

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DOD), announced today that on January 25, 2001, Dr. Kosmas Sarantis was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Susan C. Bucklew, Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL. The sentence was based on Dr. Sarantis' pleading guilty to conspiring to defraud the TRICARE and Medicare health care programs by receiving kickback payments. Dr. Sarantis was paid monthly by Community Clinical Laboratories, Inc., Clearwater, FL, for his patient referrals. Dr. Sarantis was sentenced to 24 months of probation, \$600 restitution, \$1,000 fine and a \$50 special assessment.

This investigation was conducted by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (the investigative arm of the OIG, DoD), the Postal Inspection Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Montilla, Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL.