the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Los Angeles, CA and New Mexico, as well as other assets, totaling approximately \$10-\$15 million dollars, have been identified.

Patients of Family Medical Center can inquire about receiving copies of their medical records at the local DEA office, or by calling 228-863-2992.

If convicted Dr. Trieu and Nick Tran face up to fifty-four (54) years in prison, \$4,050,000 in fines and potential forfeiture. Dr. Van faces up to thirteen (13) years in prison, \$750,000 in fines and potential forfeiture. Richard Trieu faces up to sixty-two (62) years in prison, \$4,550,000 in fines and potential forfeiture.

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