

Former Associate Of Pharmacists Assists Doping Inquiry

Gerry Ramogida, a prominent sports chiropractor who works for the [Seattle Seahawks](#) and has treated Olympic athletes from Canada and Britain, had reached out to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, the organization that oversees the country's anti-doping program.

Ramogida is cooperating with Canadian anti-doping officials in the wake of an Al Jazeera report that alleged a network of people who claimed to have offered performance enhancing drugs to professional athletes. Ramogida vehemently denied any involvement with performance enhancing drugs and also remarked he had no knowledge that some business associates were associated with doping. Ramogida went on to add that he learned of the activities only after Al Jazeera brought it to his attention.

In the documentary ("*The Dark Side: The Secret World of Sports Doping*"), the business associates — Charles Sly and Chad Robertson, both pharmacists, and Brandon Spletzer, a naturopath — were shown talking openly about providing illicit drugs to athletes. In the documentary, Sly suggested that [Peyton Manning](#) had used [human growth hormone](#). Later, a YouTube statement was posted by Sly in which he insisted that everything he told the Al Jazeera reporter was untrue. An undercover reporter was told by Robertson that they were developing a telemedicine clinic with Ramogida called ProMed and this clinic would provide second opinions to athletes after they have been treated by team doctors. Ramogida was recruited to participate in the venture but backed out before the December report of Al Jazeera.

Gerry Ramogida remarked he believes his business partners recruited him as a conduit to top athletes and added he was an unwitting pawn unaware of the ulterior motives of his partners. In a statement, Ramogida said he can't emphasize strongly enough that at no point was there ever any discussions — nor even the slightest hint — of anything to do with banned substances and also said hence his utter shock at seeing the Al Jazeera documentary.

It was confirmed by the Seahawks, the Vancouver Canucks of the N.H.L. and Fortius Sport & Health, a sports medicine and training center in the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby

that Ramogida came forward to tell them about his association with Robertson, Spletzer, and ProMed before the Al Jazeera report was broadcast. Craig Thompson, president and chief executive of Fortius, said we stand by Gerry 100 percent and added there is no evidence or even the slightest suggestion linking him to PEDs, which are of course the complete antithesis of everything Gerry has stood for throughout his career.

Sarah Teetzel, an associate professor of kinesiology at the University of Manitoba, remarked naturopaths haven't really been part of the conversation of doping development and added a team doctor knows if they are found to have supplied an athlete, there are consequences.

Paul Melia, the chief executive of CCES, said it is always disturbing to hear of these kinds of allegations to the extent that the documentary suggests that it is going on. Melia added CCES was increasingly focused on the "supply chain" and the network of people who provide performance enhancing drugs to athletes.