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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

SUZANNE OH KIM, M.D.

Certificate No. A 67019

Physician's and Surgeon's

Respondent.

# **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and 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 July 3, 2023.

IT IS SO ORDERED June 26, 2023.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Case No. 800-2019-054043

Reji Varghese,

**Executive Director** 

1	ROB BONTA			
2	Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ Supervising Deputy Attorney General JOHN S. GATSCHET			
3				
4	State Bar No. 244388 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7546 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247			
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10	BEFORE THE			
11	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS			
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2019-054043		
14	SUZANNE OH KIM, M.D.	OAH No. 2022110702		
15	8583 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 464 Irvine, CA 92618-4298	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF		
16	114110, 011 72010 1270	LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER		
17 18	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 67019	·		
19	Respondent.			
20				
21	IT IS HERERY STIPULATED AND AG	REED by and between the parties to the above-		
22	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:			
23	PARTIES			
24	1. Reji Varghese ("Complainant") is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical			
25	Board of California ("Board"). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is			
26	represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by John S.			
27	Gatschet, Deputy Attorney General.			
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2. Suzanne Oh Kim, M.D. ("Respondent") is represented in this proceeding by attorney Gary Wittenberg, Esq., whose address is:

Baranov & Wittenberg LLP 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1750 Los Angeles, CA 90067.

3. On or about November 20, 1998, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 67019 to Respondent. That Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2019-054043 and will expire on March 31, 2024, unless renewed.

# **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 800-2019-054043 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 March 11, 2022. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2019-054043 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

# ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2019-054043. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her 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.

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**CULPABILITY** 

- 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2019-054043, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima* facie basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

# RESERVATION

11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

#### CONTINGENCY

- 12. 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."
- 13. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, she enables the Executive Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 67019 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.
- 14. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director, whether interim or permanent, on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted

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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 and agrees that she may not withdraw her 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 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**

16. This Stipulated Surrender of License 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.

- 17. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 18. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

# **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 67019, issued to Respondent Suzanne Oh Kim, 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 her pocket license and, if one was issued, her 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 Accusation No. 800-2019-054043 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 \$41,291.25 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license. The Board shall not grant a new or reinstated license until all cost recovery has been paid in full.
- 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 Accusation, No. 800-2019-054043 shall 1 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of 2 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure. 3 4 /// 5 /// 6 /// 7 /// 111 8 /// 10 /// []] 11 /// 12 13 /// 14 1// 15 /// 16 /// /// 17 18 /// 111 19 /// 20 /// 21 /// 22 23 /// 24 /// 25 26 111 /// 27 /// 28 6

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	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>		
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order and		
3	have fully discussed it with my attorney Gary Wittenberg, Esq. I understand the stipulation and		
1	the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated		
s	Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree		
6	to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.		
7			
8	DATED: 05/26/2023 SUZANNE OH KIM, M.D.		
9	SUZANNE OH KIM, M.D.  Respondent		
0	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Suzanne Oh Kim, M.D., the terms and		
1	conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Syrrender of License and Disciplinary		
2	Order. I approve i toform and content.		
3	DATED: 5.26/23.		
4	GARY WITTENBERG, ESQ.  Attorney for Respondent		
5	DATE OF GENERAL TO		
16	ENDORSEMENT.		
17	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby		
8	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of		
19	Consumer Affairs.  May 30, 2023		
20	DATED: Respectfully submitted,		
21	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California		
22	ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
23	John Laket LI		
24			
25	JOHN S. GATSCHET  Deputy Attorney General  Attorneys for Complainant		
26	Allorneys for Complainant		
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# Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2019-054043

	II .			
1	ROB BONTA			
2	Attorney General of California STEVEN D. MUNI			
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General RYAN J. McEWAN Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 285595 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255			
4				
5				
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550			
7	Telephone: (916) 210-7548 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247			
	Attorneys for Complainant			
8	BEFORE THE			
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2019-054043		
SUZANNE KIM, M.D. 5405 Alton Pkwy, Ste. 5A-214  A C C U S A T I O N		ACCUSATION		
14	Irvine, CA 92604-3717	•		
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 67019,			
16	Respond	dont		
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19	]	PARTIES		
20	1. William Prasifka (Complainant)	brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity		
21	as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs			
22	(Board).			
23	2. On or about November 20, 1998	, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's		
24	Certificate No. A 67019 to Suzanne Kim, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's			
25	Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will			
26	expire on March 31, 2022, unless renewed.			
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# **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Section 2227 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
  - (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
    - (1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.
  - (2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
  - (3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
  - (4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.
  - (5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
  - 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states, in pertinent part:

