

## Texas Medical Board Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2021

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### **TMB disciplines 26 physicians at June meeting**

At its June 11, 2021 meeting, the Texas Medical Board disciplined 26 licensed physicians.

The disciplinary actions included: five orders related to quality of care violations, four orders related to unprofessional conduct, six voluntary surrender/revocations, three suspensions, three revocations, one order related to nontherapeutic prescribing, one order related to violation of prior order and three orders related to other states' actions. The Board also ratified five cease and desist orders.

The Board issued 213 physician licenses at the June meeting, bringing the total number of physician licenses issued in FY21 to 4,117.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

#### **QUALITY OF CARE**

##### **East, John Wayne, D.O., Lic. No. K7724, Addison**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and John Wayne East, D.O., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least eight hours of CME in risk management. The Board found Dr. East violated the standard of care when he performed a rhizotomy on a patient's wrong side.

##### **Lauer, Scott David, M.D., Lic. No. K9102, Colleyville**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Scott David Lauer, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Lauer and requiring him to within one year complete at least 24 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in post-operative complications, eight hours in risk management and eight hours in ethics/professionalism; and within 60 days pay an administrative penalty of \$1,000. The Board found Dr. Lauer failed to assume appropriate care of a post-operative patient of another physician after agreeing to cover the patient, failed to properly address the patient's bleeding and failed to properly communicate with hospital staff.

##### **Mason, Christopher N., M.D., Lic. No. L1129, Mount Pleasant**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Christopher N. Mason, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at 16 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in medical recordkeeping, four hours in risk management and four hours in post-operative care. The Board found Dr. Mason violated the standard of care by failing to recognize a patient's abnormal test results which necessitated further care and recognition of potential surgical complications, and he did not maintain adequate medical records.

##### **Perry, Richard J., D.O., Lic. No. J0193, Sanger**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Richard J. Perry, D.O., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least 24 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in evaluating and treating anxiety and depression in adolescents, eight hours in diagnosis and treatment of obesity in adolescents and four hours in medical recordkeeping. The Board found that Dr. Perry failed to meet the standard of care in his prescribing and monitoring the use of Phentermine in a pediatric patient who was under 16 years of age during the relevant time period. Furthermore, Respondent failed to maintain adequate medical records for the treatment of this patient.

**Young, Mark David, M.D., Lic. No. J0388, Denison**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Mark David Young, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; have his practice monitored by another physician for eight consecutive monitoring cycles; within one year complete at least 49 hours of CME, divided as follows: 17 hours (or two days) in an intensive medical recordkeeping course, 10 hours in an intensive patient communication course, eight hours in anger management, six hours in outpatient care for common fractures, four hours in ethics, and four hours in prescribing controlled substances; and within 30 days pay an administrative penalty of \$5,000. The Board found Dr. Young failed to meet the standard of care for a patient's extended arm cast immobilization, failed to appropriately document medical rationale, surgical procedure and follow-up care for three patients with complications following hand or wrist surgeries, exhibited unprofessional conduct that was disruptive to surgical staff during a procedure, and self-prescribed medications, including controlled substances to himself beyond immediate need.

**UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**Abbasi, Maaz Ahmed, M.D., Lic. No. M6992, Missouri City**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Maaz Ahmed Abbasi, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; and within one year complete at least eight hours of CME in risk management. The Board found Dr. Abbasi was investigated by the federal government for health care fraud allegations related to the issuance of home health certification and plans of care and executed an Agreed Settlement wherein he agreed to pay restitution and to an exclusion from participating in federal health care programs for a period of three years.

**Doan, Dennis Phuong, M.D., Lic. No. N9041, Fort Worth**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Dennis Phuong Doan, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order on Formal Filing publicly reprimanding Dr. Doan and suspending his license; however, the suspension is stayed and he is placed on probation under the following terms for a period of two years: shall comply with all terms of the Order Granting Deferred Adjudication issued on December 22, 2020 by Parker County Court; he is prohibited from seeing, examining, treating, prescribing to, providing consultation for, or otherwise practicing medicine on female patients at any time for any reason in any practice setting, including telemedicine. Notwithstanding this restriction, Dr. Doan shall be allowed to practice administrative medicine services such as records review, interpretation of EKG's, echocardiography tests, and stress tests that involve female patients. Additionally, within one year Dr. Doan shall complete the professional boundaries course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program; within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; and shall not be permitted to supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse or supervise a surgical assistant. The Board found Dr. Doan has engaged in unprofessional misconduct with multiple female patients and employees by improperly touching their breasts and making inappropriate comments and pleaded guilty to one Class A misdemeanor for violating the Texas Medical Practice Act. The order resolves a formal complaint filed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

**Freeman, Phillip Neal, M.D., Lic. No. G9851, Houston**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Phillip Neal Freeman, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Freeman and requiring him to have a chaperone anytime he performs a physical examination on a female patient; within six months complete the professional boundaries course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program; within one year complete at least eight hours of CME in ethics; and shall not be permitted to supervise female medical professionals or to supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to a female physician assistant or female advanced practice nurse. The Board found Dr. Freeman violated sexual boundaries by sexually harassing a colleague and resigned his privileges in lieu of further disciplinary action.

**Safadi, Lawrence Victor, M.D., Lic. No. S5060, Edinburg**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Lawrence Victor Safadi, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least eight hours of CME in ethics. The Board found Dr. Safadi did not fully disclose a potential eligibility issue with the Board when he applied for a license in Texas.

## **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER/REVOCAION**

### **Brame, Cory Lynne, M.D., Lic. No. K5260, Newport Beach, CA**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Cory Lynne Brame, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender on Formal Filing in which Dr. Brame agreed to voluntarily surrender her license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings. The Board found Dr. Brame was unable to complete terms of her 2019 Remedial Plan to maintain her Texas license. Dr. Brame resides and practices in California and does not believe she will return to practice in Texas where CME requirements are recurring. The order resolves a formal complaint filed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

### **Hurst, Paul W., M.D., Lic. No. L6949, Plantation, FL**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Paul W. Hurst, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender in which Dr. Hurst agreed to voluntarily surrender his license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings. The Board found Dr. Hurst was under investigation for sexual boundary violations.

### **Kelehan, Shaun Bobbi, M.D., Lic. No. L6234, Marshall**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Shaun Bobbi Kelehan, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender in which Dr. Kelehan agreed to voluntarily surrender his Texas medical license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings. The Board found Dr. Kelehan was Temporarily Restricted on October 29, 2020 for boundaries violations with a male patient. Following entry of the order, a second male patient made an outcry to a new provider regarding alleged inappropriate touching and boundaries violations that occurred during the course of Dr. Kelehan's prior care and treatment.

### **Syed, Ghyasuddin, M.D., Lic. No. L3493, Baytown**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Ghyasuddin Syed, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender in which Dr. Syed agreed to voluntarily surrender his license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings, effective July 10, 2021. The Board found Dr. Syed pled guilty to conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the United States, a felony.

### **Taylor, Michael Byron, M.D., Lic. No. F2055, Tyler**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Michael Byron Taylor, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender in which Dr. Taylor agreed to voluntarily surrender his license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings. The Board found Dr. Taylor was under investigation regarding his failure to meet the standard of care while intubating a patient and resigning while under peer review for the incident.

### **Willis, Ellen Denise, M.D., Lic. No. H4801, Oronoco, MN**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Ellen Denise Willis, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender in which Dr. Willis agreed to voluntarily surrender her license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings. The Board found Dr. Willis reported to the Board that she had a specific medical condition and was no longer in practice. The order resolves a formal complaint filed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

## **SUSPENSION**

### **Coppedge, Woodrow William, M.D., Lic. No. L2853, Houston**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Woodrow William Coppedge, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Suspension on Formal Filing, suspending his license until such a time as he requests in writing and personally appears before the Board to provide clear evidence that he is physically, mentally, and otherwise competent to safely practice medicine; publicly referred to the Texas Physician Health Program; and shall not supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse or supervise a surgical assistant. The Board found Dr. Coppedge exhibited signs of alcohol impairment and resigned in lieu of termination for possible impairment and work performance issues. The order resolves a formal complaint filed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

### **Hein, Robert Mathew, M.D., Lic. No. M6182, Argyle**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Robert Mathew Hein, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order suspending Dr. Hein's license until such a time as he requests in writing and personally appears before the Board to provide clear evidence that he is

physically, mentally, and otherwise competent to safely practice medicine; and prohibiting him from supervising or delegating prescriptive authority to a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse or supervising a surgical assistant. Dr. Hein cannot request an appearance before the Board until after six months have passed following entry of the order. The Board found Dr. Hein treated multiple patients while under the influence of controlled substances not legitimately prescribed to him. The order remains in effect until superseded by another order of the Board.

