

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
(September 19, 2006)

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Scott D. Blair, M.D., a 52 year-old physician practicing in Council Bluffs, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On February 3, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Blair for improperly prescribing drugs to numerous patients and with failing to cooperate with a Board investigation. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Blair is prohibited from prescribing controlled substances to chronic pain patients. He must also complete a Board-approved prescribing course, a comprehensive competency evaluation, and a neuropsychological evaluation. He was also placed on probation for five years, he was issued a public reprimand and he was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.

Israel V. Fernando, M.D., a 54 year-old physician practicing dermatology in several locations in eastern, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On August 25, 2005, the Board charged Dr. Fernando for failing to provide appropriate care and treatment to numerous dermatology patients. The Board also had serious concerns that Dr. Fernando practices in numerous locations which are significant distances apart increasing the risk to patients if complications or emergencies occur. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Fernando is prohibited from interpreting skin pathology and he must complete a competency evaluation in dermatology. He agreed not to practice at locations more than 60 miles apart and he was placed on probation for five years. He was also issued a public reprimand and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.

Ronnie B. Martin, D.O., a 57 year-old physician who formerly practiced in Des Moines, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him. On September 14, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Martin for violating a Board order. A hearing on the charges is scheduled for December 6, 2006.

Thomas J. Payne, M.D., a 63 year-old physician practicing with a resident physician license in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a Consent Order with the Board and the Board granted him a new Iowa medical license. In the early 1990s the Board had very serious concerns that Dr. Payne was not practicing medicine in a safe and competent manner. On February 26, 1996, Dr. Payne surrendered his license due to the Board's concerns. On March 19, 2002, Dr. Payne asked the Board to reinstate his license and the Board denied his request due to concerns about his competency. At the request of the Board, Dr. Payne completed a residency program and a Board-approved competency evaluation. The evaluation program had concerns about Dr. Payne's competency but concluded that he was safe to practice medicine under certain terms and conditions. Under the terms of the Consent Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Payne a new medical license and he was placed on indefinite probation subject to certain terms and conditions to monitor his professional competency.

Reddy S. Reganti, M.D., a 60 year-old oncologist practicing in West Burlington, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On July 28, 2005, the Board charged Dr. Reganti for providing inappropriate treatment to numerous cancer patients. The Board alleged that Dr. Reganti performed excessively aggressive cancer treatments; chose inappropriate cancer treatments; prescribed dangerously high doses of radiation therapy for prolonged periods; continued cancer treatment long after it was indicated; and treated cancer patients

that were in such poor health that treatment was not appropriate. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Reganti must complete a Board-approved competency evaluation and fully comply with any recommendations made by the evaluation program. He was also issued a public reprimand, ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine and he was placed on probation for five years to monitor his professional competency.

James A. Yeltatzie, M.D., a 47 year-old psychiatrist formerly practicing in Muscatine, Iowa, had his Iowa medical license revoked by the Board. On June 27, 1991, the Board charged Dr. Yeltatzie for making improper physical contact with three psychiatric patients. Dr. Yeltatzie was also charged with suffering from a mental condition which affected his relationship with patients, unlawful possession of marijuana and with filing false license applications with the Board. The Board suspended Dr. Yeltatzie's medical license. On January 19, 1994, the Board reinstated Dr. Yeltatzie's license and he placed on probation for five years to monitor his professional competency. On March 4, 1999, the Board charged Dr. Yeltatzie with violating the terms of his probation when he practiced outside the scope of psychiatry, improperly abused drugs and failed to file required monthly reports with the Board. Dr. Yeltatzie received public reprimand, he was required to pay a \$6,000 fine and he was required to complete psychiatric treatment with a Board-approved psychiatrist. On December 20, 2005, the Board charged Dr. Yeltatzie and immediately suspended his medical license after the Board concluded that he failed to provide appropriate care to numerous patients and that he posed an immediate danger to his patients. A hearing was held before the Board on August 16, 2006. On September 14, 2006, the Board issued an Order revoking Dr. Yeltatzie's Iowa medical license after the Board concluded that he is not able to practice medicine in a safe manner and that he poses a significant danger to the public.