

February 2023 Public Board Actions List

Georgia Composite Medical Board
Attn: **Ms. Latisha Bias**, Public Records Unit
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3465
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The Board issued **five** public orders in **February 2023**. To view each Board order, click on the licensee's name below.

1. Shannon Calhoun, DO

60564
Physician
Final Decision

2. Charlie Humphries, Jr., MD

15675
Physician
Voluntary Surrender

3. Terrence Park, LAc

455
Limited Acupuncturist
Ordering Terminating Suspension

4. Vinaya Krishna Puppala, MD

71014
Physician
Public Consent Order

5. Solomon Tafari, MD

42956
Physician
Order of Completion

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

SHANNON CALHOUN, D.O.,
License No. 60564,
Respondent.

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OSAH Docket No.: 2305234
2305234-OSAH-GCMB-PHY-222-Barnes

BOARD DOCKET NO:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

FEB 21 2023

DOCKET NUMBER:
10230048

FINAL DECISION

An Initial Decision was issued by the Office of State Administrative Hearings in the above matter on January 19, 2023. Respondent was served with the Initial Decision on January 19, 2023. In the absence of an application to the agency for review of said Initial Decision, or an order by the Board to review said Initial Decision on its own motion, said Initial Decision becomes the Final Decision of the Board by operation of law, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-17(a).

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Findings of Fact entered by the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision are adopted and incorporated by reference herein.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Conclusions of Law entered by the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision are adopted and incorporated by reference herein.

DECISION AND ORDER

The recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge that no disciplinary action be taken against Respondent is adopted and incorporated by reference and, having become final

on February 18, 2023, is hereby made the Final Decision of the Board, effective February 18, 2023.

SO ORDERED, this 21st day of February, 2023.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD



MATTHEW W. NORMAN, M.D.
Chairperson



DANIEL DORSEY
Executive Director



**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL
BOARD,**

Petitioner,

v.

**SHANNON CALHOUN, D.O.,
Respondent.**

**Docket No.: 2305234
2305234-OSAH-GCMB-PHY-222-Barnes**

Agency Reference No.: 60564



INITIAL DECISION

I. Introduction

Petitioner, the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”) brought this action seeking the imposition of sanctions against Respondent’s license to practice medicine in Georgia. The evidentiary hearing took place on December 2, 2022, before the undersigned administrative law judge. The Board was represented by Sandra Bailey, Esq., Assistant Attorney General. Respondent represented himself. After careful consideration of the evidence and the arguments of the parties, and for the reasons stated below, the Board’s decision to sanction Respondent’s license is **DENIED.**

II. Findings of Fact

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine in the state of Georgia and was licensed as such at all times relevant to the matters stated herein. Respondent’s specialty is radiology. (Statement of Matters Asserted; Testimony of Respondent).

2.

On January 9, 2019, Respondent voluntarily entered a 90-day residential treatment program for alcohol use disorder. He was discharged on April 10, 2019, with a classification of “treatment complete,” meaning that he had completed all treatment goals set forth by his treatment team and was released to go back to work. (Testimony of Respondent; Exhibit P-10).

3.

A physician is required to report to the Board within 30 days of becoming unable to practice medicine because of alcohol use, unless the physician has reported to the Physician Health Program (PHP)¹ during the same time period. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 360-3-.02(20). Daniel Dorsey, who serves as the executive director of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, as well as its custodian of records, testified that the Board did not receive notice from Respondent within 30 days of him exiting treatment,² nor did he enroll in the Georgia PHP program within that timeframe. (Testimony of Daniel Dorsey).

4.

On September 3, 2019, the Board was notified by the Georgia PHP program that Respondent had enrolled. (Testimony of Daniel Dorsey; Exhibit P-11).

5.

In addition to Georgia, Respondent is licensed in forty-five other states, including Colorado. On September 9, 2021, the Colorado Medical Board entered an order placing

¹ The Georgia Physician Health Program (PHP) is an organization that serves licensed physicians in Georgia who are struggling with a substance use issue or other impairment. Those who enroll in the program, which is voluntary, receive assistance in finding treatment options, and submit to regular monitoring to ensure compliance. It is meant to encourage physicians to seek treatment for health issues which may affect their ability to practice. (Testimony of Daniel Dorsey).

² The Board maintained that it would not have penalized Respondent for failing to report his alcohol use issue within 30 days of *entering* treatment, given that the residential treatment program entailed extremely limited contact with the outside world.

