

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
(March 9, 2006)

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Terence A. Alexander, M.D., a 48 year-old physician practicing sports medicine in Dubuque, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On September 30, 2003, Dr. Alexander entered into a Physician Health Contract with the Iowa Physician Health Program for substance abuse monitoring. Dr. Alexander violated the terms of his IPHP Physician Health Contract when he failed to meet with his substance abuse aftercare provider, failed to meet with his psychiatrist/psychologist, and failed to provide urine drug screen samples on numerous occasions between May 25, 2004 and November 17, 2005. On December 2, 2005, the IPHP voted to refer Dr. Alexander to the Board for disciplinary action. On January 12, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Alexander with violating the terms of a Physician Health Contract. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Alexander was issued a Citation and Warning, ordered to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty and he was referred back to the IPHP for further substance abuse monitoring.

Dale T. Mericle, M.D., a 66 year-old physician from Reno, Nevada, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On March 5, 2005, the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners denied Dr. Mericle a Nevada medical license after the Board concluded that Dr. Mericle provided false, misleading, inaccurate or incomplete statements on his license application. Dr. Mericle answered "No" to questions which asked if he had ever been the subject of a malpractice claim or if he had ever been the subject of an investigation by a medical board. Dr. Mericle had in fact been the subject of at least twenty-two malpractice claims while practicing medicine with the California Department of Corrections. Dr. Mericle had also been the subject of investigation by the California Medical Board and he was required to undergo a psychiatric evaluation due to concerns that he had performed inappropriate patient examinations. On October 12, 2005, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Mericle with being disciplined by the medical licensing authority of another state when he was denied a medical license by the Nevada Board. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Mericle was issued a Citation and Warning and ordered to pay a \$2,000 civil penalty.

Eric L. Paulson, M.D., a 52 year-old physician practicing in Carroll, Iowa, had his Iowa medical license immediately suspended by the Board. In January 1996, the Board charged Dr. Paulson with alcohol abuse and he was placed on probation for alcohol abuse. Since then the Board has filed formal disciplinary charges against Dr. Paulson for violating the terms of his Board Order on three separate occasions in 1999, 2001 and 2002. The Board temporarily suspended Dr. Paulson's license and he was required to pay civil penalties for violating his Board Orders in 2002. On December 9, 2005, the Board filed new charges against Dr. Paulson which allege that he slapped an elderly female patient, who suffers from a behavioral disorder, across the face after she shoved food in his face. On February 13, 2006, the Board received a copy of an evaluation report from the Professionals at Risk Treatment Services program in Elmhurst, IL. Dr. Paulson completed the evaluation on January 23-24, 2006, at the request of his employer. Professionals at Risk concluded that the information it reviewed "gravitate(s) against his being able to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety without intensive therapeutic intervention," and recommended that he complete intensive residential treatment. On March 2, 2006, the Board filed an Amended Statement of Charges and an Emergency Adjudicative Order suspending Dr.

Paulson's Iowa medical license after concluding that he may not continue to practice medicine without posing an immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare. A hearing is scheduled for March 14, 2006.

Alyce K. Tyree, D.O., a 51 year-old physician from Macon, Missouri, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On February 9, 2005, Dr. Tyree was found guilty in Missouri of the Class C felony criminal offenses of Deviate Sexual Intercourse with a Person Less than Fourteen (14) Years Old, Statutory Sodomy, Abuse of a Child, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child. On March 1, 2005, Dr. Tyree was incarcerated for a brief period and released and placed on criminal probation for a period of five years. On April 27, 2005, the Missouri Medical Board revoked Dr. Tyree's Missouri medical license. On December 9, 2005, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Tyree with engaging in unprofessional or unethical conduct, with being convicted of several felonies and with having her Missouri medical license revoked. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Tyree voluntarily surrendered her Iowa medical license.

Samir R. Wahby, M.D., a 45 year-old orthopedic surgeon who practices in Fort Dodge, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. On March 2, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Wahby with violating the terms of a Physician Health Contract. A hearing on the charges is scheduled for April 12, 2006.