



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Southern District of New York

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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY RECOVERS \$995,000 IN DAMAGES IN
HEALTH CARE FRAUD LAWSUIT AGAINST COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
AND NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the United States has filed, and simultaneously settled, a civil health care fraud lawsuit against THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ("COLUMBIA"), NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL ("PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL"), and DR. ERIK GOLUBOFF ("DR. GOLUBOFF"). The complaint, filed along with the settlement, alleges that COLUMBIA, PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL, and DR. GOLUBOFF fraudulently caused Medicare to be over-billed for urological procedures and billed for urological tests that were medically unnecessary. The settlement was approved October 4, 2011, in Manhattan federal court by U.S. District Court Judge LEONARD B. SAND, and requires COLUMBIA to pay \$995,000 in civil damages under the False Claims Act.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "This case should serve as a reminder that regardless of how well-established or prestigious the entity or individual, this Office will pursue those who engage in Medicare Fraud, and they will bear the costs of their actions."

According to the Complaint, DR. GOLUBOFF is a urologic oncologist who previously served as the Director of Urology at the Allen Pavilion of the New York Presbyterian Hospital, and as an Associate Professor of Clinical Urology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. The lawsuit alleges that between 2003 and 2009, DR. GOLUBOFF violated Medicare regulations by conducting diagnostic tests that were medically unnecessary, billing Medicare for those tests in such a way as to generate improper and excessive reimbursement amounts, and billing Medicare for more procedures than he was physically able to perform in a given day.

The Complaint also alleges that COLUMBIA and PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL were aware of DR. GOLUBOFF's fraudulent practices, failed to stop those practices, and caused his claims to be submitted to Medicare. COLUMBIA and PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL thus continued to benefit financially from the fraud and did not stop it, even after learning of what COLUMBIA described internally as "alarming compliance issues" with DR. GOLUBOFF.

This case is being handled by the Office's Civil Frauds Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys CAROLINA FORNOS and CRISTINE IRVIN PHILLIPS are in charge of the case.