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

In the Matter of the Second Amended Accusation Against:

Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D.

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Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2019-058499

# **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License 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 June 21, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED June 14, 2022.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

William Prasifica

Executive Director

1	ROB BONTA		
2	Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JASON J. AHN	•	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 253172		
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101		
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266	·	
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9433 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061	•	
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
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10	BEFORE THE		
11	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
13	To the Matter of the Consul Amended	L Cara Na. 200 2010 052400	
14	In the Matter of the Second Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2019-058499	
15	JONATHAN LAM YUEN WATT, M.D.	OAH No. 2021110521	
16	PO Box 12078 San Bernardino, CA 92423-2078	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
17	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815		
18	Respondent.		
19	Manager and the second		
20			
21	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-		
22	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
23	<u>PARTIES</u>		
24	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of		
25	California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this		
26	matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Jason J. Ahn, Deputy		
27	Attorney General.		
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- 2. Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Michael J. Khouri, whose address is: 101 Pacifica, Suite 380, Irvine, CA 92618.
- 3. On or about May 15, 2009, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815 to Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2019-058499 and will expire on April 30, 2023, unless renewed.

## **JURISDICTION**

4. On October 20, 2021, Accusation No. 800-2019-058499 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on or about October 20, 2021. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. On January 25, 2022, First Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499 was filed before the Board. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on or about January 25, 2022. On June 3, 2022, Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499 was filed before the Board. The Second Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on or about June 3, 2022. A copy of Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Second Amended Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision;

and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

## **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815 to disciplinary action.
- 9. Respondent agrees that if an accusation is ever filed against him before the Medical Board of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.
- 10. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815 is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

## CONTINGENCY

- 11. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a . . . stipulation for surrender of a license."
- 12. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands

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and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall 13. be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

## **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

- This Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order, 15. including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

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

## **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815, issued to Respondent Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a physician and surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$18,901.25 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.
- 6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Second Amended Accusation, No. 800-2019-058499 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

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## **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Michael J. Khouri, Esq. I fully understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and fully agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: June 6, 2022

JONATHAN LAM YUEN WATT, M.D.

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: Jun b. 2022

MICHAEL J. KHOURI Attorney for Respondent

# **ENDORSEMENT** The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs. June 6, 2022 DATED: Respectfully submitted, **ROB BONTA** Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General JASON J. AHN Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant SD2021801793 Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.docx

# Exhibit A

Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-058499

1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California		
2 3	MATTHEW M. DAVIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General JASON J. AHN		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 253172		
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101		
6 7	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 738-9433 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9			
10	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
12	STATE OF C.	ALIFORNIA	
13	In the Matter of the Second Accusation	Case No. 800-2019-058499	
14	Against:	OAH No. 2021110521	
15	Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D. PO Box 12078 San Bernardino, CA 92423-2078	SECOND AMENDED A C C U S A T I O N	
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815,		
17	Respondent.		
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20	1 William Presides (Complainant) bring	es this First Amondad Assusation soluly in his	
21	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in his		
22	official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of		
23	Consumer Affairs (Board).		
24	2. On or about May 15, 2009, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate		
25	No. A 107815 to Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's		
26	Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will		
27	expire on April 30, 2023, unless renewed.		
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#### **JURISDICTION**

