

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

For release, April 19, 2005

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

Mauro J. Agnelneri, M.D., a 54 year-old urologist formerly practicing in Granger, Indiana, had formal disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. The Iowa Board charged Dr. Agnelneri with engaging in unprofessional conduct and/or practice harmful or detrimental to the public, with violating the laws of Indiana and with being disciplined by the Indiana Medical Board. On January 14, 2003, Dr. Agnelneri sent a nude photograph of a young male over the Internet to a police detective who was posing as a young female. On February 18, 2003, police executed a search warrant at Dr. Agnelneri's home and found four images of child pornography on his computer hard drive. On June 8, 2003, Dr. Agnelneri was arrested in St. Joseph County, Indiana, and charged with child exploitation, a Class C Felony. On April 21, 2004, Dr. Agnelneri pleaded guilty to Possession of Child Pornography, a Class A Misdemeanor. Dr. Agnelneri received a one year suspended prison and he was placed on probation for one year. On February 9, 2004, the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana filed a Summary Suspension Order and Dr. Agnelneri was ordered to immediately cease and desist the practice of medicine for 90 days. On July 19, 2004, the Indiana Board filed a charges against Dr. Agnelneri's Indiana medical license for being convicted of a crime that has a direct bearing on his ability to practice medicine. A disciplinary hearing has been scheduled in this matter for May 25, 2005.

Scott W. Aigner, M.D., a 45 year-old physician formerly practicing in Dubuque, Iowa, had a disciplinary decision issued by the Board following a contested case hearing. On September 28, 2004, the Board charged Dr. Aigner with failing to comply with an agreement with the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) and with the inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety as a result of a mental or physical condition. The Board received information indicating that Dr. Aigner suffers from a mental health condition and a chronic pain condition which may impair his ability to practice medicine in a safe manner. Following a hearing before the Board on February 23, 2005, the Board concluded that Dr. Aigner failed to comply with his agreement with the IPHP when he willfully and repeatedly failed to timely submit to further evaluation and when he failed to participate in the IPHP's drug-screening program. The Board indefinitely suspended Respondent's Iowa medical license and he must establish that his mental condition has been stable for a minimum of six (6) months and submit a recommendation that he is safe to return to the practice before the Board will consider reinstatement of his Iowa medical license.

Rafael Armendariz, D.O., a 42 year-old physician from El Paso, Texas, had disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. The Iowa Board charges Dr. Armendariz with being disciplined by the State of Texas on June 4, 2004. On April 12, 2000, the Texas Medical Board disciplined Dr. Armendariz for aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine, failing to adequately supervise staff, and allowing non-licensed staff to issue prescriptions. Dr. Armendariz' Texas medical license was placed on two (2) years probation subject to certain conditions. On June 21, 2001, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Armendariz for being disciplined by the Texas Board. On December 12, 2002, Dr. Armendariz entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Armendariz shall be subject to certain terms and conditions of probation for a period of two (2) years if he returns to the practice of medicine in Iowa. Dr. Armendariz has not practiced medicine in Iowa for many years. On February 5, 2003, the Texas Board filed new charges against Dr. Armendariz for failing to adequately supervise staff in his medical office. On June 4, 2004, the Texas Board ordered Dr. Armendariz to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. A disciplinary hearing has been scheduled in this matter for May 18, 2005.

Ronald S. Bergman, D.O., a 56 year-old plastic surgeon practicing in Des Moines, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. The Board charged Dr. Bergman with violating appropriate physician-patient professional boundaries when he engaged in an inappropriate romantic and/or sexual relationship with a patient. Dr. Bergman and the patient subsequently married. The patient continued to receive medical treatment, including the administration of controlled substances, from a physician assistant under Dr. Bergman's direct supervision long after the patient and Dr. Bergman married. A disciplinary hearing has been scheduled for May 25, 2005.

Jerry A. Hancock, M.D., a 44 year-old physician practicing in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve a pending disciplinary matter. The Board charged Dr. Hancock with engaging in unprofessional conduct and/or disruptive behavior. The Board received information which indicated that Dr. Hancock was unable to control his anger on more than one occasion while treating patients. In November 2004, the Board required Dr. Hancock to complete a disruptive behavior evaluation. The evaluation program concluded that Dr. Hancock has anger management problems that impact his medical practice and recommended that he be monitored by the Board. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Hancock was issued a Citation and Warning for engaging in disruptive behavior and he was referred to the Board's Iowa Physician Health Program for monitoring.

Roy M. Hutchinson, M.D., a 75 year-old physician from Petersburg, Michigan, had formal disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. The Iowa Board charged Dr. Hutchinson with being disciplined in Ohio and New York. On December 12, 2002, the State Medical Board of Ohio denied Dr. Hutchinson's application for a medical license after the Board concluded that he provided false answers on three questions of a medical license application. Dr. Hutchinson failed to disclose information that he had been the subject of several disciplinary investigations in Iowa. On August 8, 2003, the New York State Board revoked Dr. Hutchinson's medical license after concluding that he engaged in the following misconduct; practicing the profession fraudulently, conduct evidencing moral unfitness to practice medicine, and/or making or filing a false report. On March 11, 2005, the Ohio Board issued a Final Order upholding the decision to deny Dr. Hutchinson an Ohio medical license for providing false information on a medical license application. A disciplinary hearing is scheduled in this matter on May 18, 2005.

Stephen K. Jones, M.D., a 35 year-old physician formerly practicing under a resident physician license in Iowa City, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On May 19, 2004, Dr. Jones entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board after the Board determined that Dr. Jones diverted drugs for his own use. Dr. Jones' Iowa resident license was placed on probation subject to certain monitoring requirements for drug abuse. On October 28, 2004, the Board filed charges against Dr. Jones after the Board received evidence that he used controlled drugs in violation of his May 19, 2004, Board Order. On September 3, 2004, Dr. Jones was terminated from his residency program due to drug abuse and he no longer holds an Iowa license. Under the terms of the new Settlement Agreement, Dr. Jones received Citation and Warning and he must serve a sixty (60) day license suspension and pay a \$2,500 civil penalty if he returns to practice medicine in Iowa in the future and his license will be placed on indefinite probation subject to certain monitoring requirements for substance abuse.

David P. Knapp, M.D., a 54 year-old physician practicing dermatology in San Diego, California, had formal disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. Dr. Knapp was charged with violating a Board Order when engaged in the practice of medicine in Iowa while his Iowa medical license had been suspended by the Board. On October 31, 1996, the Board charged Dr. Knapp with failing to maintain adequate medical records, failing to maintain appropriate pathology reports, performing unnecessary dermatology services, failing to appropriately monitor patient medications and failing to provide appropriate supervision of a physician assistant. On July 17, 2000, Dr. Knapp entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board and certain restrictions were placed on his Iowa medical license. The restrictions are effective until terminated by the Board. On March 21, 2001, the New York Medical Board filed charges against Dr. Knapp's New York medical license for failing to report the Iowa disciplinary action. On March 10, 2003, the California Medical Board disciplined Dr. Knapp for failing to provide appropriate supervision of a physician assistant, failing to maintain appropriate patient records, inappropriately instructing an employee to provide unnecessary dermatology treatment to Medicaid patients, inappropriate use of a cautery device and for having been disciplined in Iowa and New York. Dr. Knapp's California medical license was suspended for thirty (30) days and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years subject to certain conditions. Dr. Knapp was prohibited from supervising a physician assistant, he was required to undergo a comprehensive professional assessment and he was required to have another physician monitor his California medical practice. On October 2, 2003, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Knapp for being disciplined by the California Board. On April 2, 2004, Dr. Knapp entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board, his Iowa medical license was suspended for six (6) months and he was prohibited from engaging in any aspect of the practice of medicine under his Iowa medical license from April 2, 2004 – October 2, 2004. The Board has received information which indicates that Dr. Knapp served as the laboratory director for a dermatology clinic in Iowa from January 14, 2004 through June 16, 2004. The Board charged Dr. Knapp with engaging in the practice of medicine under his Iowa medical license during the period of suspension in violation of the April 2, 2004, Order. The Board has scheduled a hearing in this matter for May 18, 2005.

Robert P. Marseille, M.D., a 47 year-old physician from Iowa City, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges dismissed by the Board. On June 5, 2003, the Board charged Dr. Marseille with the inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety as a result of a mental condition and with engaging in unethical or unprofessional conduct when he failed to accurately document patient examinations and when he documented examinations that did not occur. On April 20, 2004, after a hearing, the Board issued a Decision and Order establishing numerous terms and conditions of probation. The Board dismissed the charge of inappropriate documentation of physical examinations. On February 10, 2005, the Board charged Dr. Marseille with willfully violating his Board Order when he failed to establish a Board monitoring program, failed to fully comply with all recommendations made by the evaluation program and all other treatment providers, failed to complete mental health treatment and counseling, failed to comply with the Board's drug screening program, failed to file quarterly reports with the Board, and failed to appear before the Board as required by the April 20, 2004, Decision and Order. A hearing was scheduled for March 23, 2005. The Board received information which indicates that miscommunication between Board staff and Dr. Marseille likely contributed to his failure to comply with the requirements established in the April 20, 2004, Decision and Order. Dr. Marseille is currently fully complying with all of the requirements of his probation. On April 7, 2005, the Board dismissed the charges pending against Dr. Marseille's Iowa medical license

Michael J. Parks, M.D., a 52 year-old physician from Oskaloosa, Iowa, had a disciplinary decision issued by the Board following a contested case hearing. On December 16, 2004, the Board charged Dr. Parks with being disciplined by the licensing authority of three other states and with failing to comply with the continuing medical education (CME) requirements in the state of Iowa. On April 2, 2002, the Michigan Medical Board placed Dr. Parks' Michigan medical license on probation subject to monitoring provisions due to serious quality of care concerns. On January 8, 2003, the Ohio Medical Board revoked Dr. Parks' Ohio medical license after determining that Dr. Parks failed to report the Michigan disciplinary action on his Ohio renewal application. On April 30, 2004, the Illinois Board refused to renew Dr. Parks' Illinois medical license based on the revocation of his license by the Ohio Board. Additionally, Dr. Parks failed to complete, and/or verify the completion of, the forty (40) CME hours for the licensure period from January 1, 2002 through January 1, 2004, required for renewal of his permanent Iowa medical license. Following a hearing before the Board on February 23, 2005, the Board concluded that Dr. Parks violated Iowa law when he was disciplined by the licensing authorities of three states and when he failed to complete/verify the required CME for his Iowa medical license. The Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Park's Iowa medical license and he must obtain unrestricted licenses in all three states where he has been disciplined, pay a \$1,000 fine, complete forty (40) additional hours of CME in orthopedic surgery and complete a comprehensive competency evaluation before the Board will consider reinstatement of his Iowa medical license.

Babubhali P. Patel, M.D., a 54 year-old physician formerly practicing medicine in Chicago, Illinois, had formal disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. The Board charged Dr. Patel with being disciplined in Illinois. On June 30, 1999, the Illinois Medical Board filed charges against Dr. Patel's medical license alleging that Dr. Patel engaged in inappropriate sexual misconduct with at least six female patients between 1996 and 1998, including unwanted sexual contact with patients and offering patients money so that they would not report the misconduct. The Illinois Board also alleged that Dr. Patel performed unnecessary rectal/pelvic examinations on at least fifteen female patients between 1996 and 1998. Dr. Patel subsequently entered into an Agreement of Care, Counseling and Treatment with the Illinois Board which established monitoring requirements for Dr. Patel for sexual misconduct. On February 8, 2005, the Illinois Board filed charges against Dr. Patel for violating the terms of the Agreement of Care, Counseling and Treatment. Dr. Patel was also charged with entering into a settlement agreement with the United States Attorneys Office following allegations that Dr. Patel inappropriately issued numerous controlled substance prescriptions after he had surrendered of his DEA registration. The Illinois Board immediately suspended Dr. Patel's Illinois medical license after concluding that he was an immediate danger to the public. A disciplinary hearing is scheduled in this matter on May 18, 2005.

Steven D. Ringel, M.D., a 31 year-old physician from Overland Park, Kansas, voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license. On December 13, 2004, Dr. Ringel voluntarily surrendered his Kansas medical license following allegations that he inappropriately prescribed controlled substances to numerous individuals on numerous occasions for inappropriate use.