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:

- (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

1	licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure	
2	constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.	
3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
4	6. Section 2264 of the Code states:	
5	The employing, directly or indirectly, the aiding, or the abetting of any	
6	unlicensed person or any suspended, revoked, or unlicensed practitioner to engage in the practice of medicine or any other mode of treating the sick or afflicted which requires a license to practice constitutes unprofessional conduct.	
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8	7. Section 2266 of the Code states that the failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain	
9	adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes	
10	unprofessional conduct.	
11	COST RECOVERY	
12	8. Section 125.3 of the Code states:	
13	(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.	
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17	(b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.	
18	(c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where	
19	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	
20	investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.	
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22	(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	
23	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	
24	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	
25	(a).	
26	(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	
27	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.	
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Beverly Hills location, and medical research. The medical research included investigational studies of Stromal Vascular Fraction (SVF)<sup>1</sup> procedures.

12. During her tenure at Infusio, Respondent treated Patients A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I<sup>2</sup> between approximately January 2017 through April 2018. All of the aforementioned patients presented to Respondent with a history of Lyme disease and were still suffering from related long-term symptoms. Respondent left Infusio in or around May 2019.

# Patient A

- 13. Patient A learned about Infusio's stem cell treatment from an online forum for patients with chronic illness. Patient A had history of Lyme disease and thyroid/hormone issues. Patient A reached out to Infusio directly and asked questions about the treatment program specifically for patients with Lyme disease. She ultimately opted to try Infusio's two-week treatment program, which cost approximately \$25,000.
- 14. On or about April 30, 2018, Patient A traveled to Infusio's Beverly Hills office to start the treatment protocol. On or about that day, Patient A signed an authorization to release protected health information with regard to her medical records and their inclusion in a medical study to investigate Autologous Adipose Derived Stromal Vascular Fraction Deployment.
- 15. On or about this first treatment date, Patient A had a consultation with Respondent. Patient A's subjective medical history, social life, and typical diet were documented in Infusio's medical records. Respondent answered Patient A's questions about the stem cell procedure.
- 16. From on or about May 1, 2018 through May 4, 2018, Patient A received daily IV treatments at Infusio that were administered by a registered nurse. Before starting the IV therapy, Patient A was never told what medications or supplements she was being given. When Patient A asked Infusio staff what was in the IV bags, she was told that, "it was going to make her feel really good," and that the bags generally contained vitamins and minerals that were good for the body. The IV bags were not properly labeled with the patient's name or the contents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> SVF is a form of stem cell therapy that is made up of stem cells harvested from adipose tissue.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Patient names have been omitted to protect their privacy.

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- In addition to IV therapy, Patient A was supposed to receive other treatments as part 17. of Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program. These treatments included intramuscular thymus injections<sup>3</sup> and 10-pass ozone therapy.<sup>4</sup> Infusio staff became so shorthanded during Patient A's treatment that W.H., an unlicensed receptionist, administered Patient A's thymus injections.
- When Patient A tried to get 10-pass ozone therapy, the machine stopped working. 18. Multiple Infusio staff members were unable to get the machine to complete Patient A's treatment and Patient A was told that she could try getting the treatment later when the machine was working.
- 19. According to Infusio records, on or about May 1, 2018, Patient A received 10-pass ozone treatment. The medical records fail to document that the machine was not working at the time and that the treatment was not completed.
- Patient A continued with IV therapy on or about May 7, 2018 and May 8, 2018. Once again, Infusio's treatment records for May 7, 2018 indicate that Patient A received 10-pass ozone therapy when in fact she did not.
- On or about May 9, 2018, Respondent documented that Patient A underwent the SVF procedure. While Patient A was awake and medicated with Versed<sup>5</sup> and local anesthesia. Respondent removed approximately 50 ccs of fat from Patient A's flank. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.
- After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into 22. Patient A's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Per Infusio's website, thymus peptide injections are thought to restore and improve the immune system.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 10-pass ozone therapy involves the infusion of ozone in a patient's blood which is repeated approximately ten times.

Versed, brand name for midazolam, is a sedative and a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d).

<sup>6</sup> According to Infusio's website, ACT is a process by which certain types of cells are extracted from a patient's blood and re-infused via IV.

- 23. In addition to receiving stem cells via IV, Patient A also received a "gut shot," which was derived from an extra syringe of fat cells. According to Respondent's records, a lipoaspirate paste was made and injected back into Patient A's upper abdomen with local anesthesia. Following the SVF procedure, Respondent wrote Patient A a prescription for Ultram for 30 tablets to be taken as needed for pain.
- 24. To complete the Integrative Lyme Disease program, Patient A underwent two more days of IV therapy on or about May 10, 2018 and May 11, 2018.
- 25. Following the program, Infusio staff members followed up with Patient A once on or about May 17, 2018. Patient A reported that she was experiencing headaches and nausea. Infusio records for Patient A contain no other notes to follow-up with Patient A following SVF.
- 26. On or about October 12, 2018, Patient A returned to Infusio Beverly Hills and saw Respondent to begin Autologous Cyto-Immunotherapy (ACT).<sup>6</sup> Patient A complained of increased fatigue. Respondent noted that Patient A was to start the ACT program and that Infusio would follow-up in three months. Respondent also recommended diet changes and supplements.
- 27. From on or about November 14, 2018 to November 15, 2018, Patient A underwent ACT therapy. During this treatment, Patient A requested to get the 10-pass ozone therapy that she had paid for in the Integrative Lyme Disease Program. Infusio staff members denied her request. They told Patient A that her records indicated that she had already received the treatment and that she would have to pay extra if she wanted more.
- 28. Infusio never followed up with Patient A after she completed the ACT program. Following treatment with Infusio, Patient A experienced nerve pain and has permanent divots in her back from the liposuction procedure.

#### Patient B

29. Patient B initially learned of Infusio from a friend. Patient B had a history of Lyme disease and Hashimoto's disease. She started Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program on or

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about March 20, 2017 and traveled to California from Michigan to receive the two-week treatment.

- 30. From on or about March 20, 2017 to March 25, 2017 and March 27, 2017 to March 29, 2017, Patient B had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections. Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IVs Patient B received.
- According to Infusio records, H.B., a licensed registered nurse, administered Patient B's IV therapy and thymus injections. During the daily IV therapy, however, X.M., a medical assistant, sometimes administered the IV therapy. Medical assistants cannot start or disconnect IVs, nor can they administer injections or medications into an IV.
- On or about March 27, 2017, Respondent signed a note that indicated that Patient B received trigger point therapy. Respondent's documented assessment listed "Hashimoto[']s, Lyme, Bart[onella], Babs [Babesia]." Patient B's symptoms included insomnia, fatigue, and hearing loss. It is not clear from the record whether Patient B actually received trigger point therapy.
- 33. On or about March 30, 2017, Respondent documented that Patient B received the SVF procedure. While Patient B was awake and medicated with Versed and local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 50 ccs of fat from Patient B's flank. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.
- After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into Patient B's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.
- On or about March 31, 2017, Patient B received one last day of IV therapy and a thymus injection before returning home. Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IVs Patient B received. Patient B and other patients who were receiving treatment at the same time were not told what IVs they were being given.

P.B. is not a licensed medical professional.
 Cyclosporine is an immunosuppressive drug.

organs causing a range of symptoms.

- 36. On or about July 24, 2017, Patient B traveled back to Infusio Beverly Hills and saw Respondent for her 100-day follow-up appointment. She reported that she was "85% improved," although she felt under the weather from traveling. Patient B was given additional IV treatments, lymphatic drainage, and red light therapy.
- 37. In the days following her Infusio treatment, Patient B felt more energetic. She then started experiencing blood pressure problems, insomnia, and new allergies to food. On or about December 6, 2017, Patient B's treating physician in Michigan called Infusio and asked to speak to Respondent regarding the SVF treatment. On or about January 11, 2018, Patient B signed a release for Infusion to send her treatment records to her treating provider in Michigan. Infusio's records do not indicate whether Respondent ever called Patient B's treating provider back or whether treatment records were sent to that treatment provider.
- 38. On or about December 22, 2017, Respondent wrote Patient B a prescription for cromolyn. Infusio's records do not include any communication between Respondent and Patient B that would explain why Respondent issued this prescription.
- 39. On or about January 24, 2018, an Infusio staff member left a message for Patient B that the fees would be waived for the ACT program and that Patient B would have an appointment with Respondent and P.B., Infusio's patient care coordinator.
- 40. On or about January 25, 2018, P.B. spoke with Patient B over the phone for approximately five minutes. P.B. told Patient B that she needed to lower inflammation, support methylation, help breakdown histamine, and support cell metabolism. A treatment plan was to be emailed to Patient B, and Patient B was advised that she may need to travel back to California for additional treatment with steroids or cyclosporine.<sup>9</sup>
- 41. On or about February 22, 2018, Respondent spoke to Patient B on the phone for approximately five minutes. Patient B was to start taking supplements and slowly wean off

<sup>7</sup> Cromolyn is used to treat symptoms of mastocytosis. Mastocytosis is a condition in which certain immune cells (mast cells) build up under the skin, bones, intestines, and/or other

cromolyn and Zantac.<sup>10</sup> On or about the same day, Infusio staff members sent Patient B a one-month supply of supplements.

- 42. On or about February 28, 2018, despite the plan to wean off the medication, Respondent wrote Patient B another prescription for cromolyn. Once again, Infusio's records do not include any communication between Respondent and Patient B that would explain why Respondent would refill this prescription.
- 43. On or about March 8, 2018, Respondent prescribed 120 tablets of 0.5 mg Xanax to Patient B. There is no justification or rationale explaining why Respondent prescribed this medication to Patient B in Infusio's records.

# Patient C

- 44. Patient C learned of Infusio after talking to a former Infusio patient, E.S. and P.B., Infusio's patient care coordinator. Patient C had a history of Lyme disease, depression, severe fatigue, and cognitive difficulties. She signed up to start Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program in or around January 2017 and traveled from Illinois to California to start the program on or about February 13, 2017.
- 45. In an unsigned medical record from Infusio dated on or about February 13, 2017, Patient C's chief complaint and subjective medical history were documented. The plan was for Patient C to receive 10 days of IV support therapy and SVF.
- 46. From on or about February 13, 2017 to February 18, 2017 and February 20, 2017 to February 22, 2017, Patient C had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections. Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IVs Patient C received. Patient C was not told what was in the IVs.
- 47. According to Infusio records, H.B., a licensed registered nurse, administered Patient C's IV therapy and thymus injections. During the daily IV therapy, however, I.O., an unlicensed, non-medical professional, also administered Patient C's IV therapy.
- 48. On or about February 23, 2017, Patient C underwent the SVF procedure. Even though Infusio records indicate that Respondent performed the procedure, the procedure note was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Zantac, brand name for ranitidine, is an over-the-counter antihistamine and antacid.

signed by F.G., M.D., Infusio's then medical director. While Patient C was awake and medicated with Versed and local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 50 ccs of fat from Patient C's body. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.

- 49. After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into Patient C's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.
- 50. On or about February 24, 2017, Patient C received one last day of IV therapy and a thymus injection before returning home. Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IV Patient C received on that day.
- 51. On or about April 22, 2017, Respondent spoke to Patient C on the phone. Patient C complained of migraines. Patient C was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 52. On or about May 3, 2017, Patient C called Infusio and complained of severe depression and insomnia. That message was forwarded to Respondent.
- 53. On or about May 20, 2017, Patient C had a five-minute phone consultation with Respondent. Patient C reported that she had received the "white powder" that Infusio sent her and she was taking it. She was still complaining of depression and anxiety and reported that she had bad body odor. Respondent told her that the body odor was good news as Patient C's lymphatics were moving and detoxing. Patient C was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 54. On or about July 24, 2017, Patient C had another five-minute phone consultation with Respondent. Patient C reported no changes from her prior consultation. Respondent recommended that Patient C have a consultation with V.D., a therapist, and that she would talk to P.B. about additional IV therapy. Patient C was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.

- 55. On or about September 9, 2017, Patient C's mother had a five-minute phone consultation with Respondent. Patient C's mother reported that Patient C still was not feeling well. Respondent recommended a two-week NAD protocol<sup>11</sup> and said that she would follow-up about costs the next week. Patient C was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 56. On or about September 12, 2017, an Infusio employee called Patient C and told her that the normal price for the NAD protocol was \$12,000, but that they could offer it to her for \$6,000. Patient C did not undergo the NAD protocol.

# Patient D

- 57. Patient D learned of Infusio after talking to a former Infusio patient, E.S. Patient D had a history of Lyme disease and associated joint pain. She signed up to start Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program in or around January 2017 and started the program on or about March 14, 2017.
- 58. Patient D had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections on or about March 14, 2017, March 17, 2017, March 20, 2017, and March 23, 2017. Infusio's records for Patient D's IV therapy failed to document what types of IVs she received.
- 59. From on or about March 27, 2017 through March 30, 2017, Patient D had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections. Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IVs Patient D received.
- 60. According to Infusio records, H.B., a licensed registered nurse, administered Patient D's IV therapy and thymus injections. During the daily IV therapy, however, X.M., a medical assistant, sometimes administered the IV therapy. Medical assistants cannot start or disconnect IVs, nor can they administer injections or medications into an IV. When Patient D asked Infusio staff what was in the IV bags, she would sometimes be given an answer and sometimes be told to ask P.B., Infusio's patient care coordinator.

26 | ///

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> According to Infusio's website, the NAD protocol is another IV support therapy which included the active coenzyme form of vitamin B3.

- 61. Six days after she started treatment at Infusio, Patient D's chief complaint and subject medical history were documented in a medical record dated on or about March 20, 2017.

  Respondent electronically signed this note.
- 62. On or about April 13, 2017, Respondent documented that Patient D received the SVF procedure. While Patient D was awake and medicated with Versed and local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 50 ccs of fat from Patient D's body. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.
- 63. After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into Patient D's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.
- 64. On or about June 19, 2017, Respondent spoke to Patient D on the phone. Patient D reported that she was doing better, but that she had anal itching and shooting nerve pains. Patient D was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 65. On or about July 26, 2017, Patient D returned to Infusio Beverly Hills for her 100-day follow-up appointment. She told Respondent that she had less joint and nerve pain and that her energy level fluctuated. Respondent recommended that Patient D take supplements and gave her a prescription for trazodone. During this follow-up appointment, Patient D received additional IV treatments.

#### Patient E

66. Patient E learned of Infusio after reading about the treatment provided in Germany. When she called the German treatment center to make an appointment, she was referred to Infusio Beverly Hills. Patient E had a history of Lyme disease. She signed up to start Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program and traveled from Mississippi to California to start the program on or about October 16, 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Trazodone is an anti-depressant and sedative.

- 67. On or about October 16, 2017, Respondent documented Patient E's chief complaint and subjective medical history. The plan was for Patient E to receive 10 days of IV support therapy and SVF.
- 68. From on or about October 16, 2017 to October 20, 2017 and October 23, 2017 to October 25, 2017, Patient E had daily IV therapy which was administered by S.D., a licensed registered nurse. When Patient E and other patients asked Infusio staff what was in the IV bags, they were told that they were getting "some good stuff."
- 69. According to the note documenting Patient E's IV therapy on or about October 24, 2017, Patient E received a Myers IV via a 22-gauge angiocath that was placed in Patient E's right arm. The same note, however, states that several attempts had been made to start an IV on Patient E but that they were unsuccessful, and that Respondent ordered that no more IV attempts were to be made that day.
- 70. On or about October 26, 2017, Respondent documented that Patient E received the SVF procedure. While Patient E was awake and medicated with Versed and local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 50 ccs of fat from Patient E's body. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.
- 71. After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into Patient E's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.
- 72. On or about October 27, 2017, Patient E received one last day of IV therapy and a thymus injection before returning home.
- 73. On or about December 21, 2017, Patient E had a 100-day follow-up phone consultation with Respondent. Patient E complained that she was unable to walk and that she had been prescribed gout medication and antibiotics. She was also prescribed narcotics for pain. Respondent recommended castor oil packs and Epsom salt foot baths.

