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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Mark William Ramus, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73453

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2021-082692

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 May 28, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED May 20, 2024.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Reji Varghese Executive Director

| 1 | ROB BONTA | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--|
| 2 | Attorney General of California STEVE DIEHL | | |
| 3 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General RYAN J. YATES | | |
| 4 | Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 279257 | | |
| 5 | 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 | `. | |
| 6 | Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-6329 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 | | |
| 7 | Attorneys for Complainant | | |
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| 9 | BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA | | |
| 10 | DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
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| 12 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against: | Case No. 800-2021-082692 | |
| 13 | MARK WILLIAM RAMUS, M.D. | , | |
| 14 | 2036 Railroad Ave. Redding, CA 96001 | STIPULATED SURRENDER OF | |
| 15 | Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73453 | LICENSE AND ORDER | |
| 16 | Respondent. | | |
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| 18 | | | |
| 19 | IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above- | | |
| 20 | entitled proceedings that the following matters are true: | | |
| 21 | <u>PARTIES</u> | | |
| 22 | 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of | | |
| 23 | California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this | | |
| 24 | matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Ryan J. Yates, Deputy | | |
| 25 | Attorney General. | | |
| 26 | 2. Mark William Ramus, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by | | |
| 27 | attorney Steven M. McKinley, whose address is: 2150 River Plaza Drive, Suite 250 | | |
| 28 | Sacramento, CA 95833 | | |
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3. On or about November 9, 2000, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73453 to Mark William Ramus, 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. 800-2021-082692. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate expired on February 29, 2024, and is currently in delinquent status.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2021-082692 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 January 25, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2021-082692 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the 5. charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2021-082692. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a 6. hearing on the charges and allegations in the 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.
- Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and 7. every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2021-8. 082692, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his 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 factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

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. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he 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 73453 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.
- 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the 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 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.
- 14. 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

- 15. 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.
- 16. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, 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.
- 17. 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 73453, issued to Respondent Mark William Ramus, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

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- 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 Accusation No. 800-2021-082692 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 \$19,075.75, 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 Accusation, No. 800-2021-082692 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.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Steven M. McKinley. I 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 Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

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MARK WILLIAM RAMUS, M.D.

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Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Mark William Ramus, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: May 8, 2024

STEVÉN M. MCKINLEY Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA Attorney General of California STEVE DIEHL Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Ryan J. Yates Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2021-082692

| 1 2 | ROB BONTA Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M, ALVAREZ | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|--|
| 3 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General RYAN J. YATES Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 279257 | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 | | |
| 6 | Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 | | |
| 7 | Telephone: (916) 210-6329 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 Attorneys for Complainant | | |
| 8 | Attorneys for Comptainant | | |
| 9 | | | |
| | BEFORE THE | | |
| 10 | MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
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| 12 | | | |
| 14 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against: | Case No. 800-2021-082692 | |
| 15 | Mark William Ramus, M.D. 2036 Railroad Ave. | ACCUSATION | |
| 16 | Redding, CA 96001 | · | |
| 17 | Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73453, | | |
| 18 | Respondent. | | |
| 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | |
| 21 | PARTIES | | |
| 22 | 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as | | |
| 23 | Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board). | | |
| 24 | 2. On or about November 9, 2000, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's | | |
| 25 | Certificate No. A 73453 to Mark William Ramus, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and | | |
| 26 | Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought | | |
| 27 | herein and will expire on February 29, 2024, unless renewed. | | |
| 28 | <i>III</i> | | |
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(MARK WILLIAM RAMUS, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2021-082692

3. On or about May 12, 2023, Respondent stipulated to an Interim Order of Suspension (Stipulated ISO), in which he agreed to a voluntary suspension of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. 73453 and a prohibition of the practice of medicine, pending the outcome of the instant matter, No. 800-2021-082692. On or about July 14, 2023, the Stipulated ISO was adopted into a Decision and Order by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), and is in full force and effect.

JURISDICTION

- 4. 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.
- 5. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
 - 6. Section 2228.1 of the Code provides:
 - "(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 profile page on the board's online license information internet website, 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 of the following:

- "(B) Drug or alcohol abuse directly resulting in harm to patients or the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice safely.
 - "(C) Criminal conviction directly involving harm to patient health.

"(2) An accusation or statement of issues alleged that the licensee committed any of the acts described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1), and

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COST RECOVERY

12. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to 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, with failure of the licensee to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

FIRST CAUSE FOR ACTION

(Mental Illness and/or Physical Illness Affecting Competency)

- 13. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73453 is subject to action under section 822, of the Code, in that his ability to practice medicine safely is impaired because he is mentally or physically ill, affecting competency, as more particularly alleged hereinafter.
- 14. On or about June 18, 2022, Respondent was arrested by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for Vehicle Code (VC) section 231(g) (Driving under the influence of combined alcohol and drugs); Health and Safety Code section 11350(a) (Possession of narcotics/controlled substances); and Health and Safety Codes section 11377(a) (Possession of a controlled substance). The circumstances are as follows:
- observed by CHP officers swerving and speeding, which caused the CHP to pull the vehicle over. The CHP officer approached Respondent in the vehicle's driver's seat. Respondent was unable to provide his driver's license after it was requested, but provided a passport, which identified him. During the interaction, the officer was able to detect the smell of alcohol and Respondent's speech was slurred. The officers administered a series of sobriety tests, during which Respondent displayed signs of intoxication. Officers additionally observed a white powdery substance in and/or around Respondent's nose, which they believed was cocaine.
- 16. Respondent was escorted to the backseat of the CHP vehicle and two breathalyzer tests were performed, which indicated a .07% blood alcohol content (BAC). The CHP officers conducted a search of Respondent's vehicle and found what was believed to be a small bag

containing cocaine, a bag containing two pills and three paper tabs of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), two pills of Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, ecstasy), three large nitrous oxide tanks (with numerous balloons scattered about the vehicle), a jar of marijuana, and an open container of alcohol. The offices arrested Respondent and transported him to the Shasta County Jail, where he was booked on the aforementioned charges.

- 17. On or about September 19, 2022, at approximately 5:00 p.m., the Orland Police Department was dispatched to a parking lot, where Respondent was observed in the passenger seat of a vehicle. Officers asked Respondent for his name and he replied that his last name was "Sumar" (Ramus spelled backwards). Officers subsequently confirmed Respondent's identity.
- 18. The officers searched Respondent and the vehicle and found seven large containers of nitrous oxide gas and several balloons. Respondent and his companion were arrested for being in possession of nitrous oxide for the purpose of inhaling nitrous oxide. Officers asked Respondent why he provided a false name. Respondent replied that he was "Still Fueling," or words to that effect, then refused to speak further. Respondent was booked into the Glenn County Jail for 381(b) PC (Possessing or using nitrous oxide).
- 19. On or about December 26, 2022, through on or about January 16, 2023, Respondent checked into a drug and alcohol treatment center in Rancho Mirage, California, (Treatment Center) for in-patient drug treatment. Between on or about January 16, 2023, through on or about February 10, 2023, Respondent transferred to the Treatment Center's day treatment and sober living housing. Following Respondent's release from day treatment and sober living housing, Treatment Center staff recommended Respondent perform the following tasks to maintain sobriety: Maintain abstinence from all mood-altering substances; Attend at least three Twelve Step meetings weekly; Find a sponsor or temporary sponsor within two weeks of discharge; Establish a routine of daily recovery practices, including prayer, meditation, personal inventory, wellness and balance; Participate in online health portal; Maintain regular medical and dental care; Utilize the Treatment Center Alumni resources for opportunities for reunions, events and retreats; and Explore the recovery opportunities at a care facility. Treatment Center staff further recommended that Respondent enlist a medical monitoring service for his medical license.

(MARK WILLIAM RAMUS, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2021-082692

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Use of Alcoholic Beverages to the Extent, or in Such a Manner, as to be Dangerous or Injurious to Herself, Another Person, or the Public)

22. Respondent's license is further subject to disciplinary action under section 2239, of the Code, in that he has used alcoholic beverages to the extent, or in such a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or the public, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 11 through 20, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Self-Use of a Controlled Substance and/or Dangerous Drug)

23. Respondent's license is further subject to disciplinary action under section 2239, of the Code, in that he has self-used controlled substances and/or dangerous drugs, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 11 through 21, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime)

24. Respondent's license is further subject to disciplinary action under section 2236, of the Code, in that he was convicted of a misdemeanor, substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a physician and surgeon but not arising from or occurring during patient care, treatment, management or billing, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 11 through 22, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

25. Respondent's license is further subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, of the Code, in that he engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrate an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged