

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(April 14, 2016)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: Please click on the person's name to access a link to a copy of the public documents for these physicians.

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

Steven P. Breaux, M.D., a 58-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices obstetrics and gynecology in Clinton, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 8, 2016. On January 11, 2013, the Board charged Dr. Breaux with violating the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. The Board alleged that Dr. Breaux provided prenatal care to at least one patient in Clinton in 2011, without properly informing the patient that he did not have hospital delivery privileges, failed to make appropriate arrangements with other providers to deliver the baby and failed to timely transfer the prenatal records to the hospital where the baby was delivered. The Board also alleged that he failed to disclose the loss of his hospital privileges at Mercy Medical Center in Clinton on February 2, 2011, on the application for renewal of his Iowa medical license dated December 1, 2011. Under the terms of the April 8, 2016, Settlement Agreement the Board issued Dr. Breaux a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and establish appropriate prenatal care protocol to ensure that he provides proper notice to patients that he does not have hospital delivery privileges, establish formal arrangements with other providers to deliver babies, and timely transfers prenatal records to the hospital where the babies are delivered.

Heather M. Marthers, M.D., a 51-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices obstetrics and gynecology in Washington, Iowa, had the terms of her probation terminated by the Board on April 8, 2016. Dr. Marthers 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 after four patients suffered urologic injuries during three hysterectomies and a trans-obturator sling procedure and when she inappropriately prescribed Detrol LA to two patients with postoperative urinary retention, in Washington between January 2007 and March 2008. The Board issued Dr. Marthers a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty. The Board also placed Dr. Marthers on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring, including a Board-approved practice monitor. On April 8, 2016, the Board determined that Dr. Marthers has fully complied with the terms established by the Board and voted to terminate the terms of her probation and her Iowa medical license was returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

John T. Meredith, M.D., a 67-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced pathology in Lexington, Kentucky, had formal disciplinary charges dismissed by the Board on April 8, 2016. On August 28, 2012, Dr. Meredith voluntarily surrendered his Kentucky medical license due to a mental health condition. On October 25, 2013, the Iowa Board charged him with entering into a voluntary agreement to restrict the practice of medicine in another state in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. Dr. Meredith's Iowa medical license has been inactive due to nonrenewal on April 1, 2011. Effective April 1, 2016, Dr. Meredith relinquished his Iowa medical license because he failed to renew or reinstate his Iowa medical license within five years after its expiration. Therefore, Dr. Meredith no longer holds an Iowa medical license and the Board dismissed the pending disciplinary charges.

[Kent D. Miller, D.O.](#), a 64-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices internal medicine in Waterloo, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Board on April 8, 2016. The Board alleged that Dr. Miller violated the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate pain management to multiple patients in Waterloo between 2008 and 2014. The Board also alleged that Dr. Miller: failed to provide and/or document appropriate evaluation and treatment of a patient who was diagnosed with chronic myelomonocytic leukemia; failed to provide and/or document appropriate evaluation and treatment of a patient who presented with a history of a fever up to 104 degrees for five days; failed to provide and/or document appropriate evaluation and treatment of two patients with chronic alcoholism who required hospitalization or rehabilitation and received opioids, zolpidem and benzodiazepines; failed to perform and/or document appropriate evaluations, decisions for imaging studies and follow-up arrangements for patients with chronic health conditions and inappropriately included derogatory and unprofessional criticisms of other physicians in his clinical notes. A hearing is scheduled on June 16, 2016.

[Salahuddin Syed, M.D.](#), a 48-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices anatomic and clinical pathology in Marshalltown, Iowa, had a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order issued by the Board on April 8, 2016. On July 10, 2015, the Board charged Dr. Syed with demonstrating professional incompetency and/or practice harmful or detrimental to the public in violation the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate pathological services to at least nine patients in Marshalltown, Iowa. The Board alleged that Dr. Syed ordered unnecessary pathology stains which were not indicated and misdiagnosed cancerous conditions for multiple patients. A hearing was held on January 21-22, 2016. Under the terms of the April 8, 2016, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order, the Board concluded that the preponderance of evidence established that Dr. Syed demonstrated professional incompetency and engaged in practice harmful or detrimental to the public when he: misdiagnosed a well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma in vulvar tissue as a keratoacanthoma in a single patient and when he failed to seek consultations in cases of suspected melanoma. The Board concluded that the evidence presented regarding Dr. Syed's use of special stains does not demonstrate professional incompetency or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. The Board issued Dr. Syed a Citation and Warning for engaging in professional incompetence and practice harmful and detrimental to the public in his pathology practice. The Board ordered Dr. Syed to arrange for continuing audits of 5 percent of his cases by an outside pathology laboratory approved by the Board and the auditing entity shall submit a report of its audit findings to the Board on a quarterly basis. The Board also ordered Dr. Syed to obtain consultation with a Board-approved, board-certified Dermatopathologist prior to issuing any pathology report for any cases of suspected melanoma. Finally, the Board ordered Dr. Syed to submit a professional paper discussing the diagnostic criteria for well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma and keratoacanthoma in vulvar tissue to the Board for approval.

[Michael J. Taylor, M.D.](#), a 70-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced clinical psychiatry in Cumming, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 8, 2016. The Board charged Dr. Taylor with failing to maintain appropriate medical records for several patients between 2009 and 2015. Dr. Taylor indicated he semi-retired from the clinical practice of psychiatry in June 2009 and he permanently retired on October 1, 2015. Under the terms of the April 8, 2016, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement Dr. Taylor voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license and agreed to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty.

When appropriate, disciplinary actions are reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, an electronic repository administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to track adverse license actions.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: Consumers can submit complaints against physicians by clicking [HERE](#), visiting the Board's Website at www.medicalboard.iowa.gov, calling (515) 281-5847, or mail to 400 SW 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309.