

VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE
Minutes of the October 4, 2023 Board Meeting
1311 US Route 302, Suite 200, Barre, VT 05641 and Remote via Teams

Unapproved

- **Call to Order; Call the Roll; Acknowledge Guests:**

Dr. Rick Hildebrant, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM

Members Present:

Rob Ciappenelli; Richard Clattenburg, MD; David Coddair, MD; Evan Eyler, MD; Gail Falk; Matthew Greenberg, MD; Rick Hildebrant, MD; Patricia Hunter; Suzanne Jones, PA-C; Leo LeCours; David Liebow, DPM; Christine Payne, MD; Dawn Philibert; Marga Sproul, MD; Margaret Tandoh, MD; Robert E. Tortolani, MD.

Others in Attendance:

David Herlihy, Executive Director; Scott Frennier, Investigator; Jane Malago, Operations Administrator; Justin Sheng, AAG; Megan Campbell, AAG; Kurt Kuehl, AAG; Bill Reynolds, AAG; Jessa Barnard; Colleen Magne; Nels Kloster, MD; John Valentine, MD.

- **Approval of the Minutes of the September 6, 2023, and September 20, 2023, Board Meetings:**

Dr. Liebow moved to accept the minutes of the September 6, 2023, and September 20, 2023, meetings. Dr. Sproul seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

- **Presentation of Applications:**

Applications for physician, physician assistant and limited temporary physician licensure were presented and acted upon as detailed in Appendix A, incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Dr. Hildebrant moved for the issuance of physician licenses and physician assistant licenses. (See Appendix A)

L. LeCours made a motion to accept all applicants for licensure as presented. Seconded by Dr. Coddair. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.

Dr. Hildebrant moved for the issuance of limited temporary licenses to practice medicine. (See Appendix A)

Dr. Greenberg made a motion to accept all applicants for licensure as presented. Seconded by Dr. Payne. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.

- **Board Issues (Dr. Hildebrant):**

- Dr. Hildebrant noted that Patricia Hunter's term as a member will be coming to an end, summarized some of her many accomplishments, and expressed thanks for the many years of service. D. Herlihy also offered thanks for the many contributions to the Board, and to the FSMB and USMLE as a valued participant and leader on many endeavors. D. Herlihy reminded the Board that P. Hunter began with the Board in 2012 and will serve until a replacement is appointed.

- **Administrative Updates (David Herlihy):**

- D. Herlihy shared that originally the intention was for an expert on artificial intelligence in the medical field was intended to speak at this meeting but arrangements could not be made in time for the meeting. D. Herlihy added that he intends to follow up with scheduling this presenter to come to a future meeting.
- D. Herlihy reminded Board members to submit their expense reports.
- D. Herlihy encouraged members to consider joining the Licensing Committee. Dr. Sproul is anticipated to finish their term with the Board soon, leaving only one MD member on the Licensing Committee. D. Herlihy noted that members might consider trying service on the Licensing Committee for a short period and that they need not make a long-term commitment.
- D. Herlihy shared that Board staff are continuing to work on a project to update the IT system that supports both licensing and investigation functions. D. Herlihy added that this process requires a great deal of time from Board staff, however the intention is to create a more user-friendly system for those using the system including licensees, applicants, and staff.

