

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

**In the Matter of the First Amended
Accusation Against:**

Quy Viethoang Le, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 100948**

Respondent.

Case No.: 800-2019-054189

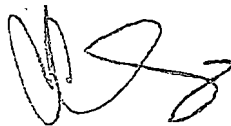
DECISION

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 March 6, 2023.

IT IS SO ORDERED: February 2, 2023.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



**Laurie Rose Lubiano, J.D., Chair
Panel A**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 ROBERT W. LINCOLN
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BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:
QUY VIETHOANG LE, M.D.
18225 Brookhurst Street, Suite 6
Fountain Valley, CA 92708-6719
Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
A 100948
Respondent.

Case No. 800-2019-054189
OAH No. 2021100526
**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

PARTIES

1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Robert W. Lincoln, Deputy Attorney General.

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CULPABILITY

9. 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 Accusation No. 800-2019-054189, 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 100948 to disciplinary action.

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

11. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2019-054189 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

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CONTINGENCY

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

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ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

13. This Stipulated Settlement 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.

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

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

7 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

8 IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 100948 issued
9 to Respondent QUY VIETHOANG LE, M.D., is revoked. However, the revocations are stayed
10 and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years from the effective date of the Decision
11 on the following terms and conditions:

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

22 2. **PRACTICE MONITOR:** Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this
23 Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a practice
24 monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose
25 licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferable American Board of Medical
26 Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal
27 relationship with respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to
28 compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Board, including

1 but not limited to any form of bartering, shall be in respondent's field of practice, and must agree
2 to serve as respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

3 The Board or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the
4 Decision(s) and Accusation(s), and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of
5 receipt of the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit
6 a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), fully understands
7 the role of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor
8 disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan
9 with the signed statement for approval by the Board or its designee

10 Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and continuing throughout
11 probation, respondent's practice, shall be monitored by the approved monitor. Respondent shall
12 make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor
13 at all times during business hours and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

14 The monitor(s) shall submit a quarterly written report to the Board or its designee which
15 includes an evaluation of respondent's performance, indicating whether respondent's practices are
16 within the standards of practice of medicine and whether respondent is practicing medicine
17 safely, billing appropriately or both. It shall be the sole responsibility of respondent to ensure that
18 the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee within 10 calendar
19 days after the end of the preceding quarter.

20 If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, respondent shall, within 5 calendar days of
21 such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval; the
22 name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within
23 15 calendar days. If respondent fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60
24 calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, respondent shall receive a
25 notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3)
26 calendar days after being so notified Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine until a
27 replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility.

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1 In lieu of a monitor, respondent may participate in a professional enhancement program
2 approved in advance by the Board or its designee, that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart
3 review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and
4 education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at respondent's
5 expense during the term of probation.

6 If the Board or its designee determine that after one (1) year respondent's practice monitor
7 reports are satisfactory, respondent will no longer require a practice monitor.

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

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

17 4. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
18 NURSES. During probation, Respondent will be permitted to supervise physician assistants and
19 advanced practice nurses.

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

23 6. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY. Respondent is hereby
24 ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of three
25 thousand nine hundred and fifteen dollars and fifty cents (\$3,915.00). Costs shall be payable to
26 the Medical Board of California. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of
27 probation.

28 Any and all requests for a payment plan shall be submitted in writing by Respondent to the

1 Board.

2 The filing of bankruptcy by Respondent shall not relieve Respondent of the responsibility
3 to repay investigation and enforcement costs.

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

7 Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end
8 of the preceding quarter.

9 8. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

10 Compliance with Probation Unit

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

12 Address Changes

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

18 Place of Practice

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

22 License Renewal

23 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
24 license.

25 Travel or Residence Outside California

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

1 In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice
2 ;Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
3 departure and return.

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

7 10. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board
8 or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than
9 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is
10 defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and
11 Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct
12 patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If
13 Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall
14 comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training
15 program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-
16 practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of
17 probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while
18 on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be
19 considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a
20 period of non-practice.

21 In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar
22 months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Board's Special
23 Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program
24 that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model
25 Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

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

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

28 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve

1 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the
2 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;
3 General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or
4 Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

5 11. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial
6 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the
7 completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall
8 be fully restored.

9 12. VIOLATION OF PROBATION. Failure to fully comply with any term or
10 condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any
11 respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke
12 probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to
13 Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation,
14 the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation
15 shall be extended until the matter is final.