Respondent on probation for a five-year period, citing both “[h]abitual or excessive use or abuse of alcohol, a habit-forming drug, or a controlled substance,” as well as “[f]ailing to notify the board . . . of a physical illness, physical condition, or substance use disorder that impacts the licensee’s ability to perform a medical service with reasonable skill and safety to patients.” The terms of the probationary period included abstinence from addictive substances and treatment monitoring through the Colorado Physician Health Program, which would include random drug and alcohol testing approximately eight times per month. As of November 17, 2022, the status of Respondent’s Colorado license is “Active – With Conditions.” (Exhibits P-3, P-4; Testimony of Daniel Dorsey; Testimony of Respondent).

6.

Respondent is also licensed in Wisconsin. On March 16, 2022, the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board entered an order which suspended Respondent’s license, and simultaneously stayed that suspension as long as Respondent complied with the terms of the Colorado Board’s order, with the Wisconsin Board retaining the right to lift the stay of suspension if Respondent violated the Colorado order. The Wisconsin Board’s action was based entirely on the Colorado Board’s decision. The status of Respondent’s Wisconsin license is active. (Exhibits P-5, P-6; Testimony of Daniel Dorsey).

7.

Respondent is also licensed in Virginia. On April 15, 2022, the Virginia Board of Medicine entered an order suspending Respondent’s medical license indefinitely in response to the order in Wisconsin. Respondent may petition for reinstatement pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2409. As of September 6, 2022, the status of Respondent’s Virginia license is suspended. (Exhibits P-7, P-8; Testimony of Daniel Dorsey).

8.

After receiving notice of the disciplinary action taken against Respondent in Virginia, the Board sent him a letter on or about April 28, 2022, informing him that it had commenced an investigation into the matter and requesting a written response. Respondent responded to the letter via email on May 9, 2022. (Exhibits P-9, P-10; Testimony of Daniel Dorsey).

9.

On or about September 7, 2022, the Board filed a Statement of Matters Asserted moving for disciplinary action against Respondent's license. Specifically, the Board seeks a \$5,000 fine and a 90-day suspension. (OSAH Form 1).

10.

Respondent testified that shortly after he left treatment, he sent a letter explaining his treatment for alcohol use disorder to the company that handles his licensing, Real Radiology, with instructions to send the letter to all of the states in which he is licensed. The letter, dated April 26, 2019, was addressed "[t]o whom it may concern," and did not specifically refer to any particular state medical board. (Exhibit J-12; Testimony of Respondent).

11.

The Board never received this letter from Respondent.³ Mr. Dorsey testified that it would have been in the normal course of the Board's business to put such a letter in a physician's file upon receipt. Respondent conceded that he did not recall following up with his contact at Real

³ The Board confirmed that the letter, had it been received within the 30-day timeframe, would have satisfied the reporting requirement.

Radiology to confirm that the letter had been sent to each state's medical board. (Testimony of Daniel Dorsey; Testimony of Respondent).

12.

Respondent emailed a copy of the letter to the Board on October 28, 2022, explaining in the email that he had not been able find the correspondence showing that he had specifically requested that the letter be sent out to the state medical boards, and adding that the individual who handled his Georgia licensing issues no longer works at Real Radiology. (Exhibit J-12; Testimony of Respondent).

13.

Respondent testified that he never tried to hide anything regarding his treatment from the Georgia Board, or from the board of any other state. He had a problem that had not at that point interfered with his work in any way, and he actively sought treatment for it before it had the opportunity to negatively impact his work. He added that he voluntarily enrolled in each state's PHP program, which entailed significant time and expense. As for why he did not enroll in the Georgia PHP program until September 2019, Respondent explained that he could not start this process until after he resumed work so that he could afford the expenses involved with enrollment. (Testimony of Respondent).

14.

Respondent explained that he is now classified as in the "management stage" of his recovery because he has been 100% compliant with his treatment goals. He was released by his therapist in 2020. He added that since he left residential treatment in April 2019 he has not received any complaints from the public about his practice. (Testimony of Respondent).

15.

Additionally, Respondent pointed out that the Board was not initially aware that he had enrolled in the Georgia PHP program when it began its investigation, because, although the letter from the program confirming his enrollment was on file, the Board did not discover it until later on in the investigative process. Upon being asked whether the Board would have proceeded with its investigation had it known that Respondent was enrolled in Georgia PHP from the outset, Mr. Dorsey said the Board's actions "very well could have been different." (Testimony of Respondent; Testimony of Daniel Dorsey).

III. Conclusions of Law

1.

Because this matter concerns the Board's proposed imposition of sanctions on Respondent's license to practice medicine, the Board bears the burden of proof. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 616-1-2-.07(1). The standard of proof is preponderance of the evidence. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 616-1-2-.21(4).

2.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-34-8(a), the Board has the authority to revoke the license of a licensee or to discipline a licensee upon a finding by the Board that the licensee has:

(5) Had his or her license, certificate, or permit to practice pursuant to this chapter revoked, suspended, or annulled by any lawful licensing authority; had other disciplinary action taken against him or her by any lawful licensing authority; or been denied a license by any lawful licensing authority;

(7) Engaged in any unprofessional, immoral, unethical, deceptive, or deleterious conduct or practice harmful to the public, which need not have resulted in actual injury to any person. As used in this paragraph, the term "unprofessional conduct" shall include any departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice and shall also include, but not be limited to, the prescribing or use of drugs, treatment, or diagnostic procedures which are detrimental to the patient as determined by the minimum standards of

acceptable and prevailing medical practice or by rule of the board;

(10) Violated or attempted to violate a law, rule, or regulation of this state, any other state, the board, the United States, or any other lawful authority without regard to whether the violation is criminally punishable, when such law, rule, or regulation relates to or in part regulates the practice of medicine, when the licensee or applicant knows or should know that such action violates such law, rule or regulation; or violated a lawful order of the board previously entered by the board in a disciplinary hearing;

(13)(A) Become unable to practice pursuant to this chapter with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

3.

Pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 360-3-.02(20), failing to report to the Board within 30 days of being unable to practice medicine due to a substance use issue, unless the physician has reported to the Physician Health Program within the same timeframe, constitute unprofessional conduct.

4.

If the Board finds cause for discipline, it is authorized to “deny, revoke, suspend, fine, reprimand or otherwise limit the license of a physician . . . for all the grounds set forth in O.C.G.A. § 43-34-8.” Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 360-3-.01; see also O.C.G.A. § 43-34-8(b)(1). Any fine may not exceed \$3,000.00 for each violation of a law, rule, or regulation. O.C.G.A. § 43-34-8(b)(1)(G).

5.

The Board has proven the allegations contained in the Matters Asserted by a preponderance of the evidence: Respondent failed to notify the Board within 30 days of his alcohol use disorder. He has also been disciplined by other state boards, which, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-34-8(a), gives the Board the authority to impose similar discipline.

6.

However, the Court finds that sanctions against Respondent would be inappropriate here. Respondent presented sufficient evidence to show that he made a good-faith effort to comply with Georgia's 30-day reporting requirement, and that the failure to notify the Board was a clerical error, rather than a deliberate concealment. And Respondent's choice to enroll in every state PHP program that he could further demonstrates that he intended to be forthright about his substance use issue. Finally, Respondent complied with all of his treatment goals since entering residential treatment four years ago, has not had any complaints from the public during this time period, and remains enrolled in the Georgia PHP program. Given the circumstances, the Court finds that disciplining Respondent is unwarranted in this instance.

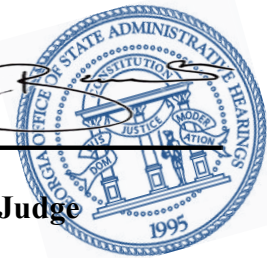
IV. Decision

In accordance with the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board's decision to sanction Petitioner's medical license is **DENIED**.

SO ORDERED, this 19th day of January, 2023.



Shakara M. Barnes
Administrative Law Judge





NOTICE OF INITIAL DECISION

Attached is the Initial Decision of the administrative law judge. A party who disagrees with the Initial Decision may file a motion with the administrative law judge and/or an application for agency review.

Filing a Motion with the Administrative Law Judge

A party who wishes to file a motion to vacate a default, a motion for reconsideration, or a motion for rehearing must do so within 10 days of the entry of the Initial Decision. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 616-1-2-.28, -.30(4). All motions must be made in writing and filed with the judge's assistant, with copies served simultaneously upon all parties of record. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 616-1-2-.04, -.11, -.16. The judge's assistant is Devin Hamilton - 404-657-3337; Email: devinh@osah.ga.gov; Fax: 404-657-3337; 225 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 400, South Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Filing an Application for Agency Review

A party who seeks review by the referring agency must file an application for agency review within 30 days after service of the Initial Decision. O.C.G.A. §§ 50-13-17(a), -41. **In nearly all cases, agency review is a prerequisite for judicial review.** O.C.G.A. § 50-13-19(a).

