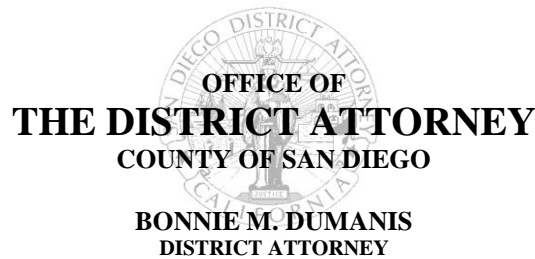


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**For Immediate Release**

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# **FDA Honors Deputy DA for Prosecution of Phony Doctor Who Gave Dangerous Drugs**

## *Defendant Posed as Naturopathic Doctor with Cure for Cancer*

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie Dumanis](#) announced today that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) honored Deputy District Attorney Gina Darvas with an appreciation award for her successful prosecution of Kurt W. Donsbach, a defendant who posed as a naturopathic doctor.

“Deputy DA Gina Darvas and our Economic Crimes Consumer Protection Unit worked hard to bring this scam artist to justice when his claims of cures for serious medical conditions violated the law,” DA Dumanis said. “In this case, the defendant preyed upon victims who were particularly vulnerable, giving them false hope and jeopardizing their health by intentionally spiking his remedies with a non-FDA approved drug.”

In presenting DDA Darvas with the award, the FDA said they appreciated the prosecutor’s hard work and diligence on this important case. “Deputy District Attorney Darvas’ knowledge, dedication and professionalism were key in the successful outcome of this investigation,” said FDA Special Agent in Charge, Thomas W. Emerick.

Donsbach claimed to have researched, manufactured and prescribed “natural” remedies and alternative treatments for cancer and other serious medical conditions. He advertised his remedies online and while broadcasting an internet radio show where he fielded calls from consumers. During his radio show, Donsbach diagnosed and recommended treatments and also encouraged consumers to attend his “hospital” in Rosarito Beach, Mexico.

Donsbach’s so called “natural” remedies in fact contained dangerous drugs including steroids and Nimesulide, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that is not approved for use on humans in the United States. Nimesulide is associated with hepatic failure and deaths in other countries. In the U.S., the FDA warns that selling Nimesulide presents an imminent hazard to public health.

(more)

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In a case that gained international media attention, the defendant plead guilty to five counts of practicing medicine without a license, five counts of selling misbranded drugs with intent to defraud, two counts grand theft and one count of felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to a year in jail, fined \$60,000 and given 10 years felony probation with a yet to be determined amount of restitution.

Consumers can file complaints with the Economic Crimes Consumer referral line of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office at 619-531-3507, or on our [website](#). Or, if consumers suspect misbranded drugs, they can report it directly to the FDA.

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