**Henry, Craig B., M.D., Lic. No. H2942, Arlington**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Craig B. Henry, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Suspension, suspending his license until such a time as he requests in writing and personally appears before the Board to provide clear evidence that he is physically, mentally, and otherwise competent to safely practice medicine. Evidence shall include, at a minimum, complete and final resolution of any and all criminal charges and investigations. Additionally, Dr. Henry shall not supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse or supervise a surgical assistant. The Board found that on February 19, 2021, Dr. Henry pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Healthcare Fraud, a felony.

**REVOCACTION**

**Brown, Lance Fortson, M.D., Lic. No. K9738, San Antonio**

On June 11, 2021, the Board entered a Default Order regarding Lance Fortson Brown, M.D., which revoked his Texas medical license. On January 21, 2021, the Board filed a Complaint with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), alleging unprofessional conduct. Dr. Brown failed to appear at the SOAH hearing and no responsive pleading was ever filed by Dr. Brown. The Board granted a Determination of Default and Dr. Brown's license was revoked by Default Order. This order resolves a formal complaint filed at SOAH. Dr. Brown has 25 days from the service of the order to file a motion for rehearing.

**Oro, Febe Linda Panal, M.D., Lic. No. G4185, Denison**

On June 11, 2021, the Board entered a Default Order regarding Febe Linda Panal Oro, M.D., which revoked her Texas medical license. On March 25, 2021, the Board filed a Complaint with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), alleging unprofessional conduct. Dr. Oro failed to appear at the SOAH hearing and no responsive pleading was ever filed by Dr. Oro. The Board granted a Determination of Default and Dr. Oro's license was revoked by Default Order. This order resolves a formal complaint filed at SOAH. Dr. Oro has 25 days from the service of the order to file a motion for rehearing.

**Smith, Stephen Allen, M.D., Lic. No. H9718, Houston**

On June 11, 2021, the Board entered a Default Order regarding Stephen Allen Smith, M.D., which revoked his Texas medical license. On January 14, 2021, the Board filed a Complaint with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), alleging violations of standard of care and unprofessional conduct. Dr. Smith failed to appear at the SOAH hearing and no responsive pleading was ever filed by Dr. Smith. The Board granted a Determination of Default and Dr. Smith's license was revoked by Default Order. This order resolves a formal complaint filed at SOAH. Dr. Smith has 25 days from the service of the order to file a motion for rehearing.

**NONTHERAPEUTIC PRESCRIBING**

**Pollack, Lee, M.D., Lic. No. H5730, Spring**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Lee Pollack, M.D., entered into a Mediated Agreed Order requiring him to have his practice monitored by another physician for four consecutive monitoring cycles; within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; within one year complete at least 16 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in risk management, four hours in supervising and delegating to midlevel providers and four hours in proper prescribing of controlled substances; and within 60 days pay an administrative penalty of \$3,000. The Board found Dr. Pollack nontherapeutically prescribed controlled substances to fifteen patients and failed to create and maintain adequate medical records justifying his care and treatment of the patients. The order resolves a formal complaint filed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

## **VIOLATION OF PRIOR ORDER**

### **Castaneda, Jose Luis, M.D., Lic. No. F3818, Brownsville**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Jose Luis Castaneda, M.D. entered into a Modification Order, modifying Dr. Castaneda's June 2019 Order. The modification removes the requirement to pass the SPEX exam, and adds terms which limit his medical practice, including any office and inpatient practice, to a group or institutional setting approved by the Board, and extends the deadline for payment of his monitoring fee six months. The Board found Dr. Castaneda was not meeting the terms of his order due to financial and practice constraints after being laid off due to COVID's financial impact on the practice. All other terms of the order as modified remain in full effect.

