

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CONTACT FOR COMMENTS:
Russell Aims, Special Assistant
(617) 654-9867

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 nine physicians. They are: Mark A. Scanzillo, M.D., Robert M. Caulkins, M.D., Sujata Maddineni, M.D., Milton Clay Vaughan, M.D., Erick F. Gonzalez, M.D., Arthur Palladino, Jr., M.D., Thalia Joy Smith, M.D., Brent Pimentel, M.D. and Juliette Tuakli-Wiliams, M.D.

The Board summarily suspended the license of Dr. Mark A. Scanzillo, a board-certified anesthesiologist of Marshfield, following his conviction on October 12, 2004 in Plymouth Superior Court on two counts of rape and one count of indecent assault and battery on a person 14 years or older. He graduated from Boston University School of Medicine in 1991, and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1992. He has privileges at Cape Cod Hospital.

The Board revoked the license of Dr. Robert M. Caulkins, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon from Shrewsbury. Dr. Caulkins is a 1984 graduate of Albany Medical School of Union University and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1990. He was affiliated with Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center from November 2002 until March 2004.

The Board initially suspended Dr. Caulkins' license in 2001 for practicing while impaired by alcohol, criminal convictions and license fraud. That suspension was stayed in 2002 following a sustained period of sobriety and his entering into a probation agreement. On March 1, 2004, Dr. Caulkins arrived at St. Elizabeth's for a scheduled surgery. Nursing staff suspected that he was impaired. St. Elizabeth's immediately suspended his hospital privileges. On March 9th, Dr. Caulkins entered into a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice with the Board. On March 24, the Board re-imposed the suspension of his license. Yesterday, the Board revoked Dr. Caulkins' license to practice medicine.

In another matter, the Board indefinitely suspended the license of Dr. Sujata Maddineni of Waltham, a physician who is board-certified in internal medicine, for practicing while impaired at Waltham Hospital. Dr. Maddineni is a 1985 graduate of the Jabalpur University Medical College in India. She has been licensed in Massachusetts since 1994, but is not currently practicing medicine. The Board initially suspended Dr. Maddineni's

license in 1999 for practicing while impaired by alcohol. That suspension was stayed in 2001 and she returned to the practice of medicine in September 2002, following her entry into a probation agreement that included a chemical dependency monitoring contract and proof of a sustained period of sobriety. In March 2003, the Board again suspended her license for violating her probation agreement.

The Board accepted the resignation of Dr. Arthur Palladino, a board-certified psychiatrist of Amherst after finding that he engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a patient and improperly supplied her with prescription medication. Dr. Palladino is a 1976 graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He is a solo practitioner who had privileges at the Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. The Board had previously summarily suspended Dr. Palladino on August 6, 2003. The resignation is a disciplinary action.

The Board also accepted the resignations of Dr. Milton Clay Vaughan, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, and Dr. Erick Gonzalez, a board-certified pathologist. The resignations are disciplinary actions by the Board that permanently remove these physicians from the practice of medicine in Massachusetts. They are not subject to reconsideration or judicial review. In both instances, the resignations were prompted by discipline by another state medical board. Neither Dr. Vaughan nor Dr. Gonzalez currently practice medicine in Massachusetts. Dr. Murphy resides in North Dakota, Dr. Gonzalez in Florida.

In another case involving out of state discipline, the Board entered into a probation agreement with Dr. Thalia Joy Smith, a physician who is board-certified in internal medicine, for having provided inappropriate treatment to two patients in New York. Dr. Smith is a graduate of the School of Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook and was licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts from 1994 to 1999. Subsequently, she allowed her Massachusetts license to lapse. Her probation agreement with the Board provides that Dr. Smith will not practice medicine in Massachusetts without prior approval of the Board.

The Board reprimanded Dr. Brent Pimentel of Boston, a board-certified family practitioner, for improperly prescribing medication while working at the Manet Community Health Center in Quincy in 2003. Dr. Pimentel is a graduate of the University of Texas Medical School and has been licensed in Massachusetts since 2000. When a patient's health insurance would not pay for the total amount of prescribed pain medication, Dr. Pimentel improperly wrote a prescription for the patient's mother to make up the difference. Dr. Pimentel is not presently practicing medicine and has no hospital privileges.

The Board reprimanded and imposed a \$2500 fine against Juliette Tuakli-Williams, a physician who formerly practiced in Roslindale but currently resides in Africa, for failing to provide medical records to three former patients and failure to respond to Board correspondence. Dr. Tuakli-Williams was initially licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts in 1982 and maintained a solo practice at Maternal and Child Health Care Advocates in Roslindale until early 2002. Her Massachusetts license is presently inactive.

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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.