- D. Herlihy stated that the licensing process review is scheduled to continue with meetings of the ad hoc committee so that they can prepare recommendations for the full Board. The end goal is to meet the mandate in Act 4 of 2023 to make a report on the licensing process to the General Assembly by January 15th. The requirement is to provide responses about items specified in Act 4 along with making a general report about streamlining and “modernizing” the process.
 - D. Herlihy shared that there have been ongoing efforts to add a new full-time position to the Board staff. If approved, the plan is for the position to focus on support for licensing, but also provide some assistance with general administrative duties and investigative support. It was shared with the Board that there was an increase in the annual number of applicants of 236% in the period from 2016 to 2022 and that there was a 37% increase in the total number of licensees regulated by the Board. There are promising indications that the request for an additional position will finally be approved after many unsuccessful attempts.
 - D. Herlihy noted that a response is being submitted for the FSMB annual survey of medical boards. Many questions are repeated annually, but each year there are also some questions on matters that may indicate emerging topics that are of interest to FSMB. This year’s survey includes questions about whether the Board offers patient-focused resources that discuss boundary violations and sexual misconduct, and questions about whether boards address the issue of reentry to practice. While the Board requires applicants who have not been in practice for 3 years or more to engage in a reentry process, and asks on renewals about whether a licensee has been in practice during the prior year, a licensee is not required to have been in practice to be eligible to renew a license.
- **Other Business:**
 - Dr. Hildebrant moved for the acceptance of the 2024 Board meeting calendar.

Dr. Payne made a motion to accept the 2024 Board meeting calendar as presented. Seconded by Dr. Liebow. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.
 - Further discussion for scheduling the 2024 in-person Board meetings continued. The Board decided that the anticipated 2024 in-person Board meetings would be May 1, 2024, and November 6, 2024.
 - D. Herlihy advised that the expansion of optometrist scope of practice to include some surgeries and other procedures has come up again. The discussion began

with a summary of the history of this issue. Optometrists asked the General Assembly for such an expansion of scope of practice in 2019. In response, a review and report by OPR was ordered. The resulting 2020 OPR report recommended against expansion of the scope of practice. The Board presented its opposition to expanding optometrist scope of practice to the General Assembly in 2020. The General Assembly declined to expand the scope of practice at that time. This year optometrists petitioned OPR to conduct another review, which is one of the ways for a review of a profession's scope of practice to be initiated. OPR held a public meeting on August 20, 2023. After consulting with the Chair, at the August 30 meeting D. Herlihy offered the position established by the Board in 2020. D. Herlihy then advised the Board that the OPR report had not been issued prior to the Board meeting, but information about a draft report was shared by OPR. OPR had indicated their intent to support expansion of scope. Several Board members expressed concern about expansion of optometrist scope of practice to include procedures. Comments made by members included the following:

- Concern about a lack of training, in particular the lack of a process to first introduce procedures using cadavers and a requirement for procedures to be repeated many times while under supervision by an experienced MD, as is required for physicians who are trained to do these procedures. Concern was expressed about the indicated use of simulations for the proposed training. Several members repeated these concerns.
- Questions about the reason for expanding scope, with specific inquiries about the ability of optometrists to meet the demand for services under the existing scope and whether there are access-to-care problems for ophthalmologist services.
- Dr. Tortolani asked if there had been consideration of how these procedures would be supported by optometrist staffs and noted that physicians rely on well-trained staff members who are experienced in supporting office procedures to safely complete these procedures.

The information about the draft report distributed by OPR included a statement that comments could be submitted only through September 29, 2023. Accordingly, no member offered a motion to establish a current position on the issue.

- **Break 12:30 PM**

- **Reconvene meeting 1:06 PM; Other Business Continued:**

- The Board welcomed guests from Vermont Practitioner Health Program (VPH) to the meeting including J. Barnard; C. Magne; Nels Kloster, MD; J. Valentine, MD. VPH guests provided the Board with an overview of what VPH is, what it does, and how it works. The VPH team summarized the process of contracting with participants and content of the participant contract and answered several questions while engaging in a conversation with members about the program.

- **Convene meeting; Executive Session to Discuss:**

- **Investigative cases recommended for closure**
- **Other matters that are confidential by law, if any**

D. Philibert made a motion at 2:11 PM to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to investigations. P. Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

- **Return to Open Session 3:17 PM; Board Actions on matters discussed in Executive Session:**

L. LeCours, North Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPN 036-0323 – Special #1

MPN 152-0523 – Special #1

MPN 140-0423 – Letter #1 – Recused: Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Payne, Dr. Eyler

P. Hunter made a motion to close the cases presented. Dr. Liebow seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: North Investigative Committee.

Dr. Payne, Central Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPC 167-0723 – Special #1 – Recused: Dr. Tortolani

Dr. Liebow made a motion to close the case presented. D. Philibert seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: Central Investigative Committee.

Dr. Liebow, South Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPS 165-0723 – Special #1

MPS 055-0522 – Letter #1 – Recused: Dr. Sproul

MPS 174-0723 – Special #1

D. Philibert made a motion to close the cases presented. G. Falk seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: South Investigative Committee.

- **Upcoming Board meetings, committee meetings, hearings, etc.: Locations are subject to change. A notification will be provided if a change takes place.**
 - **October 12, 2023, North Investigative Committee Meeting, 9:00 AM, [Remote via Teams](#)**
 - **October 13, 2023, Central Investigative Committee Meeting, 9:00 AM., [Remote via Teams](#)**
 - **October 18, 2023, Board Meeting on pending applications, 12:10 PM, [Remote via Teams](#)**
 - **October 18, 2023, South Investigative Committee Meeting, 12:15 PM, [4th Floor Conference Room, Bloomer State Office Building, Rutland, VT and remote via Teams](#)**
 - **November 1, 2023, Licensing Committee Meeting, 10:30 AM, [Remote via Teams](#)**
 - **November 1, 2023, Board Meeting, 12:00 PM, [Remote via Teams](#).**
- **Adjourn:**

Dr. Hildebrant declared the meeting adjourned at 3:23 PM.

PRESENTATION OF FULL APPLICATIONS

October 4, 2023

Note: Applicants listed below have been notified that their applications for licensure appear to be complete and may be presented at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

**** Must pass through licensing prior to being presented.**

Name	School	Specialty	Practice Location
**Bhandari, Rekha MD	Adichunchanagiri Institute (India)	Internal Medicine	TBD.
**Brining, Elizabeth MD	University of Texas	Emergency Medicine (BC)	SWVMC
Brookfield, Marian PA-C	George Washington University	Unknown	DHMC Neurosurgery
Campagna, Lauren PA-C	SUNY Syracuse	Unknown	TBD
Coady, Michael MD	George Washington University	Surgery (BC)	UVMMC
**Lapidus, Kyle MD	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Psychiatry (BC)	Journey Clinical
**Leopold, Beth MD	Columbia University	OB/GYN (BC)	Four Seasons OB/GYN
**Lord, Jayson MD	University of South Florida	Radiology (BC)	Independent Radiology
**Lu, Christian MD	Drexel University	Internal Medicine	QuickMD
Malkin, Abraham MD	Tufts University	Addiction Medicine (BC)	Mobile Medical USA
McGuire, Patrick MD	University of Nebraska	Emergency Medicine	SWVMC
**Morizio, Alex MD	Ross University (Barbados)	Internal Medicine (BC)	TBD
Pietropaoli, Marc MD	SUNY Syracuse	Orthopedic Surgery (BC)	Telemedicine
**Qunintero-Del Rio, Ana MD	San Juan Bautista (Puerto Rico)	Pediatrics	DHMC
**Ramsay, Michael MD	Trinity College (Ireland)	Diagnostic Radiology (BC)	Aligned Imaging
Richardson, Robert MD	Virginia Commonwealth University	Neurological Surgery (BC)	MGH
**Ross, Raymond MD	Eastern Virginia Medical School	Surgery (BC)	Gifford Medical Center
**Schiller, Kristin PA-C	Mass College of Pharmacy	Unknown	TBD
**Smyth, Jennie PA-C	LeMoyne College	Unknown	SWVMC Neurology
**Soper, Cara MD	University of Vermont	A & C Pathology (BC)	UVMMC
**Stuart, Gretchen MD	Tulane University	OB/GYN (BC)	TBD

Tarsia, Victor MD

Wang, Allison MD

SUNY Stonybrook

University of Texas

Emergency Medicine (BC) Access Medical Assoc.