74. On or about April 23, 2018, Patient E traveled back to Infusio Beverly Hills for the ACT program. Respondent noted that Patient E had bilateral lower extremity pain and swelling, diabetes, and Lyme disease. Patient E was to follow up with O.P., Infusio's nutritionist, regarding weight loss. Respondent cleared Patient E to use "ozone sauna" and to drink baking soda water. Respondent also recommended that Patient E continue with Myers IVs when she returned home.

- 75. On or about April 24, 2018 and April 26, 2018, Patient E received the ACT IVs.
- 76. Following the ACT treatment, Infusio's records indicate that Respondent followed up with Patient E one more time on or about May 3, 2018. Respondent documented that she reviewed lab results with Patient E and recommended that Patient E continue her current diet and take supplements.

# Patient F

- 77. Patient F initially learned of Infusio through a friend. She reviewed Infusio's website and saw the celebrity testimony touting their results. Patient F had a history of Lyme disease. She signed up to start Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program and started the program on or about June 5, 2017.
- 78. For her initial consultation, Patient F saw F.G., M.D. F.G., M.D., did not document this consultation. Patient F saw Respondent during the second week of her treatment.
- 79. From on or about June 5, 2017 to June 10, 2017 and June 12, 2017 to June 14, 2017, Patient F had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections which were administered by H.B., a licensed registered nurse. Other than noting that F.G., M.D., ordered that Patient F was not to receive calcium in her IVs, Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IVs Patient F received.
- 80. On or about June 15, 2017, Respondent documented that Patient F underwent the SVF procedure. While Patient F was awake and medicated with Versed and local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 25 ccs of fat from Patient F's body. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of

human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.

- 81. After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into Patient F's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.
- 82. On or about June 16, 2017, Patient F received one last day of IV therapy and a thymus injection before returning home. Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IV Patient F received on that day.
- 83. On or about July 12, 2017, Patient F spoke to an Infusio staff member on the phone. Patient F reported that she was struggling with severe gut issues and that she wanted a consultation with Respondent.
- 84. On or about July 17, 2017, Patient F spoke to Respondent on the phone for a five-minute consultation. Patient F told Respondent that she was losing weight and could not tolerate carbohydrates. Respondent recommended that Patient F speak to O.P., a nutritionist. Patient F reported that she was suffering from insomnia and that she had been prescribed Ativan, Belsomra, and mirtazapine<sup>13</sup> by another physician. Respondent recommended that Patient F try taking Infusio's "white powder" instead. Patient F was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 85. On or about August 2, 2017, Patient F reported to an Infusio staff member that she had been struggling for the past three weeks with high blood pressure. Patient F scheduled an appointment with Respondent.
- 86. On or about August 5, 2017, Patient F had a phone consultation with Respondent. Patient F complained of fluctuations in her blood pressure and being out of breath. Respondent ordered lab tests.
- 87. On or about September 23, 2017, Patient F had another five-minute phone consultation with Respondent. Patient F continued to complain of gastrointestinal problems and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ativan, brand name lorazepam, is a benzodiazepine and a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (b). Belsomra and mirtazapine are prescribed medications used to treat insomnia.

difficulties tolerating food. Respondent noted that she would send Patient F a list of recommended supplements and that she would follow-up with Patient F in two months. This note is the last documented communication between Respondent and Patient F.

# Patient G

- 88. Patient G initially learned of Infusio through a friend and discovered more information by joining Infusio's Facebook group. Patient G had a history of Lyme disease. After she communicated with P.B., Infusio's patient care coordinator, to determine whether she would be a good candidate for SVF, Patient G signed up to start Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program and paid \$25,000. She traveled from Wisconsin to California to start the program on or about February 5, 2018.
- 89. For her initial consultation, Patient G and three other female patients saw Respondent. Respondent asked Patient G basic questions about her health. Patient G suspected that Respondent did not review the prior medical records she sent to Infusio before starting her treatment. Respondent documented Patient G's chief complaint and subjective medical history.
- 90. From on or about February 5, 2018 to February 9, 2018 and February 12, 2018 to February 13, 2018, Patient G had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections which were administered by H.B., a licensed registered nurse. Patient G also had hyperbaric oxygen chamber treatment and infrared light therapy.
- 91. On or about February 14, 2018, Respondent documented that Patient G underwent the SVF procedure. While Patient G was awake and medicated with Versed and local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 50 ccs of fat from Patient G's body. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.
- 92. After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into Patient G's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.

