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[21951001]

Par Pharmaceutical Inc. said it named its interim president and chief executive officer, Kenneth I. Sawyer, to those posts permanently, and elected him to the board.

[21951002]

Par also said it was advised by the U.S. attorney for Maryland that it is one of a number of companies being investigated by a federal grand jury for alleged violations of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

[21951003]

Par, a generic-drug maker that has been plagued by management problems, was already the subject of a federal criminal inquiry into the drug-approval process and a Food and Drug Administration investigation.

[21951004]

A Par spokesman said he understood the criminal investigation in Maryland relates to matters Par disclosed in July, when Par said it filed false drug information with the FDA.

[21951005]

At the time, the company said it was recalling one of its drugs and had stopped selling two others.

[21951007]

The book noted changes made at the manufacturing level that were n't disclosed to the FDA.

[21951008]

Par said it is cooperating in the investigation.

[21951009]

Also yesterday, Ashok Patel, a former Par official who pleaded guilty to providing an FDA employee an illegal gratuity of \$ 3,000, was sentenced by a federal judge in Baltimore to one year of community service and a \$ 150,000 fine.

[21951010]

Mr. Patel also was placed on three years' probation.

[21951011]

Mr. Patel resigned as senior vice president of Par in April.

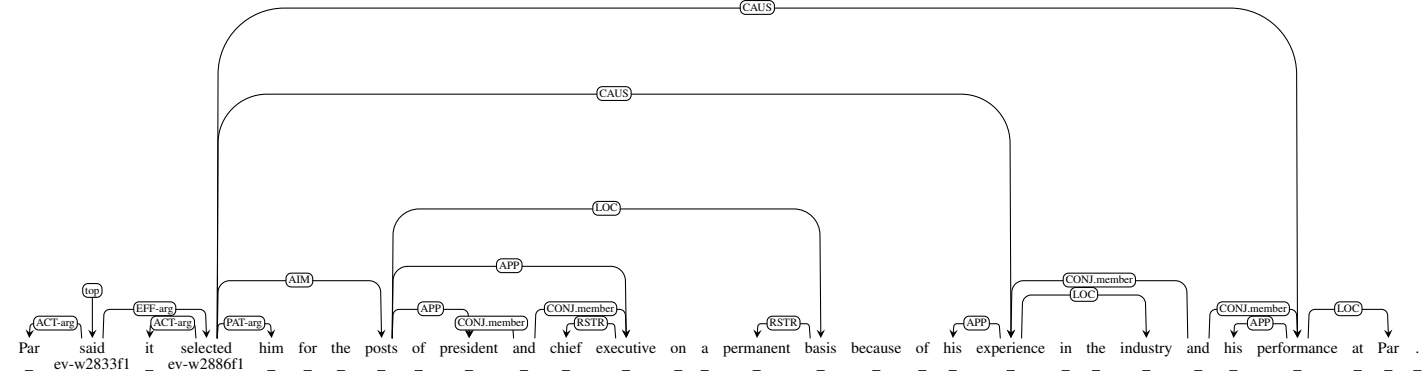
[21951012]

In July, Par and a 60%-owned unit agreed to plead guilty in that inquiry, as did another former Par official.

[21951013]

Mr. Sawyer began running the company on an interim basis in late September.

[21951014]



[21951015]

