

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(April 9, 2009)

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

Joseph F. Karre, D.O., a 40 year-old physician who formerly practiced emergency medicine in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. On July 24, 2008, the Board ordered Dr. Karre to complete a comprehensive competency evaluation at a Board-approved physician competency assessment program and the program recommended that Dr. Karre complete a supervised educational program. Under the terms of the April 2, 2009, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board charged Dr. Karre with failing to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable practice of medicine and he was placed on probation for a period of three years subject to a supervised educational program and other monitoring requirements and he received a public reprimand.

Daniel R. Kensinger, M.D., a 33 year-old orthopedic surgeon who practices in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. Under the terms of the April 2, 2009, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board charged Dr. Kensinger with failing to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable practice of medicine when he performed wrong site surgery on a patient. The Board issued Dr. Kensinger a public reprimand, ordered him to pay a \$2,500 fine and required him to submit a corrective action plan describing the steps he has taken to avoid unnecessary wrong site surgery in the future.

Tamyra L. Mouginis, M.D., a 53 year-old physician who formerly practiced anesthesiology in Waterloo, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board. On June 18, 2008, Dr. Mouginis was charged with marijuana possession. On November 13, 2008, the Board charged Dr. Mouginis with substance abuse. Under the terms of the April 2, 2009, Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Mouginis a public reprimand and she is prohibited from practicing medicine under her Iowa medical license until she receives written approval from the Board. Upon her return to practice, Dr. Mouginis will be placed on probation for a period of five years subject to substance abuse counseling and Board monitoring and she will be required to pay a \$2,500 fine.

James S. Ross, M.D., a 55 year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced medicine in Clarksville, Virginia, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board. On January 17, 2007, Dr. Ross was charged criminally in Virginia with unlawfully distributing OxyContin, a controlled substance, without a legitimate medical purpose in violation of Virginia law. On April 13, 2007, Dr. Ross pleaded guilty to one count of Illegally Distributing a Schedule III Controlled Substance. On July 5, 2007, Dr. Ross surrendered his Virginia medical license. On December 18, 2008, the Board charged Dr. Ross for being disciplined by the Virginia Medical Board, engaging in unprofessional conduct and being convicted of a felony. On April 2, 2009, Dr. Ross voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license.

Paul J. Samo, M.D., a 42 year-old Iowa-licensed psychiatrist who formerly practiced in Grundy Center, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board. On December 10, 2008, the Wisconsin Medical Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Samo's Wisconsin medical license due to concerns about his health and for engaging in unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine. On February 12, 2009, the Board charged Dr. Samo for being disciplined by the Wisconsin Medical Board, suffering from a health condition which impairs his ability to practice medicine and engaging in unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine. Under the terms of the April 2, 2009, Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Samo a public reprimand and he is prohibited from practicing of medicine under his Iowa medical license until he receives written approval from the Board. Prior to returning to the practice of medicine, Dr. Samo must complete a comprehensive physical, neuropsychological and mental health evaluation at a Board-approved program. Upon his return to practice, Dr. Samo will be placed on indefinite probation subject to counseling and Board monitoring and he will be required to pay a \$2,500 fine.

Stephen E. Sparks, M.D., a 54 year-old physician who practices family medicine in Bloomfield, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Board. On April 17, 1986, the Board charged Dr. Sparks with substance abuse and he was placed on probation for a period of five years subject to substance abuse counseling and Board monitoring on March 10, 1987. On February 6, 2003, the Board again charged Dr. Sparks with substance abuse and he was placed on probation for a period of five years subject to substance abuse counseling and Board monitoring on April 25, 2003. On April 2, 2009, the Board charged Dr. Sparks with engaging in a pattern of unprofessional conduct and sexual misconduct in the practice of medicine alleging that he made inappropriate sexual comments to female co-workers and patients; engaged in a pattern of sexual harassment; engaged in a pattern of inappropriate sexual conduct; inappropriately engaged in sexual relationships with one or more patients; and intentionally harmed one or more patients while providing medical care. A hearing has been scheduled on May 6, 2009.