Dermatology (BC)

UVMMC

10/4/2023

Presentation of Limited Temporary License Applications for Board Approval

26 VSA Section 1391 (e) authorizes a limited temporary license to practice medicine/Podiatry in the State of Vermont for a period of one year only. The following persons have applied for limited temporary licenses:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Type</u>
Barjaktarovic, Mirjana MD	Endocrinology	DHMC	10/1/23	MD
Carroll, Matthew MD	Surgery	DHMC	10/1/23	MD
Harlow, Stephanie MD	OB/GYN	DHMC	10/1/2023	MD
Khan, Shazia MD	Pathology	UVMHC	10/1/23	MD
Solger, Shane MD	Emergency Medicine	Stratton Mtn	10/1/23	MD
Zondlak, Allyse MD	Surgery	DHMC	10/1/23	MD

** Must pass through licensing prior to being presented.

These applications appear to have met the requirements. The Board, pursuant to 26 VSA Section 1391 (e), grants to each of them a limited temporary license.

**PRESENTATION OF FULL APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED THROUGH
THE COMPACT**

Note: Applicants listed below have already received a license through the compact.

October 4, 2023

Credential Number	Name
<u>042.0017272-COMP</u>	Marie Ann Arringdale
<u>042.0017273-COMP</u>	Robert Michael Cuddihy
<u>042.0017274-COMP</u>	Margaret Thompson Curtis
<u>042.0017275-COMP</u>	Julienne Echavarri
<u>042.0017276-COMP</u>	Charles Derrick Farwell
<u>042.0017277-COMP</u>	Daniel Joseph Flaherty
<u>042.0017278-COMP</u>	John Lee Haughom
<u>042.0017279-COMP</u>	Leo Hsu
<u>042.0017280-COMP</u>	Debra Louise Monticciolo
<u>042.0017281-COMP</u>	Todd Christopher Schirmang
<u>042.0017282-COMP</u>	Keisuke Shirai
<u>042.0017283-COMP</u>	Melissa Walsh
<u>042.0017284-COMP</u>	Philip Way
<u>042.0017285-COMP</u>	Rascha Dughly
<u>042.0017307-COMP</u>	Alan Buchbinder
<u>042.0017308-COMP</u>	Lawrence Marc Dagrosa
<u>042.0017309-COMP</u>	Eliot DeSilva
<u>042.0017310-COMP</u>	Anuj Dhir
<u>042.0017311-COMP</u>	Jimmy Y Saade
<u>042.0017312-COMP</u>	Rhonda Gale Whittie-Bradford
<u>042.0017313-COMP</u>	GINA FRANCOIS
<u>042.0017314-COMP</u>	Davit Mrelashvili
<u>042.0017315-COMP</u>	Ryland Richards
<u>042.0017316-COMP</u>	Rana Nauman Ahmad
<u>042.0017317-COMP</u>	Grace Hunter
<u>042.0017318-COMP</u>	Michelle Keeley
<u>042.0017319-COMP</u>	Jamil S Muasher
<u>042.0017320-COMP</u>	Oliver William Phillips

<u>042.0017321-COMP</u>	Leslie Rochelle Pickens
<u>042.0017322-COMP</u>	Jessica Carolyn Schlicher
<u>042.0017334-COMP</u>	Mehmet Emin Dokucu
<u>042.0017335-COMP</u>	James Boyer Ebert Jr.
<u>042.0017336-COMP</u>	Khai-El Johnson
<u>042.0017337-COMP</u>	GLEN MCCRACKEN
<u>042.0017338-COMP</u>	Bilal Mustafa
<u>042.0017339-COMP</u>	Andrew Douglas Schatzki
<u>042.0017340-COMP</u>	Florian Rudolf Schroeck