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2 This Second Amended Accusation supersedes First Amended Accusation No. 800-3 2019-058499, filed on January 25, 2022, and Accusation No. 800-2019-058499, filed on October 20, 2021, in the above-entitled matter, and is brought before the Board, under the authority of the 4 following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise 5 indicated. 6 4. Section 726 of the Code states: 7 "(a) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient, 8 client, or customer constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary action for any 9 person licensed under this division, under any initiative act referred to in this division. 10 11 5. Section 729 of the Code states: "(a) Any physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, alcohol and drug abuse counselor or any 12 person holding himself or herself out to be a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol 13 and drug abuse counselor, who engages in an act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, oral copulation, or sexual contact with a patient or client . . . is guilty of sexual exploitation by a physician and 14 surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor. . ." 15 "For purposes of subdivision (a), in no instance shall consent of the patient or client be a 16 defense. However, physicians and surgeons shall not be guilty of sexual exploitation for touching any intimate part of a patient or client unless the touching is outside the scope of medical 17 examination and treatment, or the touching is done for sexual gratification. 18 "(c) For purposes of this section: 19 20 "(3) "Sexual contact" means sexual intercourse or the touching of an intimate part of a 21 patient for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse. 22 "(4) "Intimate part" and "touching" have the same meanings as defined in Section 243.4 of 23 the Penal Code." 24 111 25 /// 26 111 27 111

"Any proposed decision or decision issued under this article that contains any finding of fact that the licensee engaged in any act of sexual exploitation, as described in paragraph (3) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 729, with a patient shall contain an order of revocation. The revocation shall not be stayed by the administrative law judge."

# 7. Section 2234 of the Code, states in part:

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

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"(b) Gross negligence.

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

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

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

### 8. Section 2228.1 of the Code states:

- (a) On and after July 1, 2019, except as otherwise provided in subdivision (c), the board shall require a licensee to provide a separate disclosure that includes the licensee's probation status, the length of the probation, the probation end date, all practice restrictions placed on the licensee by the board, the board's telephone number, and an explanation of how the patient can find further information on the licensee's probation on the licensee's profile page on the board's online license information Internet Web site, to a patient or the patient's guardian or health care surrogate before the patient's first visit following the probationary order while the licensee is on probation pursuant to a probationary order made on and after July 1, 2019, in any of the following circumstances:
- (1) A final adjudication by the board following an administrative hearing or admitted findings or prima facie showing in a stipulated settlement establishing any

575.)

# **COST RECOVERY**

#### 11. Section 125.3 of the Code states that:

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
- (b) In the case of a disciplined licentiate that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.
- (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.
- (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.
- (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
- (g)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid costs.
- (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.
- (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.
- Fig. (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in

that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative disciplinary proceeding.

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Gross Negligence)

12. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 107815 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A<sup>1</sup> and Patient B, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

## Patient A

- 13. On or about May 24, 2017, Patient A first presented to Respondent's office complaining of lack of motivation and unhappiness. At that time, Patient A was a twenty-seven (27) year-old female. At the end of this visit, Respondent hugged Patient A, while whispering into Patient A's ear, "We are not supposed to touch our patients." A follow-up appointment was scheduled in thirty (30) days.
- 14. After Patient A's visit on or about May 24, 2017 and before the next visit on or about June 26, 2017, Respondent repeatedly contacted Patient A via telephone and/or social media, expressing his desire to see Patient A again prior to the next scheduled appointment. Respondent repeatedly requested permission to visit Patient A at her residence. Patient A at first refused, but eventually agreed to allow Respondent to visit Patient A at Patient A's residence.
- 15. After Patient A's visit on or about May 24, 2017 and before the next visit on or about June 26, 2017, Respondent went to Patient A's residence and they had a sexual intercourse.
- 16. On or about June 26, 2017, Patient A returned to Respondent's office for a follow-up psychiatric care and/or treatment. During this visit, Patient A confronted Respondent by stating that Patient A believed Respondent had used her [for sex] and as a result, Patient A felt worthless. Respondent apologized to Patient A, broke down emotionally, and stated he did not want to hurt Patient A. Respondent then prompted Patient A to hug Respondent. Patient A obliged and they began kissing each other. The kissing eventually led to Patient A performing fellatio on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> References to "Patient A" and "Patient B" are used to protect patient privacy.

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# **PRAYER**

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 No. A 107815, issued to Respondent Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 3. Ordering Respondent Jonathan Lam Yuen Watt, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and
  - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: June 3, 2022

On I

On Behalf of

WILLIAM PRASIFKA
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant