

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS PRESS RELEASE

For release, September 27, 2000

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

Vasu D. Arora, M.D., a 66 year-old physician from Mason City, Iowa, was charged with being disciplined by the regulatory authority of another state. Dr. Arora voluntarily surrendered his Virginia medical license to resolve a pending disciplinary matter. On October 19, 1999, Dr. Arora pled guilty to criminal charges of illegal distribution of Schedule II and III controlled substances, health care fraud, mail fraud and money laundering. In the plea agreement, Dr. Arora agreed to relinquish all of his licenses to practice medicine and to never practice medicine again. Dr. Arora has not practiced in Iowa for some time. A hearing in this matter has been set for November 16, 2000.

Horst G. Blume, M.D., a 74 year-old neurosurgeon specializing in pain treatment from Sioux City, Iowa, was charged by the Board with violating a Board order. On October 8, 1998, Dr. Blume was charged with professional incompetency for inappropriately prescribing controlled substances to numerous patients. Dr. Blume entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board, which required that he submit to a comprehensive evaluation no later than April 9, 2000. Dr. Blume is charged with failing to comply with the Board Order, which required that he submit to the evaluation. A hearing in this matter is set for November 1, 2000.

Wilson Davis, M.D., a 54 year-old physician practicing in Keokuk, Iowa, was charged with failing to report the wrongful acts or omissions of another Iowa licensed physician in a timely manner. Dr. Davis entered into a Settlement Agreement and Consent Order with the Board. Dr. Davis was ordered to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and issued a Citation and Warning for failure to comply with the mandatory reporting requirements of the state of Iowa.

Robert N. Edwards, Jr., M.D., a 55 year-old physician from Klamath Falls, Oregon, entered into a combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Iowa Board. Dr. Edwards was charged with being disciplined by the regulatory authority of another state. Dr. Edwards entered into a Stipulated Order with the State of Oregon, which prohibits him from practicing cytological pathology pending the outcome of an investigation by the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners. Under the Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board, Dr. Edwards is prohibited from practicing cytological pathology.

Howard E. Hagglund, M.D., a 60 year-old physician from Norman, Oklahoma, entered into a combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Iowa Board. Dr. Hagglund was charged by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure with being guilty of engaging in unprofessional conduct when he left blank prescriptions for a physician's assistant to use when he was out of town. Dr. Hagglund was issued a Citation and Warning by the Iowa Board for being disciplined by the licensing authority of another state.

Thomas Hakes, M.D., a 48 year-old physician practicing in Keokuk, Iowa, was charged with failing to report the wrongful acts or omissions of another Iowa licensed physician in a timely manner. Dr. Hakes entered into a Settlement Agreement and Consent Order with the Board. Dr. Hakes was ordered to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and issued a Citation and Warning for failure to comply with the mandatory reporting requirements of the state of Iowa.

Vernon G. Helt, M.D., a 76 year-old physician from South Sioux City, Nebraska, voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license to resolve a pending disciplinary matter.

Mark Joseph Leding, D.O., a 41 year-old anesthesiologist from Ottumwa, Iowa, was charged by the Board with being guilty of professional incompetency and engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. The Board received information indicating that on numerous occasions Dr. Leding engaged in inappropriate conduct while responsible for providing anesthesia services during surgical procedures. A hearing in this matter is set for November 29, 2000.

Edward A. Vivian, M.D., a 47 year-old physician specializing in anesthesiology from Mason City, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Iowa Board. Dr. Vivian was charged with being disciplined by the regulatory authority of another state. Dr. Vivian was reprimanded by the State of Wisconsin for violating the standard of care in his treatment of a single patient. The Iowa Board issued Dr. Vivian a Citation and Warning for being disciplined by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

In other action by the Board:

Arthur Francis Leritz, M.D., a physician from Milford, Iowa, was denied a permanent Iowa medical license. The Board denied Dr. Leritz' application based on information that he had been the subject of disciplinary action in the state of Washington. Dr. Leritz' Washington medical license was indefinitely suspended based on evidence of professional incompetence, sexual misconduct and unprofessional conduct.