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- 93. On or about February 15, 2018 and February 16, 2018, Patient G received two more days of IV therapy and thymus injections before returning home.
- 94. On or about April 25, 2018, Respondent documented that she talked to Patient G on the phone. Patient G reported that she was feeling terrible. Respondent told Patient G that her post-procedure symptoms were normal and that her body was recalibrating.
- 95. On or about July 30, 2018, Patient G returned to Infusio Beverly Hills for ACT treatment. Patient G told Respondent that she was experiencing jitteriness, dizziness, head pressure, memory/cognitive issues, muscle pain, hormonal issues, and severe depression. Patient G also complained of a sensitive stomach. Respondent made recommendations about Patient G's diet and supplements. She also recommended that Patient G do additional weekly Myers IV therapy and thymus injections.
- 96. On or about July 31, 2018, August 1, 2018, and August 2, 2018, Infusio records indicate that Patient G received the ACT IV treatments.
- 97. For the August 1, 2018 note, even though the first portion of the note documents that Patient G received the ACT therapy without incident, H.B., a licensed registered nurse, then noted that after Patient G had started the ACT protocol, she had a sensitivity reaction. The IV was stopped and a bolus IV of saline solution was given. H.B. called Respondent and apprised her of the situation. On or about August 2, 2018, Respondent documented that she spoke to Patient G about her reaction to the treatment.
  - 98. Infusio or Respondent did not follow up with Patient G after August 2, 2018.

#### Patient H

- 99. Patient H initially learned of Infusio through an online support group for Lyme disease patients. Patient H got more information from Infusio's Facebook page. She signed up to start Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program, paid \$25,000, and traveled from Ohio to California to start the program on or about May 30, 2017.
- 100. For her initial consultation, Patient H met with F.G., M.D. F.G., M.D., ordered lab blood tests. These results of these tests were never reviewed with Patient H, as F.G., M.D.,

abruptly stopped working at Infusio in the middle of her treatment. F.G., M.D., did not document his initial consultation with Patient H.

- 101. From on or about May 30, 2017 to June 3, 2017 and June 5, 2017 to June 9, 2017, Patient H had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections. Infusio records show that Patient H's IV therapy and injections were administered by H.B., or N., identified as licensed registered nurses. N.'s last name is not documented in the records. Infusio's records for the IV therapy failed to document what types of IV Patient H received on each day.
- 102. During her IV therapy, Patient H had to pay attention and make sure that she was receiving the correct IV bag rather than another patient's. At least two different times, Patient H saw that Infusio staff had to swap out two patients' IV bags.
- 103. At the beginning of Patient H's IV treatment, nurses had difficulty getting her IV line started. Because of these issues, on or about June 7, 2017, which was the day before Patient H's SVF procedure, H.B. left the IV line in Patient H's arm after completing the in-office IV therapy for easier use the next day. In H.B.'s note for June 7, 2017, however, H.B. inaccurately noted that the catheter had been removed on the same day.
- 104. On or about June 8, 2017, Respondent documented that Patient H underwent the SVF procedure. While Patient H was awake and medicated with local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 25 ccs of fat from Patient H's body. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. Respondent also processed some of the cells separately. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.
- 105. Because Patient H's IV line was left in her arm from the day prior, D.R. was supposed to run saline solution into the line before inserting the stem cells. D.R., however, did something wrong with the open IV line so a new IV line had to be placed.
- 106. After the stem cells were processed by D.R., the stem cells were injected back into Patient H's body via an IV line. Patient H also received an additional gut shot of lipoaspirate that

was injected into her abdomen. These stem cell re-injections via IV and into Patient H's abdomen were not documented in Infusio's records.

