

BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 92764

Case No. 800-2017-034353

Respondent.

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED: December 1, 2020.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair
Panel A

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 MARY CAIN-SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 GREG W. CHAMBERS
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 237509
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Attorneys for Complainant
7

8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-034353

13 **SANDEEP BAHADUR LAL, M.D.**
14 **2500 Merced St.**
San Leandro, CA 94577-4201

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A**
16 **92764**

17 Respondent.

18
19 In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public
20 interest and the responsibility of the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer
21 Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order
22 which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final disposition of the
23 Accusation.

24 **PARTIES**

25 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
26 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
27 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Greg W. Chambers,
28 Deputy Attorney General.

1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
3 No. 800-2017-034353, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his
4 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

5 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of
6 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima
7 facie case or factual basis for the charges in Accusation, No. 800-2017-034353, a true and correct
8 copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to
9 contest those charges.

10 11. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of
11 probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and
12 allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2017-034353, shall be deemed true, correct, and
13 fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding
14 involving Respondent in the State of California.

15 12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to
16 discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the
17 Disciplinary Order below.

18 CONTINGENCY

19 13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.
20 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical
21 Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and
22 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the
23 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek
24 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails
25 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
26 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal
27 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having
28 considered this matter.

1 14. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of
2 probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the
3 Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2017-034353 shall be
4 deemed true, correct and fully admitted by respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any
5 other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

6 15. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile
7 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile
8 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

9 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
10 the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent, issue and
11 enter the following Disciplinary Order:

12 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

13 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 92764 issued
14 to Respondent Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and
15 Respondent is placed on probation for thirty-five (35) months on the following terms and
16 conditions:

17 1. **EDUCATION COURSE.** Within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of this
18 Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee
19 for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than forty (40)
20 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be
21 aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified.
22 The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition
23 to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following
24 the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test
25 Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for sixty-
26 five (65) hours of CME of which forty (40) hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

27 2. **MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE.** Within sixty (60) calendar days of the
28 effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping

1 approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course
2 provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem
3 pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of
4 the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall
5 successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The
6 medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the
7 Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

8 A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the
9 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board
10 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have
11 been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of
12 this Decision.

13 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
14 designee not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not
15 later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

16 3. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within sixty (60) calendar
17 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program,
18 that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1.
19 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall
20 provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall
21 successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after
22 Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the
23 time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom
24 component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in
25 addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

26 A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the
27 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board
28 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have

1 been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of
2 this Decision.

3 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
4 designee not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after successfully completing the program or not
5 later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

6 4. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the
7 Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the
8 Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to
9 Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine,
10 including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief
11 Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to
12 Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within
13 fifteen (15) calendar days.

14 This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

15 5. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
16 NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and
17 advanced practice nurses.

18 6. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules
19 governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court
20 ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

21 7. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
22 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
23 compliance with all the conditions of probation.

24 Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than ten (10) calendar days after
25 the end of the preceding quarter.

26 8. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

27 Compliance with Probation Unit

28 Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

1 Address Changes

2 Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and
3 residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such
4 addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no
5 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business
6 and Professions Code section 2021, subdivision (b).

7 Place of Practice

8 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place
9 of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed
10 facility.

11 License Renewal

12 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
13 license.

14 Travel or Residence Outside California

15 Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any
16 areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty
17 (30) calendar days.

18 In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice,
19 Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing thirty (30) calendar days prior to the
20 dates of departure and return.

21 9. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE. Respondent shall be
22 available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the
23 probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

24 10. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or
25 its designee in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting
26 more than thirty (30) calendar days and within fifteen (15) calendar days of Respondent's return
27 to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine
28 as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least forty (40) hours

1 in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as
2 approved by the Board. If Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-
3 practice, Respondent shall comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in
4 an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be
5 considered non-practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and
6 conditions of probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal
7 jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction
8 shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be
9 considered as a period of non-practice.

10 In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds eighteen (18)
11 calendar months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical
12 Boards's Special Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence
13 assessment program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's
14 "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the
15 practice of medicine.

16 Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

17 Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

18 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve
19 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the
20 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;
21 General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or
22 Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

23 11. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial
24 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than one hundred and twenty (120)
25 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation,
26 Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.

27 12. VIOLATION OF PROBATION. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition
28 of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the

1 Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and
2 carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation,
3 or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have
4 continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until
5 the matter is final.

6 13. LICENSE SURRENDER. Following the effective date of this Decision, if
7 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy
8 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license.
9 The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in
10 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate
11 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
12 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
13 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject
14 to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the
15 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

16 14. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated
17 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which
18 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of
19 California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar
20 year.

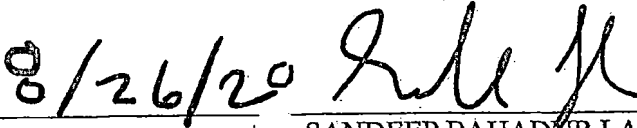
21 15. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for
22 a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care
23 licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in
24 Accusation No. 800-2017-034353 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by
25 Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or
26 restrict license.

27 ///

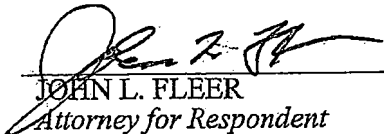
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1 ACCEPTANCE

2 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
3 discussed it with my attorney, John L, Fleer. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will
4 have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and
5 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
6 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

7
8 DATED: 8/26/20 
9 SANDEEP BAHADUR LAL, M.D.
10 *Respondent*

11 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D. the terms and
12 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
13 I approve its form and content.

