

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 action against the medical licenses of Jamie Estes-McDonald, M.D., Thomas A. Mikolinnas, M.D., Kenneth E. Smith, M.D., William J. Flanagan, M.D., Kingsley Chin, M.D., Caroline Apovian, M.D. and William Monafio, M.D.

The Board revoked the medical license of Dr. Jamie Este-McDonald. In June 2004, the Board disciplined Dr. Este-McDonald for failing to respond to Board requests, and he was reprimanded and fined \$5,000. In October 2004, a complaint against Dr. Este-McDonald was docketed, and he was requested to respond to the complaint. Despite repeated attempts by the Board to contact Dr. Este-McDonald, he did not respond until May 2005. In August 2005, the Board issued a Statement of Allegations against Dr. Este-McDonald. He subsequently failed to appear at a hearing before the Division of Administrative Law Appeals (DALA) and, as a consequence defaulted. Dr. Este-McDonald is a 1990 graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. He is a board certified general surgeon, and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1993.

Dr. Thomas A. Mikolinnas' license to practice medicine expired in December 2004. The Board found that he continued to practice medicine, specifically by prescribing several Schedule II controlled substances, until February 2005. He subsequently sought to renew his license, but failed to comply with Board requirements for renewal. In August 2005, the Board issued a Statement of Allegations against Dr. Mikolinnas, which he never answered. DALA notifications to him were returned as undeliverable, and DALA ordered he be defaulted. Today, the Board revoked Dr. Mikolinnas' statutory right to renew his license. Dr. Mikolinnas is a 1987 graduate of the Hahnemann University School of Medicine. He is a board certified neurologist and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1992.

The Board suspended Dr. Kenneth E. Smith's statutory right to renew his license to practice medicine. In 2004, Dr. Smith was convicted of failing to file federal tax returns for three years and was incarcerated. Dr. Smith may petition to stay this suspension upon proof he has passed a clinical competency examination approved by the Board, but the decision to grant a stay remains in the Board's discretion. Dr. Smith is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. He is a 1970 graduate of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1983.

In the matter of Dr. William J. Flanagan, in 2001 the Board found that Dr. Flanagan had continued to practice medicine after his license expired. At that time, he entered into an Assurance of Discontinuance (AOD) with the Board whereby he agreed to keep his license current, was admonished by the Board, and

was required to pay a \$1,500 fine and to complete 10 continuing medical education credits (CMEs) in the area of office management skills. Dr. Flanagan paid the fine, but never completed the CMEs, and subsequently failed to respond to repeated requests for information by the Board. In today's action, the Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Flanagan's license to practice. He may petition the Board for a stay of the suspension upon his entry into a Probation Agreement. Dr. Flanagan is a 1978 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is board certified in internal medicine, and has practiced in Massachusetts since 1981.

The Board found that Dr. Kingsley Chin fraudulently obtained his license to practice medicine in that he did not disclose on either his Limited License renewal application, or his application for Full License, that he had been disciplined by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). Dr. Chin further committed fraud by failing to disclose on his license renewal application in 2004 that he had been disciplined by the Florida Board of Medicine for failing to disclose the BIDMC discipline. The Board reprimanded Dr. Chin and fined him \$7,500. Dr. Chin is a 1996 graduate of Harvard Medical School and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 2001. He is a board certified orthopedic surgeon, and is also licensed in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida.

Dr. Caroline M. Apovian was reprimanded and fined \$5,000. The Board found that she permitted a research assistant, who is not licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts, to participate in patient care, specifically insertion of nasojejunal feeding tubes. Dr. Apovian is board certified in internal medicine. She is a 1985 graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1988.

In a final matter, the Board accepted Dr. William Monafó's resignation of his license to practice medicine. Resignation is a disciplinary action, and permanently removes a physician from the practice of medicine. Dr. Monafó is a 1987 graduate of Washington University School of Medicine. He is board certified in Pediatrics and Allergy & Immunology, and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1992.

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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