The application for agency review must be filed with: . Copies of the application for agency review must be served upon all parties of record and filed simultaneously with the OSAH Chief Clerk at 225 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 400, South Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. If a timely application for agency review is not filed and the referring agency does not review the Initial Decision on its own motion, the Initial Decision will become the Final Decision of the referring agency by operation of law. O.C.G.A. §§ 50-13-17(a), -41.

**BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**CHARLIE HUMPHRIES, JR., M.D.,
License No.15675,
Respondent.**

*
* **Docket No.**
*
*
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GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

FEB 08 2023

DOCKET NUMBER:
26230045

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

I, Charlie Humphries, Jr., M.D., holder of License No. 15675 to practice medicine in the State of Georgia pursuant to O.C.G.A. Ch. 34, T. 43, as amended, hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily surrender said license to the Georgia Composite Medical Board. I hereby acknowledge that this surrender shall be considered to be and have the same effect as a revocation of my license, and I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of practicing medicine in the State of Georgia, unless and until such time as my license may be reinstated, in the sole discretion of the Board.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of this Voluntary Surrender. I understand that I have a right to a hearing in this matter, and I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily waive such right. I also understand that should the Board entertain any request for reinstatement, the Board shall have access to any investigative or medical information regarding me. I further understand that upon applying for reinstatement, it shall be incumbent upon me to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that I am able to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, and that the Board may investigate my conduct since the time of the surrender of my license. I understand and agree that any reinstatement of my license to practice medicine is a matter in the sole discretion of the Board and that the Board may deny any such reinstatement without identifying a reason for said denial.

This surrender shall become effective upon acceptance and docketing by the Board. I understand that this document will be considered to be a public record entered pursuant to O.C.G.A. §43-34-8(b)(1) and that this action shall be considered to be and may be disseminated as a final order of the Board.

[As to Respondent's signature:]

Sworn to and subscribed before me

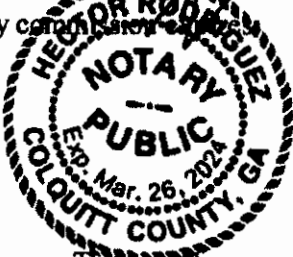
This 7th day of February, 2023.

Charlie Humphries, Jr.
CHARLIE HUMPHRIES, JR., M.D.

Respondent

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires



ACCEPTANCE OF SURRENDER

The voluntary surrender of License No. 15675 is hereby accepted by the Georgia Composite Medical Board, this 8 day of February, 2023.



GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY:

[Signature]

MATTHEW W. NORMAN, M.D.
Chairperson

[Signature]

ATTEST:

[Signature]
DANIEL R. DORSEY
Executive Director

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

TERRENCE PARK, LAc.,
License No. 455,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NO.:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

FEB 07 2023

DOCKET NUMBER:
20230044

ORDER TERMINATING SUSPENSION

WHEREAS, on or about January 27, 2021, the Georgia Composite Medical Board (hereinafter "Board") and Terrence Park (hereinafter "Respondent") entered into a Public Consent Order, imposing a period of suspension and allowing for Respondent to lift that suspension by submitting (1) evidence of professional liability insurance of at least \$100,000.00/\$300,000.00; and (2) evidence of fifteen (15) hours of continuing education sponsored by National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or approved by the Board in the area of ethics and medical record keeping.

WHEREAS, on or about January 24, 2022, Respondent petitioned for an Order of Completion, and supplying evidence that he met the conditions imposed by the Board in this matter.

WHEREAS, upon review, the Board has determined that Respondent has complied with the terms of the Consent Order to the satisfaction of the Board.

THEREFORE, the Board hereby enters this Order Terminating Suspension to indicate that Respondent has successfully completed the terms of the Public Consent Order, Docket Number 20210041.

Respondent's license is in good standing.

So ordered, this 7 day of February, 2023.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY:



Matthew W. Norman, MD
Chairperson



ATTEST:


Daniel R. Dorsey
Executive Director

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

TERRENCE PARK, LAc.,
License No. 455,
Respondent,

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DOCKET NO.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

JAN 27 2021

DOCKET NUMBER
20210041

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and TERRENCE PARK, LAc. ("Respondent"), the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13, as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

On or about September 18, 2019, Respondent was licensed to practice acupuncture in the State of Georgia, and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters stated herein. Respondent's license expired on December 31, 2020 and, at the time of this Consent Order, may be renewed until March 30, 2021.

2.

Upon issuance, Respondent's license was limited and Respondent only authorized to practice acupuncture under the supervision of a duly licensed acupuncturist. The limitation was imposed because Respondent had not completed one year of postgraduate clinical experience at the time of his application for licensure. See O.C.G.A. § 43-34-64(c).

3.

Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 360-6-.05 requires the supervision of postgraduate clinical practice of an acupuncture practitioner to comply with provisions and guidelines, specifically including but not limited to the following: the supervisor must be present on site and available at all times while the practitioner is seeing and treating patients and the practice must be in the same office with the supervisor. Quarterly reports are required to be submitted regarding the supervised practice, which include biweekly supervisor treatment evaluations. Respondent's first quarter ended in or about December, 2019.

4.

On or about June 29, 2020, Respondent submitted a third quarter report to the Board, which showed approximately forty-seven (47) treatments performed by Respondent from on or about April 4, 2020 through on or about June 27, 2020. While timely submitted, the report was deemed incomplete by the Board because the required supervisor treatment evaluations were missing from Respondent's submission. In addition, subsequent review of Respondent's second quarter report showed that there were no biweekly treatment evaluation forms submitted by Respondent. Thus, neither the second nor third quarters of Respondent's practice met the requirements for supervised practice.

5.

On or about July 20, 2020, Respondent's supervisor informed the Board that Respondent's last visit to his acupuncture office was on December 28, 2019, and that the supervision relationship was beginning again on or about July 11, 2020. Thus, Respondent did not treat patients under supervision during the second and third quarters, contrary to his

submissions to the Board, and Respondent's practice was not in accordance with his limited license.

6.

Respondent does not admit the above findings of fact, but waives further findings and agrees to the entry of this Order in order to resolve the pending allegations.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice acupuncture in the State of Georgia under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, to the following:

1.

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to the Board a renewal application and fee. Upon receipt of the application and fee, Respondent's license shall be renewed and immediately placed on a period of suspension, as set forth in paragraph (2) below. If Respondent fails to submit the renewal application and fee, Respondent's license shall not be renewed and shall be revoked for failure to renew, subject to reinstatement, in the Board's discretion.

2.

Upon renewal, Respondent's license to practice acupuncture in the State of Georgia shall be immediately placed on a period of suspension. During the period of suspension, the

Respondent shall not use the title, "LAc" or otherwise engage in the practice of acupuncture as defined in O.G.G.A. § 43-34-62(1) and/or (4). The Respondent is entitled to renew Respondent's license during the period of suspension. Failure to renew shall result in revocation of Respondent's license by operation of law.

3.

Respondent may submit, to the Board, a petition to lift the period of suspension no sooner than one (1) year from the effective date of this Consent Order. Respondent's petition shall contain: (1) evidence of professional liability insurance of at least \$100,000/\$300,000; and (2) evidence of completion of fifteen (15) hours of continuing education sponsored by National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or approved by the Board in the area of ethics and medical record keeping. These hours may not be used, or have been used, by Respondent to satisfy continuing education hours required for license renewal.

4.

In considering whether to lift the suspension, the Board shall have the authority to review the entire investigative and/or compliance file(s) and all relevant evidence, including but not limited to, the status of Respondent's clinical skills. The Board shall also have the authority to order any additional investigation that may be required in order to determine whether Respondent is competent to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

5.

The period of suspension shall remain in effect unless and until the Board, in its sole discretion, lifts the suspension in writing. Should the Board lift the suspension, it may do so by consent order, which places Respondent's license to practice acupuncture under such

terms and conditions as the Board deems necessary to ensure that Respondent may practice with reasonable skill and safety to the public. Respondent understands and agrees that should the Board lift the suspension of his license, the Board shall require Respondent to practice under supervision for one full year, and may impose such limitation under a period of probation with any other terms deemed necessary at the time. The Respondent may be required to meet with the Board, or a committee thereof, concerning his petition. Lifting of Respondent's suspension shall be within the sole discretion of the Board. If Respondent's petition should be denied, Respondent may submit another petition no sooner than six (6) months following the Board's denial of Respondent's prior petition. Respondent's petition(s) shall not constitute a contested case.

6.

Respondent shall abide by all state and federal laws regulating the practice of acupuncture, the Rules and Regulations of the Board, and the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. If Respondent shall fail to abide by such laws, rules, terms or conditions of this Consent Order, or if it should appearing from reports, inspections or other information submitted to the Board that Respondent is otherwise unable to practice acupuncture with reasonable skill and safety to patients, Respondent's license shall be subject to further discipline, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof after notice and hearing; and if revoked, the Board in its discretion may determine that the license should be permanently revoked and not subject to reinstatement.

7.

This Consent Order and dissemination thereof shall be considered a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent by the Board.

8.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent is represented by counsel, and that Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to a hearing in this matter, and freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives that right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Board's consideration of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the authority to review the Board's files and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Board. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board that may be disseminated as such. However, if this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 27 day of January, 2021.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(BOARD SEAL)

BY:

Barby J. Simmons, D.O.
BARBY J. SIMMONS, D.O.
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Lasharn Hughes
LASHARN HUGHES
Executive Director

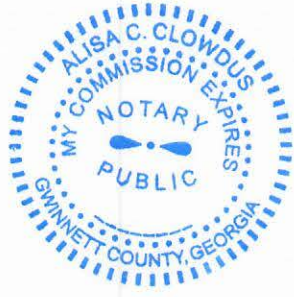


CONSENTED TO: Terrence Park
TERRENCE PARK, LAc.
Respondent

AS TO RESPONDENT'S SIGNATURE:
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this, 1st day of January, 2021.

Alisa C. Clowdus
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: 1-7-22

#1237758



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

VINAYA KRISHNA PUPPALA, M.D.,
License No. 71014,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NO.:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

FEB 21 2023

DOCKET NUMBER:
20230047

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and VINAYA KRISHNA PUPPALA, M.D. ("Respondent"), the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13 as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Georgia and was so licensed at all times relevant to the facts stated herein.

2.

Respondent specializes in Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine.

3.

Patient C.C.

On and between January of 2018, through May of 2021, Respondent treated C.C. for pain in the neck, low back, and right shoulder. C.C. was diagnosed as having axial and radicular neck pain, axial and radicular low back pain, and right sided shoulder muscle tear. Respondent's treatment of C.C. included epidural injections, biaculoplasties, radiofrequency ablation, medical branch blocks, and trigger point injections. Respondent also prescribed short term opioids. At

least some of said treatments were performed in the same region of C.C.'s spine on the same day and/or multiple regions of C.C.'s spine on the same day. Respondent's medical care of C.C. was evaluated by a Board-appointed peer reviewer who concluded that Respondent's treatment departed from and failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in the following ways:

- Respondent prescribed multiple short-term prescriptions for opioids after checking the PDMP on 10/8/19, 11/25/19, 12/20/19, 1/6/20, 1/10/20, and 1/15/20 according to available Department of Public Health PDMP access logs but failed to document in the medical record that the PDMP was, in fact, checked on these dates until January 6, 2023. No actual patient harm was identified or suffered as a result of the delay in documenting the checking of the PDMP. Respondent further acknowledges that his electronic medical record (athenaNet) now contemporaneously documents all PDMP checks conducted within the EMR automatically.

4.

Patient D.M.

On and between August of 2019, and February of 2020, Respondent treated D.M. for pain in the neck, low back, and thoracic spine. Respondent's treatment of D.M. included trigger point injections, cervical epidural steroid injections (CESI), lumbar epidural steroid injections, lumbar radiofrequency ablations, medial branch blocks, cervical radiofrequency ablations, and medial branch blocks. At least some of said treatments were performed in the same region of D.M.'s spine on the same day and/or multiple regions of D.M.'s spine on the same day. Respondent also prescribed short term opioids. Respondent's medical care of D.M. was evaluated by a Board-appointed peer reviewer who concluded that Respondent's treatment departed from and failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in the following ways:

- Respondent performed a cervical epidural to treat cervical radicular pain, diagnostic cervical medial branch blocks followed by therapeutic cervical radiofrequency ablation to treat cervical facet pain, and diagnostic lumbar medial branch blocks followed by therapeutic lumbar radiofrequency ablation to treat lumbar facet pain on September 10, 2019 without clearly documenting in the medical record the detailed patient-specific rationale for this particular recommended plan of care to treat these co-existing pain complaints and pain generators on the same day. Respondent acknowledges that, while the procedures on 9/10/2019 were performed without technical complications and D.M. reported 100% pain relief immediately afterwards, such treatment is not routinely performed in such a manner by most practitioners. Respondent further acknowledges that no actual patient harm was identified or suffered as a result.
- Respondent prescribed multiple short-term prescriptions for opioids after checking the PDMP on 8/31/19, 9/21/19, 12/19/19, 1/8/20, 2/10/20, 3/24/20, and 4/5/20 according to available Department of Public Health PDMP access logs but failed to document in the medical record that the PDMP was, in fact, checked on these dates until January 6, 2023. No actual patient harm was identified or suffered as a result of the delay in documenting the checking of the PDMP.
- Respondent further acknowledges that his electronic medical record (athenaNet) now contemporaneously documents all PDMP checks conducted within the EMR automatically.