14 DATED: 8-26-20 
15 JOHN L. FLEER
16 *Attorney for Respondent*

17 ENDORSEMENT

18 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
19 submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

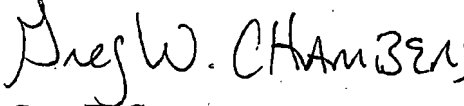
20 DATED: 8/27/2020
21 Respectfully submitted,
22 XAVIER BECERRA
23 Attorney General of California
24 MARY CAIN-SIMON
25 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
26 
27 GREG W. CHAMBERS
28 Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-034353

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO NOV. 19 20 19
BY A. GERRONIA ANALYST

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Attorney General of California
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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-034353

13 **Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D.**
14 **2500 Merced St.**
San Leandro, CA 94577-4201

A C C U S A T I O N

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
16 **No. A 92764,**

17 Respondent.

18
19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity
21 as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer
22 Affairs (Board).

23 2. On or about September 9, 2005, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
24 Certificate Number A 92764 to Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
25 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
26 herein and will expire on September 30, 2021, unless renewed.

1 JURISDICTION

2 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following
3 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise
4 indicated.

5 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the
6 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed
7 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other
8 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

9 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

10 "The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional
11 conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not
12 limited to, the following:

13 "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the
14 violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

15 "(b) Gross negligence.

16 "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or
17 omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from
18 the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.

19 "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate
20 for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.

21 "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that
22 constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a
23 reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the
24 applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the
25 standard of care.

26 "(d) Incompetence.

27 "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially
28 related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

1 (f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

2 (g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting
3 the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not
4 apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the
5 proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.

6 (h) The repeated failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and
7 participate in an interview scheduled by the mutual agreement of the certificate holder and the
8 board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an
9 investigation by the board."

10 6. Section 2266 of the Code states: "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain
11 adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes
12 unprofessional conduct."

13 **FACTS**

14 7. On or about December 27, 2016, Patient One¹ presented to the emergency room at
15 Kaiser Hospital – San Leandro, complaining of loss of appetite, constipation, and abdominal pain.
16 A CT scan was ordered and the radiologist report noted, "There is no small bowel obstruction.
17 The colon however is packed with stool throughout and is distended. There is probably a
18 pancreatic tail mass present. There may be surgical clips in the immediate vicinity. There is
19 cholelithiasis.² There is abdominal ascites.³ There is a small left pleural effusion."⁴

20 8. Patient One was admitted to the hospital, and on December 28, 2016, Respondent
21 took over the care of Patient One until her discharge on December 31, 2016.

22 9. On admission to the hospital, Patient One had a white blood cell count of 11,400. On
23 December 29, 2016, Patient One's white blood cell count was up to 13,900.

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¹ "Patient One" will be used for the purpose of this Accusation to protect the patient's
privacy. Respondent may learn the identity of the patient during discovery.

² The formation of gallstones.

³ A buildup of fluid in the abdomen.

⁴ Increase of fluid around the lung.

1 10. On December 29, 2016, Respondent prescribed an enema and offered that Patient
2 One would need an outpatient barium enema to rule out a colonic mass.⁵ Respondent did not
3 mention in his records, at any point, that Patient One had a probable pancreatic tail mass, ascites,
4 or pleural effusion. In fact, during the course of treating Patient One, Respondent failed to
5 evaluate the pancreatic mass with an appropriate diagnostic study, and never consulted with the
6 oncology or radiology departments regarding appropriate diagnostic studies for a pancreatic mass.

7 11. On December 30, 2016, Respondent documented that Patient One was having
8 abdominal cramping, so he discontinued one of her medications. Respondent then saw Patient
9 One in the afternoon and noted that she was still having abdominal pain and not tolerating food.
10 Therefore, Respondent withheld Patient One's discharge from the hospital for one more day.

11 12. On the evening of December 30, 2016, Patient One developed tachycardia,⁶ which
12 lasted more than nine hours. Respondent and the covering physician both ordered a bolus of
13 intravenous fluids for the rapid heart rate.

14 13. On December 31, 2016, Respondent discharged Patient One from the hospital.
15 Respondent did not mention the tachycardia in the records or discharge summary for this day, nor
16 did Respondent note that Patient One had a heart rate of 105 beats per minute and 100 beats per
17 minute at 6:05 a.m. and 8:25 a.m., respectively, on the date of her discharge. Respondent did
18 write that Patient One had had multiple bowel movements since being admitted to the hospital.

19 14. The results from the abdominal CT scan identifying a pancreatic tail mas, abdominal
20 ascites, and pleural effusion were not listed in the discharge summary or in the December 31,
21 2016 records. Instead, Respondent wrote in the discharge documents, "ABD CT: no SMALL
22 BOWEL OBSTRUCTION - colon packed with stools." Further, Respondent never told Patient
23 One, or any of her family members, that the CT scan revealed a pancreatic tail mass, abdominal
24 ascites, and pleural effusion.

25 15. Respondent recommended upon discharge that Patient One follow-up with her
26 physician for a barium enema, and consider a bowel regime for chronic constipation.

27 _____
28 ⁵ Patient One had a family history of colon cancer.

⁶ Excessive heartbeat, usually more than 100 times per minute.

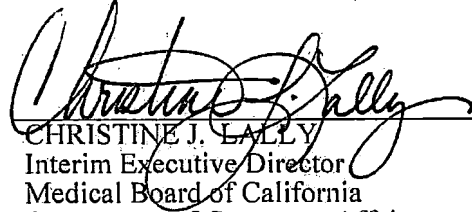
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PRAVER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 92764, issued to Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Sandeep Bahadur Lal, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: November 19, 2019


CHRISTINE J. LALLY
Interim Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant