Biotech Consultant Charged With Insider Trading Ahead of Drug Trial Announcement

September 21, 2017 – The Securities and Exchange Commission today charged a biotechnology company consultant with insider trading on market-moving news concerning positive trial results about the company’s drug to treat breast cancer.

According to the SEC’s order, Joel P. Zingerman made approximately $56,000 in illicit profits by secretly purchasing the stock of Puma Biotechnology, Inc., a California-based company focused on developing a drug called “neratinib” for the treatment of cancer. In July 2014, through his work for Puma, Zingerman learned about positive developments in a clinical trial for neratinib and Puma’s planned actions to obtain registration for neratinib with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. The morning that the results of the trial were announced, Zingerman bought 325 shares of Puma stock. Later that day, after the market closed, Puma announced positive results from the clinical trial and, the next day, Puma’s stock price nearly quadrupled.

The SEC’s order finds that Zingerman violated Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder. Without admitting or denying the findings in the SEC’s order, Zingerman agreed to a cease-and-desist order and to pay disgorgement of $56,605, prejudgment interest of $5,718, and a civil penalty of $56,605, for a total amount of $118,928.

The SEC’s investigation was conducted by Timothy K. Halloran, Stacy L. Bogert, and Cheryl L. Crumpton.

See also: Order