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# Three doctors arrested, one at large after probe of Boca Raton pain clinic

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Three doctors were arrested Thursday but one remains at large after a multi-agency task force investigation into a **Boca Raton** pain clinic.

The "Operation Take As Needed" investigation found that the Boca East Pain Management clinic continued to provide prescription pain pills after its state pain management license was revoked in 2010, according to a news release from the **Palm Beach County** Multi-Agency Diversion Task Force.

The probe was sparked in May 2011 after the Department of Health notified the task force that the clinic was possibly prescribing and dispensing controlled narcotics without a pain management license, according to arrest reports.

Investigators obtained medical and business-related documents and found that indeed was the case, according to the task force.

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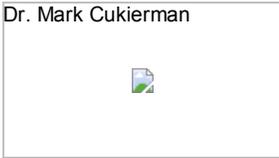


Dr. Henry J. Battagliola

Three of the four doctors turned themselves in on Thursday. They were clinic owner Dr. Henry Battagliola, 46, of Parkland, Dr. Mark Cukierman, 57, of **Boca Raton**, and Dr. Kyin Sein Ho, 71, of Fort Lauderdale.

They face multiple charges including operating a non-registered pain medical clinic and conspiracy to traffick in [oxycodone](#).

Another physician, Dr. Edward Jose Mila Prats, was still at



Dr. Mark Cukierman



Dr. Kyin Sein Ho

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large Friday despite his active arrest warrant. He is wanted on charges of operating a non-registered pain medical clinic and prescribing controlled substances in an unlicensed clinic.

According to an arrest report filed by a **Palm Beach County** Sheriff's Office detective, the clinic's pain management license was revoked because Battagliola is a [chiropractic](#) physician. Florida laws state that a pain clinic can only be owned by a medical-practice physician.

Battagliola's chiropractic physician license was issued in 1981 and has disciplinary history, Florida health records show. It's the same for Ho's medical doctor license, issued in 1976.

Cukierman's medical doctor license, issued in 2001, however, shows that he was fined \$50,000 in 2012 after repeatedly prescribing [Xanax](#) and oxycodone to a patient without justification while working at a **Boynton Beach** pain clinic, records state.

In August 2012, Cukierman was one of four doctors arrested in connection with a pain clinic in Pompano Beach. Each faced numerous charged including trafficking in controlled substances.

Cukierman's attorney, Fred Schwartz, said outside court to Sun Sentinel news partner WPEC-Ch. 12 that this most

recent case against the doctors was thin.

"They're trying to pressure doctors not to work at a pain management clinic," Schwartz said. "And in doing that, they're unfortunately arresting and continuing to arrest legitimate doctors."

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Gross Negligence at 10:19 AM March 17, 2013

The State of Florida MUST petition for a new Board of Medicine/Osteopathy. This is gross negligence. Our boards have continually failed to uphold their mission of protecting the public health safety. They, and they alone have had the power to stop this. They are the ones who grant the "privelege" to doctors to practice medicine in our State. Why must we be using our police officer's time and dollars, when the answer lies in Administrative Code. Code that the FL "appointed" board members continue to ignore. They, in cooperation with the DOH, are soley responsible for the Pill Mill crisis in our State. WHY? You need a "doctor" to run a clinic. Drug dealers in "white coats" - granted the "privelege" to deal drugs (prescribe) in our State. Let's not forget the "failed" mission of the Broward County United Way Task Force on Prescription Drugs. Spear headed by non other than a "pain management" physician, and our lack luster Broward County Medical Association. Again, dollars in the pocket over the hippocratic oath. Ever wonder WHY Broward County? Do some research, and you will figure this out. Failed peer review, failed "mission statements", and neglect of the public health safety.

truth71 at 12:31 AM March 17, 2013

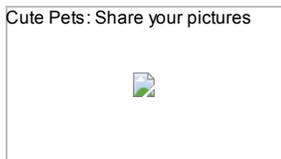
I dont see why they dont just allow people to buy what they want to without a prescription? If they could get it whenever they wanted the junkies would all die off really quickly. problem solved. The problem isnt the medication, the problem is our system of doctors robbing the patients for thousands of dollars for dope. If cocaine and oxycodone was a penny a pound the drug dealers would be out of business instantly. I think they should make them all legal and set the price so low to make it stoopid for anyone to want to try and make money off of it. face the facts, there are too many people anyways. So, allow them to get the drugs, overdose, die and move on. No need for rehab or none of that bs, you wanna do drugs? here, heres a thousand pounds of heroin and 100 syringes for .35 cent , knock yourself out. once all the weak minded dope addicts are gone just imagine how much more room we would have for activities!!!!

Yolanda Hamby at 6:56 PM March 16, 2013

GOT NEWS FOR ALL OF YOU...THIS IS VERY PREVALENT DOWN HERE IN FLORIDA!! THESE DOCTORS DO NOT LIVE UP TO THEIR OATH...THEY JUST WANT TO BE WEALTHY!

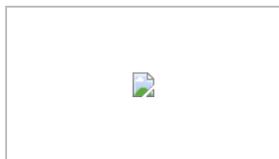
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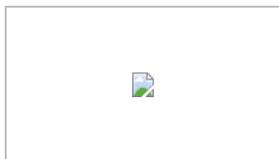
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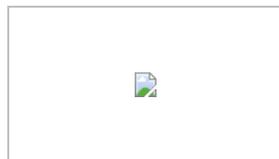
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