## **OTHER STATES' ACTIONS**

### **Bakotic, Bradley Wayne, D.O., Lic. No. L5668, Alpharetta, GA**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Bradley Wayne Bakotic, D.O., entered into a Waiver Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Bakotic and requiring him to pay an administrative penalty of \$500. The Board found Dr. Bakotic was disciplined by the Maryland State Board of Physicians with a Consent Order.

### **Steele, John Joseph, M.D., Lic. No. M8360, Southfield, MI**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and John Joseph Steele, M.D., entered into a Waiver Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Steele and requiring him to within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; and within 60 days pay an administrative penalty of \$5,000. The Board found that it was alleged Dr. Steele was disciplined by the Surgeon General of the United States Air Force on December 30, 2020 due to falsification of official documents to gain off duty employment.

### **Wheatley, Grayson, M.D., Lic. No. L2748, Nashville, TN**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Grayson Wheatley, M.D., entered into a Waiver Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Wheatley and requiring him to within 60 days pay an administrative penalty of \$1,000. The Board found that it was alleged Dr. Wheatley was disciplined by the Arizona Medical Board for inappropriately providing telemedicine services to a 76-year-old patient.

## **CEASE & DESISTS**

### **Gregoire, Serge, No License, Webster**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Serge Gregoire entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting him from acting as, or holding himself out to be, a licensed physician in the state of Texas and shall correct all advertisements and websites to clarify that he is not a medical doctor, but instead a Ph.D. and that he is not licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas. The Board found Mr. Gregoire advertised "Houston Nutrition Mind and Body Solutions," where he allegedly treated a patient for terminal insomnia, nerve pain and weight control for a period of approximately three years. Mr. Gregoire advertised on a website which refers to him as a "Houston Functional Medicine doctor," calls him "Dr. Serge Gregoire," states that he has helped many people recover from chronic conditions, and does not specifically state that he is not licensed to practice medicine in the state.

### **Heil-Mealey, Polly, No License, Humble**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Polly Heil-Mealey entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting her from acting as, or holding herself out to be, a licensed physician in the state of Texas, and prohibiting her from referring to herself as a doctor or physician in any manner, including by referring to herself as "doctor," or "Dr.," unless she also designates the authority under which the title is used or the college or honorary degree that gives rise to the use of the title. The Board found Ms. Heil-Mealey, by advertising medical services and holding herself out as a physician, engaged in the unlawful practice of medicine in the state of Texas.

### **Martin, Jenna Louise, APN, Pearland**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Jenna Louise Martin, APN, entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting her from engaging in the practice of medicine both in and from the state of Texas. The Board found Ms. Martin engaged

in the practice of medicine when she offered to treat, and treated patients, with medical services including stem cell treatments and regenerative therapy, and operated outside the scope of her practice and prescriptive authority agreement.

**Trejo, Jennifer, No License, Lake Worth**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Jennifer Trejo entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting her from practicing medicine in the state of Texas without a license issued by the Texas Medical Board, and is prohibited from using advertising that may mislead the public regarding treatment that can mitigate or prevent COVID-19. The Board found that on April 10, 2020, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) sent a warning letter to Abundant Life Wellness Center (ALWC) concerning unlawful advertisement on social media in regards to preventing and/or treating Coronavirus by purchasing Zyto hand cradles and supplements from ALWC. The advertisement had the potential to mislead the public into thinking Ms. Trejo was offering her services as a medical doctor.

**Trigger, Martha, No License, Lake Worth**

On June 11, 2021, the Board and Martha Trigger entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist prohibiting her from practicing medicine in the state of Texas without a license issued by the Texas Medical Board, and is prohibited from using advertising that may mislead the public regarding treatment that can mitigate or prevent COVID-19. The Board found that on April 10, 2020, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) sent a warning letter to Abundant Life Wellness Center (ALWC) concerning unlawful advertisement on social media in regards to preventing and/or treating Coronavirus by purchasing Zyto hand cradles and supplements from ALWC. The advertisement had the potential to mislead the public into thinking Ms. Trigger was offering her services as a medical doctor.

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*To view disciplinary orders and Board action history, visit the TMB website, click on "Look Up A License," accept the usage terms, then type in a licensee's name. Click on the name shown in the search results to view the licensee's full profile. Within that profile is a button that says "Current Board Action."*

*All releases and bulletins are also available on the TMB website under the "Newsroom" heading.*