5.

Respondent neither admits nor denies the above findings of fact, but waives further findings and agrees to the entry of this Order in order to resolve the pending allegations.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the Board to exercise disciplinary authority under O.C.G.A. Chs. 1 and 34, T. 43, as amended, and the Rules of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Respondent waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Board, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, hereby ordered, and Respondent hereby agrees to the following:

1.

Within six months of the effective (docket) date of this Order, Respondent shall provide documentation of fifteen (15) hours of continuing medical education (CME) in the area of spinal procedures, twelve (12) hours of CME in the area of thorough medical record documentation and record keeping, and three (3) hours of CME in the area of opioid prescribing. These hours shall be in addition to CME requirements for license renewal and may not be used to fulfill any continuing education hours for license renewal.

Respondent shall provide written evidence of successful completion of the thirty (30) hours of CME to the Board within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order. Evidence of completion of said CME shall be submitted to the attention of the Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. Failure to provide evidence of completion of the thirty (30) hours of CME to the Board shall constitute a violation of this Consent Order and may result in further disciplinary action.

2.

Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be paid in full by cashier's check or money order payable to the Board. Said fine shall be submitted to the attention of the Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. Failure to pay the entire amount of the fine by the 15th day shall be considered a violation of this Consent Order and shall result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

This Consent Order and the dissemination thereof shall constitute a public reprimand to

the Respondent for his conduct.

4.

Respondent understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this Consent Order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.

5.

Approval of this Order by the Board shall in no way be construed as condoning Respondent's conduct and, except as provided herein, shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights of the Board.

6.


Respondent acknowledges that he has read and understands the contents of this Consent Order. Respondent understands that he has the right to a hearing in this matter, and Respondent freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent further understands and agrees that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record and may be disseminated as such. However, if the Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in the proceeding, or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate the matter. Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Respondent consents to the terms contained herein.


[Signatures on following page]

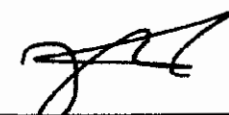
Approved, this 21st day of February, 2023.



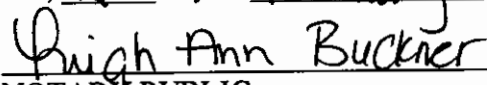
GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

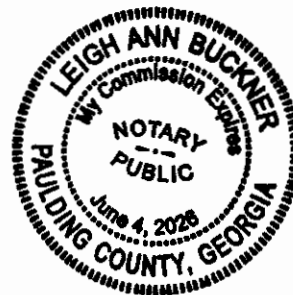
BY: 
MATTHEW W. NORMAN, M.D.
Chairperson

ATTEST: 
DANIEL D. DORSEY
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: 
VINAYA KRISHNA PUPPALA, M.D.
Respondent

AS TO THE SIGNATURE OF VINAYA KRISHNA PUPPALA, M.D.:
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this, 16th day of February, 2023.


NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: 6/4/26



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

SOLOMON TAFARI, MD
License No. 42956,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NO.:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

FEB 22 2023

DOCKET NUMBER:
20230049

ORDER OF COMPLETION

WHEREAS, on or about February 08, 2022, the Georgia Composite Medical Board (hereinafter "Board") and Solomon Tafari (hereinafter "Respondent") entered into a Public Consent Order, imposing a fine, administrative fees, and (20) hours of continuing education in pharmacology and record keeping.

WHEREAS, on or about February 09, 2023, Respondent petitioned for an Order of Completion.

WHEREAS, upon review, the Board has determined that Respondent has complied with the terms of the Consent Order to the satisfaction of the Board.

THEREFORE, the Board hereby enters this Order of Completion to indicate that Respondent has successfully completed the terms of the Public Consent Order, Docket Number 20220057. Respondent's license is in good standing.

This 22nd day of February, 2023.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY:



Matthew W. Norman, MD
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Daniel R. Dorsey
Executive Director



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

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*

FEB 08 2022

SOLOMON TAFARI, M.D.

License #: 42956

DOCKET NUMBER:

DOCKET NO.: 20220057

Respondent.

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and Solomon Tafari, M.D., ("Respondent"), the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered into pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Georgia and was licensed to practice medicine at all times relevant to the facts contained in this Order. His license expires on July 31, 2021.

2.

On or about October 13, 2017, patient A.E.A. was admitted to DeKalb Hospital for rectal bleeding. Upon further observation, patient A.E.A. was also found to have a pulmonary embolism.

3.

On or about October 14, 2017, Respondent ordered that patient A.E.A. receive 100mg of Amlodipine.

4.

Patient A.E.A. subsequently became hypotensive and was transferred to the intensive care unit.

5.

Respondent's treatment of the patient A.E.A. was evaluated by a Board-appointed peer reviewer who concluded that Respondent's care and treatment of the patient A.E.A. departed from and failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in the following ways:

- (a) "Patient was given overdose of Amlodipine (100mg) which caused hypotension – and subsequently was transferred to ICU where she died."

6.

Respondent hereby waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct as set forth in the Findings of Fact constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice as a physician in the State of Georgia under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, *as amended*. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Georgia Composite Medical Board, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, to the following terms:

1.

In addition to the continuing medical education ("CME") required of all Georgia physicians Respondent shall obtain twenty (20) hours of continuing medical education ("CME") in pharmacology and record keeping. Due to the ongoing uncertainty related to the COVID-19 epidemic, these CME hours may be obtained remotely. Respondent shall complete said additional twenty (20) hours of CME within one (1) year from the docketing of this Order. Within one (1) year from the docketing of this consent order, Respondent shall submit to the Board proof of completion of said additional twenty (20) hours. All reports and submissions required under this Consent Order shall be sent to the attention of the Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303 or any subsequent address of the Board.

2.

Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of five thousand dollars and zero cents (\$5,000.00) to be paid by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Board by certified check or money order to the Georgia Composite Medical Board **within ninety (90) days** of the effective date of this Order. Failure to pay the fine as provided herein shall be considered a violation of this Order, and may result in further sanctioning of Respondent's authority to practice medicine in the future, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

In addition to the fine, Respondent shall pay administrative fees in the amount of two hundred dollars and zero cents (\$200.00) as reimbursement to the Board of expenses incurred in the investigation of this matter, which expenses do not include time spent by the investigative division of the Board. Said fees shall be payable by certified check or money order to the

Georgia Composite Medical Board **within ninety (90) days** of the effective date of this Order.

Failure to pay this cost within 90 days after this order had been docketed shall be considered a violation of this Order and may result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, upon substantiation thereof.

4.

All reports and submissions required under this Consent Order shall be sent to the attention of the Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 6th Floor, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303 or any subsequent address of the Board.

5.

This Consent Order shall constitute a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent and may be disseminated by the Board as a public disciplinary action.

6.

Respondent also understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile and reported as required by state and federal agencies, including but not limited to the National Practitioner Data Bank. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.

7.

Respondent shall abide by all State and Federal laws regulating his practice as a physician, the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, and the terms of this Consent Order. If Respondent shall fail to abide by such laws, Rules and Regulations, the terms of the Consent Order, or violate the criminal laws of this state, or if it should appear to the Board that Respondent is otherwise unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to

patients, Respondent agrees that any such violation shall be deemed to be sufficient to authorize the Board to order summary suspension of Respondent's license, pending further proceedings, pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(c)(1), or any other statute authorizing emergency action. If the Board orders a summary suspension of Respondent's license, Respondent shall be entitled to an expedited hearing to substantiate such violation(s). In addition, Respondent's license may be revoked upon substantiation of said violation, after notice and hearing.

8.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read this Consent Order and that Respondent understands the contents of the Consent Order. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to a hearing in this matter, and Respondent freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Order. **Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board.** Respondent further understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the presentation of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order, once approved, shall constitute a public record, which may be disseminated as a disciplinary action of the Board. However, if this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

(signatures on following page)

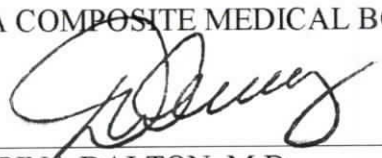
Approved this 8 day of February 2022.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(BOARD SEAL



BY:


DESPINA DALTON, M.D.
Chairperson

ATTEST:


JONATHAN MCGEHEE
Interim Executive Director

CONSENTED TO:


SOLOMON TAFARI, M.D.
Respondent

AS TO THE SIGNATURE
SOLOMON TAFARI, M.D.

Sworn to and Subscribed

Before me this 27 day of Jan, 2022.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

12/15/25

