

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION

BOSTON: At its meeting yesterday, the State Board of Registration in Medicine took disciplinary action against the medical licenses of five physicians: Philemon Marvell, M.D., Joy G. Harrison, M.D., Jacob Lokich, M.D., Wagdy F. Aziz, M.D., and Sidney Johnson, M.D.

The Board indefinitely suspended the license of Dr. Philemon Marvell. Dr. Marvell is a 1976 graduate of the University of Bordeaux Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy in France, and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1977. He is board certified in family practice. In July 2004 Dr. Marvell entered into a Consent Order with the Rhode Island medical board in which he admitted that he engaged in a sexual relationship with a patient under his care, and agreed to surrender his license to practice medicine in Rhode Island. In September 2004 Dr. Marvell entered into a voluntary agreement with the Massachusetts Board not to practice medicine. He may petition the Board for a stay of the suspension after one year, although the Board retains the discretion to deny such a petition.

In another matter, the Board reprimanded Dr. Joy G. Harrison and fined her \$1,500. Dr. Harrison is a 1981 graduate of the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia. She has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1985 and specializes in emergency medicine. In 2003 and 2004 Dr. Harrison prescribed Vicodin, a Class III controlled substance, to an employee of St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River without performing a physical examination, without making entries in the patient's medical record and without indicating in the prescriptions that no refills were permitted. In addition to the reprimand and fine, the Board also required Dr. Harrison to complete thirty hours of Continuing Medical Education credits in the area of assessment of clinical symptoms, administering controlled substances and the importance of documentation.

With respect to Dr. Jacob Lokich, the Board found that between December 2003 and January 2004 an independent evaluator determined that Dr. Lokich had a personality disorder that impaired his ability to engage in conflict resolution with colleagues. Today the Board approved a Consent Order and Probation Agreement with Dr. Lokich for a period of five years, the provisions of which require him to enter into a Behavioral Health Monitoring Contract with the Physician Health Services (PHS) of the Massachusetts

Medical Society, participate in psychotherapy and have a work-site monitor. Dr. Lokich is a 1964 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1969. He is board certified in internal medicine.

The Board also accepted Dr. Wagdy F. Aziz's resignation of his license to practice medicine. Dr. Aziz's resignation is a disciplinary action reportable to the national practitioner database. His resignation permanently removes him from the practice of medicine, and came during an investigation into allegations that he had engaged in sexual relations with a patient.

The Board retroactively revoked the limited license to practice medicine of Dr. Sidney Johnson. Dr. Johnson is a 1996 graduate of the University of Utah School of Medicine and is a board-certified surgeon. He was granted an initial limited license in Massachusetts in June 1999. Dr. Johnson's limited license was renewed in February 2002 and expired in July 2004. He is also licensed to practice medicine in Utah. In May 2002 the Utah medical board found that Dr. Johnson had diverted waste opiates for his own use. In July 2002 Dr. Johnson entered into a Chemical Dependency Monitoring Contract with the PHS requiring him to submit to random urine screens. On April 21, 2004 Dr. Johnson entered into a voluntary agreement with the Massachusetts Board not to practice medicine, after testing positive for Fentanyl on April 15. He entered into a Chemical Dependency Monitoring Contract on April 26, 2004 and has been in compliance since then.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine licenses more than 30,000 physicians, osteopaths and acupuncturists. The Board was created in 1894 to protect the public health and safety by setting standards for the practice of medicine and ensuring that doctors who practice in the Commonwealth are appropriately qualified and competent. The Board investigates complaints, holds hearings and determines sanctions. More information about the Board is available at www.massmedboard.org.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Copies of orders issued by the Board are available by calling the Public Information Coordinator at (617) 654-9831.

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