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

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

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7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2012

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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10 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
11 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation	Case No. 800-2019-054189
14 Against:	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION
15 QUY VIETHOANG LE, M.D.	
16 18225 Brookhurst St., Suite 6	
Fountain Valley, CA 92708-6719	
17 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate	
No. A 100948,	
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	Respondent.

20 **PARTIES**

- 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 July 25, 2007, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
25 No. A 100948 to Quy Viethoang Le, 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
27 will expire on December 31, 2022, unless renewed.
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1 the Code, in that he was grossly negligent in his care and treatment of Patient A¹, as more
2 particularly alleged hereafter:

3 8. On or about January 5, 2016, Patient A was admitted to Orange Coast Medical Center
4 (OCMC) after suffering a COPD² exacerbation as an outpatient. Over the next eighteen (18) days
5 Patient A was treated for pneumonia and COPD exacerbation with antibiotics and high-dose
6 corticosteroids, respectively.

7 9. On or about January 21, 2016, Patient A's physicians obtained a CT scan³ showing
8 obstruction of the sigmoid colon⁴, free fluids in the pelvis, and the suggestion of diverticulitis⁵.

9 10. On or about January 23, 2016, Respondent saw Patient A. Respondent recognized
10 that Patient A needed emergency surgery. Respondent considered doing a Hartmann's operation,
11 the usual procedure for obstructing or perforated sigmoid colon. Instead, Respondent having
12 made the hole for the planned colostomy, he then decided to make a primary anastomosis⁶
13 instead, to avoid the morbidity of colostomy.

14 11. Patient A remained very ill post-operatively. On or about February 1, 2016,
15 Respondent ordered a sodium phosphate enema to restart Patient A's bowel function and to look
16 for a "leak." Respondent observed a "leak" and decided to conduct a second operation on Patient
17 A.

18 12. On or about February 4, 2016, Respondent conducted a second operation on Patient
19 A. Respondent resected the leaking colorectal anastomosis, made a left-sided colostomy, and
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22 ¹ To protect the privacy of the patient involved, the patient's name has not been included
23 in this pleading. Respondent is aware of the identity of the patient referred to herein.

24 ² Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic inflammatory lung disease
25 that causes obstructed airflow from the lungs.

26 ³ CT Scan (Computed Tomography scan) is a medical imaging technique used in
27 radiology to get detailed images of the body noninvasively for diagnostic purposes.

28 ⁴ Sigmoid Colon is the terminal portion of the large intestine before reaching the rectum.
It connects the descending colon with the rectum.

⁵ Diverticulitis occurs when small, bulging pouches develop in your digestive tract. When
one or more of these pouches become inflamed or infected, the condition is called diverticulitis.

⁶ Anastomosis is a connection made surgically between adjacent blood vessels, parts of
the intestine, or other channels of the body, or the operation in which this is constructed.

1 closed off Patient A's rectum, completing the Hartmann's operation⁷ Respondent chose to delay
2 during the first operation on Patient A.

3 13. Patient A remained critically ill after the second operation, developing multisystem
4 organ failure and died on February 23, 2016.

5 14. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A by
6 incorrectly choosing to conduct an anastomosis on Patient A and secondly, to conduct an
7 anastomosis using likely-ischemic⁸ colon that, according to conventional wisdom, should have
8 been resected.

9 **SECOND CAUSE OF DISCIPLINE**

10 **(Incompetence)**

11 15. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
12 A 100948 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,
13 subdivision (d), of the Code, in that he has demonstrated incompetence in his care and treatment
14 of Patient A, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 7 through 14, above, which are hereby
15 incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

16 **THIRD CAUSE OF DISCIPLINE**

17 **(Unprofessional Conduct)**

18 16. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
19 A 100948 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234 of the Code, in that he has engaged
20 in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is
21 unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an
22 unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 7 through 14; above,
23 which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

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27 ⁷ Hartmann's Operation is a surgical resection of the rectosigmoid colon with closure of
the anorectal stump and formation for an end colostomy.

28 ⁸ Ischemic is a restriction in blood supply to tissues, causing a shortage of oxygen that is
needed for cellular metabolism.

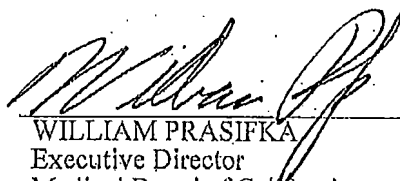
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PRAYER

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 100948, issued to Respondent Quy Viethoang Le, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Quy Viethoang Le, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Respondent Quy Viethoang Le, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring;
4. Ordering Respondent Quy Viethoang Le, M.D., to pay the Medical Board of California the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and
5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: JAN 31 2022



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

SD2021800753