

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(February 14, 2012)

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:

[James M. Craig, M.D.](#), a 66-year-old physician who currently practices general medicine in Red Cloud, Nebraska, entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board and was granted a permanent Iowa medical license on January 26, 2012. On January 20, 2010, the Missouri Board of Healing Arts issued Dr. Craig a public reprimand for entering into an inappropriate collaborative practice arrangement with a nurse who was located over 400 miles away in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Missouri. The Board issued Dr. Craig a Citation and Warning due to the public reprimand in Missouri.

[Richard M. Fleming, M.D.](#), a 55-year-old Iowa-licensed cardiologist from Reno, Nevada, had formal disciplinary action taken against him on February 9, 2012. On January 18, 2007, Dr. Fleming was indicted in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska on ten (10) counts of health care fraud, two (2) counts of wire fraud and one (1) count of mail fraud. The criminal charges alleged that Dr. Fleming submitted false claims for services to Medicare, Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and committed wire and mail fraud when he attempted to obtain money by means of false representations via e-mail and via a commercial interstate carrier. On August 21, 2009, Dr. Fleming pleaded guilty to one count each of health care fraud and mail fraud. Dr. Fleming was placed on probation for a period of five years, placed under home confinement for a period of six (6) months, ordered to complete 150 hours of community service and ordered to pay \$107,244.24 in restitution. Effective May 11, 2009, Dr. Fleming was permanently excluded from participation in all Federal health care programs. On February 4, 2010, the Board charged Dr. Fleming with being convicted of a felony related to the practice of medicine and engaging in unethical or unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine. A hearing was held before the Board on August 26, 2011. On February 9, 2012, the Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order. The Board concluded that the preponderance of the evidence established that Dr. Fleming violated laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he was convicted of crimes that were related to and arose out of his medical practice and that he engaged in unethical or unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine. The Board issued Dr. Fleming a Citation and Warning; ordered him to pay a \$10,000 fine; and order him to complete a Board-approved professional ethics program and a Board-approved billing course. The Board also placed Dr. Fleming on probation subject to Board monitoring for a period of five years.

[Anjali K. Gupta, M.D.](#), a 44-year-old physician who formerly practiced radiation oncology in Iowa City and Sioux City, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 9, 2012. On February 11, 2011, the Board charged Dr. Gupta with alcohol abuse, violating the terms established by the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP), and altering a report prepared by the IPHP. Dr. Gupta was placed on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring. On November 18, 2011, the Board charged Dr. Gupta with repeatedly violating the Board's drug screening program. Under the terms of the February 9, 2012, Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Gupta a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$7,500 fine. The Board also required Dr. Gupta to practice in a Board-approved practice location under her Iowa medical license and placed her on indefinite probation subject to Board monitoring.

Jeffery M. Jauron, D.O., a 35-year-old physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Davenport, Iowa, and currently practices in Rock Island, Illinois, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him on February 9, 2012. The Board charged Dr. Jauron with engaging in sexual misconduct and being disciplined by another licensing authority in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. The Board alleges that Dr. Jauron engaged in a sexual act with a female patient in Moline, Illinois, in October 2008. On April 20, 2011, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Division of Professional Regulation suspended Dr. Jauron's Illinois medical license for period of at least three years. A hearing has been scheduled on April 5, 2012.

Pradeep Sarswat, M.D., a 62-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced internal medicine in Oakdale, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 9, 2012. On July 20, 1989, the Board placed Dr. Sarswat on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring for substance abuse. On April 9, 1990, the Board suspended Dr. Sarswat's Iowa medical license for thirty days for substance abuse and placed him on probation for a period of five years. On May 22, 1995, Dr. Sarswat completed the period of probation. On March 12, 1992, the Board charged Dr. Sarswat with committing sexually suggestive acts with three female patients between May, 1985 and September 1991. On July 1, 1993, following a hearing before the Board, the Board placed Dr. Sarswat on probation for a period of five years. On June 4, 1998, Dr. Sarswat completed the period of probation. On April 4, 2002, the Board suspended Dr. Sarswat's Iowa medical license for sixty days for drug abuse and placed him on probation for a period of five years. On March 6, 2003, the Board suspended Dr. Sarswat's Iowa medical license for 180 days for drug abuse, placed him on indefinite probation subject to Board monitoring and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine. On January 1, 2010, the Board terminated the terms of probation. Under the terms of the February 9, 2012, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board charged Dr. Sarswat with engaging in the sexual harassment of at least one subordinate female staff worker in Oakdale, Iowa. Dr. Sarswat surrendered his Iowa medical license to resolve this matter.

Vernon P. Varner, M.D., a 69-year-old physician who formerly practiced psychiatry in Iowa City, Carroll, and Des Moines, Iowa, had a request to reinstate his Iowa medical license denied by the Board on January 31, 2012. On March 4, 1999, the Board charged Dr. Varner with failing to provide appropriate treatment to multiple psychiatric patients. On April 28, 2000, Dr. Varner completed a comprehensive clinical competency evaluation and the assessment program concluded that he demonstrated deficiencies. On June 28, 2001, Dr. Varner entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board and he was placed on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring. On August 1, 2005, the Board terminated the terms of probation. On September 3, 2010, Dr. Varner entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Varner with suffering from a physical, neurological or mental condition which may impair his ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety and suspended his Iowa medical license. Prior to seeking reinstatement, Dr. Varner was required to complete comprehensive neuropsychological testing and submit a report that indicates he is safe to practice medicine, establish a relationship with a Board-approved psychiatrist to monitor his use of psychotropic medications and submit a report that indicates he is safe to practice medicine, and establish a relationship with a Board-approved physician to provide his health care and submit a report that indicates he is safe to practice medicine. On May 24, 2011, Dr. Varner requested termination of the indefinite suspension of his Iowa medical license. A reinstatement hearing was held before the Board on December 15, 2011. On January 31, 2012, the Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order, denying Dr. Varner's request. The Board concluded that Dr. Varner failed to establish that he fully complied with the conditions for reinstatement and that he failed to establish that the reasons for the suspension of his license no longer exist and that it is in the public interest for his license to be reinstated.

Kimberly A. VerSteege, D.O., a 39-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices obstetrics and gynecology in Waverly and Waterloo, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against her by the Board on February 9, 2012. The Board alleges that Dr. VerSteege failed to provide appropriate treatment to ten patients in Waverly, Iowa, between August 2007 and May 2009, in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. Many of the patients suffered serious surgical complications. A hearing has been scheduled on August 16-17, 2012.

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.