

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(December 21, 2011)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: Please click on the physician's name to access a link to a copy of the public documents for each physician.

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following actions:

[Raphael N. Ngengwe, M.D.](#), a 30-year-old physician from Kansas City, Missouri, who practices internal medicine, entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board on December 6, 2011. Dr. Ngengwe submitted an application for a permanent Iowa medical license on June 17, 2011. The Board received information which indicates that Dr. Ngengwe was placed on probation due to concerns about his lack of professionalism on two occasions while he was a participant in a cardiovascular fellowship between July 1, 2007 and January 2010. At the request of the Board, Dr. Ngengwe completed a professional fitness evaluation at a Board-approved assessment program in October 2011. Under the terms of the December 6, 2011, Consent Agreement, the Board granted Dr. Ngengwe a permanent Iowa medical license, issued him a public reprimand due to concerns about his lack of professionalism and referred him to the Iowa Physician Health Program for monitoring.

[Samuel C. Okoye, M.D.](#), a 52-year-old physician from Clinton, Mississippi, who practices family medicine, was denied an Iowa medical license on December 12, 2011. On February 3, 2011, Dr. Okoye submitted an application for a permanent Iowa medical license. The Board received information which indicates that Dr. Okoye's hospital privileges at Central Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi, were suspended on September 20, 2010, due to concerns about his patient care and physical and/or mental health. Dr. Okoye failed to report the suspension of his hospital privileges on his application for an Iowa medical license.

[Gregory L. Thalken, M.D.](#), a 30-year-old physician from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who practices radiology, entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board on December 6, 2011. Dr. Thalken submitted an application for a permanent Iowa medical license on April 18, 2011. The Board received information which indicates that Dr. Thalken was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) on five occasions between December 1, 2002 and December 19, 2009. Dr. Thalken has completed an alcohol treatment program, stopped using alcohol and regularly attends Alcoholic Anonymous. Under the terms of the December 6, 2011, Consent Agreement, the Board granted Dr. Thalken a permanent Iowa medical license, issued him a public reprimand due to concerns about the DUIs and referred him to the Iowa Physician Health Program for substance abuse treatment and monitoring.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: Consumers can submit complaints against physicians through the Board's Website at www.medicalboard.iowa.gov, by calling (515) 281-5847, or by mail at 400 SW 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309-4686.