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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 license of Elizabeth Darr, M.D., Donald R. McGee, M.D., Robert P. Wespiser, M.D., Peppino Butera, M.D., Renato C. Mendoza, M.D. and Jonathan T. Fogel, M.D.

The Board permanently restricted the medical license of Dr. Elizabeth Darr. Dr. Darr was found to have provided substandard care to patients, and will be restricted from rendering care to high-risk patients and patients during labor and delivery, and from performing most surgical procedures. Dr. Darr is a 1990 graduate of Tulane University School of Medicine. She is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 2002.

In the matter of Dr. Donald McGee, the Board indefinitely suspended his right to renew his license to practice, which expired in 2007. The Board found that Dr. McGee had been disciplined by the New Hampshire Board of Medicine for hiring an inexperienced staff member to assist in his practice, and for having engaged in an inappropriate social relationship with a patient who he was treating for substance use. Dr. McGee was also charged in New Hampshire for driving under the influence. Dr. McGee may petition the Board for a stay of the suspension and for renewal of his license upon showing three years of documented sobriety and entry into a 5-year Probation Agreement. Dr. McGee is a 1979 graduate of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Western Ontario. He practices general medicine and was first licensed in Massachusetts in 1987.

Dr. Robert Wespiser's license to practice medicine was indefinitely suspended by the Board. He was found to have unlawfully prescribed and obtained controlled substances for his own use. The suspension was immediately stayed upon Dr. Wespiser entering into a Probation Agreement and documentation of continuous abstinence from chemical substances for the past 18 months. The Probation Agreement provides for monitoring of Dr. Wespiser until 2011. Dr.

Wespiser is a 1983 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1986.

In another matter, the Board reprimanded Dr. Peppino Butera. The Board found that Dr. Butera failed to meet the standard of care while treating two patients several years ago. He took steps to remediate his practice, however, and completed a monitoring program. Dr. Butera is a 1986 graduate of the University of Pisa Faculty of Medicine. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1991.

The Board also reprimanded Dr. Renato Mendoza, finding that he prescribed controlled substances for a period of time in 2006 when he was aware that he did not have a valid federal DEA license to do so. He did have a Massachusetts controlled substances license, and the DEA subsequently granted him a license. Dr. Mendoza is a 1972 graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine in the Philippines. He specializes in Pediatrics and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 1976.

In a final action, the Board reprimanded Dr. Jonathan Fogel. He was found to have been disciplined by the Rhode Island Board for writing prescriptions for individuals based on an online questionnaire and when no doctor/patient relationship existed. Dr. Fogel is a 1997 graduate of Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine and has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts since 2000.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine licenses more than 32,000 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 Board orders are available at (781) 876-8267, and in .pdf form on the Board's website at <http://www.massmedboard.org/public/discipline.shtm>.

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