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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 Erol Onel, M.D., Rapin Osathanondh, M.D., Arturo Villareal-Verdecia, M.D., Leon Josephs, M.D. and Richard S. Goldman, M.D.

The Board revoked the license of Dr. Erol Onel. The Board found that, in November 2004, Dr. Onel admitted in Lawrence District Court that the Commonwealth had sufficient evidence, if proven, to find him guilty of one count of indecent assault and battery on an individual who was his patient. His case was continued without a finding for two years and he was placed on supervised probation. The Board also found that Dr. Onel had behaved inappropriately with another patient and two other individuals. Dr. Onel entered into a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice with the board in December 2004. Dr. Onel is a 1992 graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University. He specializes in Urology and Urological Surgery, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1999.

The Board accepted the resignation of Dr. Rapin Osathanondh's license to practice medicine. Resignation is a disciplinary action that permanently removes a physician from practice. Dr. Osathanondh is a 1967 graduate of the Faculty of Medicine, Mahidol University in Thailand. He is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1974.

In another matter, the Board indefinitely suspended the license to practice medicine of Dr. Leon Josephs. The Board found that Dr. Josephs provided substandard care to three patients. Dr. Joseph's suspension may be stayed upon his entry into a Probation Agreement that provides that he will no longer perform laparoscopic procedures and that he will be supervised by a Board approved clinical monitor and undergo random chart review for five years. Dr. Josephs is a 1984

graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. He is a board certified surgeon and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1986.

The Board also indefinitely suspended the license of Dr. Arturo Villareal-Verdecia. The Board found that Dr. Villareal-Verdecia failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with a patient and engaged in inappropriate conversations with co-workers. The suspension was immediately stayed upon Dr. Villareal-Verdecia's entry into a Probation Agreement requiring him to use a Board-approved chaperone for all examinations of female patients and to complete a course concerning the doctor/patient relationship and communication skills. Dr. Villareal-Verdecia is a 1986 graduate of the Superior Institute of Medical Sciences of Havana, Cuba. He specializes in Internal Medicine and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 2000.

In the matter of Dr. Richard S. Goldman, the Board found that Dr. Goldman failed maintain a patient medical record for seven years after the last contact, as required by Board regulations. He also was found to have provided false information on his written application for license renewal, specifically, that his board certification was still current when, in fact, it had lapsed. Today the Board reprimanded Dr. Goldman and fined him \$5,000. Dr. Goldman is a 1984 graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. He specializes in Internal Medicine and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1986.

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](http://www.massmedboard.org).

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Copies of orders issued by the Board are available at (617) 654-9867, and in .pdf form on the Board's website at <http://www.massmedboard.org/public/discipline.shtm>.

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