

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION

BOSTON: At its meeting today the state Board of Registration in Medicine took disciplinary action against the medical licenses of Douglas Howard, M.D., Karen Kagey, M.D., William Houghton, M.D., Robert Trump, M.D., Timothy K. Vartanian, M.D., Gregory Russell, M.D., and Ralph M. Peace, Jr., M.D.

On January 28, 2005 Dr. Douglas Howard was arrested by Massachusetts State Police and charged with numerous narcotics related offenses. On February 2, 2005 Dr. Howard entered into a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice. He subsequently pled guilty to various narcotics related offenses and was sentenced to the House of Correction and then home confinement. The Board today revoked Dr. Howard's license to practice. He may petition the Board for reinstatement in 2010, but the decision to grant reinstatement rests solely with the Board. Dr. Howard is a 1974 graduate of George Washington University School of Medicine. He is board certified in orthopedic surgery and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1979.

The board revoked the license of Dr. Karen Kagey. She was found to have engaged in improper economic activities with patients, and allowed the line between a professional relationship and a personal relationship to blur. This caused harm to two of her patients. The license revocation will be effective in 30 days, to allow for an orderly transfer of Dr. Kagey's patients to other physicians. Dr. Kagey is a 1960 graduate of New York University School of Medicine. She has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1967, and specializes in addiction medicine and the treatment of patients with affective disorders.

The Board accepted the resignation of Dr. William A. Houghton's license to practice medicine. Resignation is a disciplinary action that permanently removes an individual from the practice of medicine. In January 2005 the Board summarily suspended Dr. Houghton's license after he was arraigned on charges of Indecent Assault & Battery and Rape. Dr. Houghton is a 1989 graduate of the University of Massachusetts. He is board certified in Family Practice and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1992.

In another matter, the Board suspended the license of Dr. Robert Trump. The Board found that Dr. Trump made inappropriate and unwelcome remarks to co-workers, and a former Board staff member. In August 2004 Dr. Trump entered into a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice. Today the board suspended Dr. Trump's license retroactive to that time and provided for a stay of the suspension upon Dr. Trump's successful completion of a sexual harassment awareness training program. Dr. Trump is a 1974 graduate of the State University of New York College of Medicine, Upstate. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1980.

The Board reprimanded Dr. Timothy K. Vartanian, and fined him \$5,000. The Board found that Dr. Vartanian had been disciplined by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for one case involving adequate physician/patient boundaries, and for failing to adequately document patient progress. The Board found that Dr. Vartanian engaged in conduct that undermines the public's confidence in the practice of medicine. He was reprimanded and fined \$5,000. Dr. Vartanian is a 1988 graduate of the Pritzker School of Medicine. He is board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1990.

In the matter of Dr. Gregory Russell, the Board reprimanded him for committing malpractice, specifically failing to administer proper medication to, and adequately monitor, a patient prior to and during a procedure. Dr. Russell is a 1992 graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and has been licensed in Massachusetts since 1996.

In a final matter, the Board found that Dr. Ralph M. Peace, Jr. failed to maintain professional liability insurance. The Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Peace's license, and immediately stayed the suspension upon proof that Dr. Peace has current malpractice insurance coverage.

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 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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