- 107. Immediately following the SVF procedure, Patient H had more IV therapy. As part of the treatment package that she paid for, Patient H was supposed to receive another day of IV therapy but decided to skip it due to the earlier issues she encountered when Infusio staff placed the IV lines in her arm. After she finished the treatment, she went back to Ohio.
- 108. On or about July 1, 2017, Patient H had a phone consultation with Respondent. In the beginning of her Infusio treatment, Patient H was prescribed progesterone by F.G., M.D. Patient H told Respondent that she was still taking progesterone. Respondent advised Patient H to keep taking the prescribed medication and recommended castor oil packs. Patient H was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 109. On or about July 12, 2017, Patient H reported to Infusio staff that she was having good and bad days. On or about July 20, 2017, Patient H reported that she was having trouble sleeping. On or about July 25, 2017, Patient H reported that she was experiencing itchiness and leg cramps.
- 110. On or about September 25, 2017, Patient H had her 100-day follow-up appointment with Respondent by phone. Patient H was experiencing ups and downs. She discussed hormone replacement therapy with Respondent. Patient H was charged \$150 for this nine-minute phone call with Respondent.

# Patient I

- 111. Patient I initially learned of Infusio through Facebook. Patient I had a history of Lyme disease and Babesiosis. She spent almost \$30,000 on Infusio's Integrative Lyme Disease Program and related costs traveling from Illinois to California. She started the program on or about May 8, 2017.
- 112. For her initial consultation, Patient I saw F.G., M.D. Patient I complained of insomnia and low energy.
- 113. From on or about May 8, 2017 to May 13, 2017 and May 15, 2017 to May 16, 2017, Patient I had daily IV therapy and intramuscular thymus injections which were administered by

H.B., S.S., and T.A., licensed registered nurses.	With the exception of Patient I's treatment on o
about May 8, 2017, Infusio's records for the IV t	therapy failed to document what types of IVs
Patient I received	

- 114. On or about May 17, 2017, Respondent documented that Patient I underwent the SVF procedure. While Patient I was awake and medicated with local anesthesia, Respondent removed approximately 25 ccs of fat from Patient I's body. That tissue was then processed by D.R., an unlicensed and uncertified individual who was listed as an assistant in Respondent's procedural note. D.R. had no certification in the processing or manipulation of human stem cells. He told patients that prior to working at Infusio, he worked at In-and-Out Burger.
- 115. After he processed the stem cells, D.R. injected the stem cells into Patient I's body via an IV line. The re-injection of the stem cells via IV was not documented in Infusio's records.
- 116. On or about May 18, 2017 and May 19, 2017, Patient I received IV support therapy and thymus injections before returning home. On or about May 19, 2017, Respondent wrote Patient I a trazodone prescription for insomnia.
- 117. On or about May 27, 2017, Patient I had a phone consultation with Respondent. Patient I reported that she was not sleeping well and that trazodone had no effect. Respondent advised Patient I to increase her trazodone dose. Patient I was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 118. On or about June 6, 2017, Patient I told an Infusio staff member that she had difficulty sleeping. On or about June 10, 2017, Patient I had another phone consultation with Respondent. Patient I requested to go back on progesterone. Respondent issued the prescription and advised Patient I that she had to follow-up with her local doctor for any refills. Patient I was charged \$150 for this phone consultation with Respondent.
- 119. On or about July 19, 2017, Patient I told an Infusio staff member that she was still having trouble sleeping.
- 120. On or about October 2, 2017, Patient I traveled to Infusio Beverly Hills for her 100-day follow-up appointment with Respondent. She had gained 20 pounds. Respondent's

assessment was Lyme disease, leaky gut, and hypoadrenalism. Her plan was to treat Patient I with IV support therapy.

121. On or about January 18, 2018, Respondent spoke to Patient I on the phone. Patient I reported that some things were better and many things were not. Patient I reported that she could only tolerate a few foods. Respondent recommended a consultation with O.P., a nutritionist, and additional IV support therapy. Respondent told Patient I that she could return to Infusio Beverly Hills anytime to do the ACT program.

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Aiding and Abetting of Unlicensed Persons)

122. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 67019 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2264 of the Code, in that she aided and abetted unlicensed individuals to engage in the practice of medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 121, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 123. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate

  No. A 67019 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,

  subdivision (c) of the Code, in that Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in her care and

  treatment of Patients A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, as more particularly alleged hereafter:
- 124. Paragraphs 9 through 121, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

#### Patient A

- 125. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in the treatment and care of Patient A which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- a. Respondent aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of medicine by allowing D.R., an untrained, non-medical professional, handle and process Patient A's stem cells;