

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(April 25, 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:

[Maria R. Doria, M.D.](#), a 45-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in La Crosse, Wisconsin, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 19, 2012. On May 2, 2011, Dr. Doria entered into a Public Consent Order with the Georgia Composite Medical Board (Georgia Board). The Georgia Board alleged that Dr. Doria failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of medicine in her treatment of a female pregnant patient. The Georgia Board prohibited Dr. Doria from practicing obstetrics and/or gynecology until she completed forty (40) hours of continuing medical education (CME) in the areas of obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Doria was also ordered to pay a \$7,500 fine. On November 16, 2011, the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board issued Dr. Doria a reprimand and ordered her to pay costs in the amount of \$1,000. The Iowa Board charged Dr. Doria with being disciplined in Georgia and Wisconsin. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board issued Dr. Doria a public reprimand and ordered her to pay a \$1,000 fine.

[Robert E. Garrett, M.D.](#), a 62-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices general medicine in Iowa City, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 19, 2012. The Board charged Dr. Garrett with prescribing excessive controlled substances to multiple patients in Iowa City, Iowa, in 2010 and 2011. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Garrett a public reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine. The Board also prohibited Dr. Garrett from prescribing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain and placed him on probation subject to Board monitoring for a period of five years.

[Gary E. Lawrence, M.D.](#), a 68-year-old physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Ackley, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 19, 2012. On January 13, 2012, the Board charged Dr. Lawrence with engaging in a sexual relationship with a female patient in 1993 and another female patient in 2010. The Board also alleged that Dr. Lawrence inappropriately prescribed controlled substances to the second female patient without maintaining appropriate medical records, performed an inappropriate physical examination on another female patient and made inappropriate sexual comments and sexual advances toward another female who was not a patient. Finally, the Board alleged that Dr. Lawrence failed to comply with a Board investigation and/or a Board subpoena in a timely manner. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Lawrence surrendered his Iowa medical license, received a public reprimand and paid a \$7,500 fine.

[Beth Lori Liebowitz, M.D.](#), a 50 year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices obstetrics and gynecology in Knoxville, Iowa, had a Consent Order vacated by the Board on April 19, 2012. On October 7, 2009, the Board granted Dr. Liebowitz a permanent Iowa medical license subject to a Consent Agreement in which Dr. Liebowitz agreed not to perform laparoscopic hysterectomies. On June 30, 2011, the Board issued a Termination Order removing the restriction on laparoscopic hysterectomies. On April 19, 2012, the Board concluded that a single professional liability suit alleging a surgical complication following a laparoscopic vaginal hysterectomy was an insufficient basis for the voluntary restriction placed on Dr. Liebowitz' Iowa medical license and the Board voted to vacate the October 7, 2009, Consent Agreement.

Heather M. Marthers, M.D., a 47-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices obstetrics and gynecology in Washington, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 19, 2012. The Board charged Dr. Marthers with failing to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of medicine in Iowa. The Board alleged that four patients suffered urologic injuries during three hysterectomies and a trans-obturator sling procedure performed by Dr. Marthers between January 2007 and March 2008 and that she inappropriately prescribed a medication to two patients in September 2007 and March 2008, respectively. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Marthers a public reprimand and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 fine. The Board also placed Dr. Marthers on probation subject to Board monitoring for a period of five years.

Kent F. Metcalf, D.O., a 41-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 19, 2012. The Board charged Dr. Metcalf with failing to provide appropriate obstetrical care to a female patient in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in December 2007. The Board alleged that Dr. Metcalf failed to go to the hospital to examine the patient in a timely manner and failed to timely diagnose and manage the patient's pre-term labor. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Metcalf a public reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 fine. Dr. Metcalf also agreed to complete a Board-approved education program for advanced obstetrical care for family practice physicians and submit a written corrective action plan which describes what he has learned from this case and the steps he has taken to avoid similar concerns in the future.

Delynne M. Murphy, D.O., a 43-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices internal medicine in Bradenton, Florida, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 19, 2012. The Board charged Dr. Murphy with inappropriately prescribing medications, including controlled substances, to a family friend in West Des Moines, Iowa, in April 2011, without establishing an appropriate physician-patient relationship and without maintaining appropriate medical records. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Murphy a public reprimand and ordered her to pay a \$2,500 fine and complete a Board-approved professional ethics program.

James J. Pullen, M.D., a 66-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced child and adolescent psychiatry in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 19, 2012. The Board charged Dr. Pullen with engaging in sexual misconduct when he engaged in a sexual relationship with a former female psychiatric patient between 2007 and 2010. The former female patient was in her late 20s when the inappropriate relationship began. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Pullen surrendered his Iowa medical license, received a public reprimand and agreed to pay a \$10,000 fine.

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.