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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Matthew Hebden Porteus, M.D. Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 85749 Respondent.	Case No. 800-2023-100685

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 August 19, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED August 12, 2024.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Reji Varghese
Executive Director

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
GREG W. CHAMBERS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **MATTHEW HEBDEN PORTEUS, M.D.** **5 Vista Verde Way** **Portola Valley, CA 94028** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 85749** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2023-100685 **STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND 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. Reji Varghese (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 Harriet Newman, Deputy Attorney General.

2. MATTHEW HEBDEN PORTEUS, M.D. (Respondent) is representing himself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

3. On or about June 1, 2000, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 85749 to Respondent. That license expired on August 31, 2023, and has not been renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2023-100685 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 June 24, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2023-100685 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2023-100685. Respondent also has carefully read and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

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

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 800-2023-100685, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 85749 for the Board's formal acceptance.

9. 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.

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CONTINGENCY

10. 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."

11. 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. G 85749 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.

12. 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.

13. 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 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

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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. G 85749, issued to Respondent MATTHEW HEBDEN PORTEUS, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2023-100685 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

5. 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. 800-2023-100685 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.

6. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of $10,876 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. 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.

DATED: 30 July 2024

MATTHEW HEBDEN PORTEUS, M.D.
Respondent

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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.

DATED: July 30, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
GREG W. CHAMBERS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Harriet Newman

HARRIET NEWMAN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2023-100685

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **MATTHEW HEBDEN PORTEUS, M.D.** **121 Peter Coutts Circle** **Stanford, CA 94305-2519** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 85749** Respondent	Case No. 800-2023-100685 **ACCUSATION**

1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On or about June 1, 2000, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 85749 to Matthew Hebden Porteus, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate expired on August 31, 2023, and has not been renewed.

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 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;

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

6. Unprofessional conduct under Business and Professions Code section 2234 is conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming of a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (*Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners* (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.)

7. Section 2236 of the Code states:

"(a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.

"...(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred."

8. Section 2239 of the Code states:

"(a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct."

"(b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. The Medical Board may order discipline of the licensee in accordance with Section 2227 or the Medical Board may order the denial of the license when the time for appeal has elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint, information, or indictment."

9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states, in part:

(a) For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate or permit pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be

considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license, certificate or permit under the Medical Practice Act if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license, certificate or permit to perform the functions authorized by the license, certificate or permit in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes, professional misconduct, or acts shall include but not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of state or federal law governing the applicant's or licensee's professional practice."

COST RECOVERY

10. 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.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. On or about August 4, 2023, a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer[1] observed a vehicle swerving between lanes on the highway. The officer initiated a traffic stop of the vehicle and identified Respondent as the driver. The officer smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle and observed Respondent to have red and watery eyes. Respondent stated he was on his way home from a concert where he had consumed "a beer." Respondent was unable to perform a series of field sobriety tests and was subsequently placed under arrest. Respondent was transported to the police station where a breath test resulted in a .11% blood-alcohol concentration.

12. On or about October 17, 2023, in the matter of *The People of the State of California vs. Matthew Hebden Porteus*, Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. 23CR03832,

[1] Identity of officer is withheld at this time for privacy concerns. The name(s) will be provided to Respondent upon written request for discovery.

Respondent was convicted upon a plea of no contest to one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section 23152(b), driving a vehicle while having .08 percent or more of alcohol in his blood, with a prior DUI conviction. Respondent was sentenced to three (3) years' probation, 10 days in jail, ordered to complete an 18-month DUI program and pay fines and fees.

13. Respondent was previously arrested and convicted for a similar offense. On or about July 24, 2014, in the matter of *The People of the State of California vs. Matthew Hebden Porteus*, Santa Clara County Case No. B1473447, Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section 21352(b) driving a vehicle while having .08 percent or more of alcohol in his blood. Respondent's sentence included three (3) years' probation, 6 days in jail, and payment of fines and fees.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of an Offense Substantially Related to the Qualifications, Functions or Duties of a Physician and Surgeon)

14. Paragraphs 11 through 13 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.

15. Respondent Matthew Hebden Porteus, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2236, of the Code, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, in that Respondent was convicted of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a physician and surgeon.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dangerous Use of Alcohol)

16. Respondent further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 85749 to disciplinary action under section 2239 of the Code, in that Respondent 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 and 13, above, hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 85749, issued to Respondent Matthew Hebden Porteus, M.D.;

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Matthew Hebden Porteus, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

3. Ordering Respondent Matthew Hebden Porteus, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and

4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: JUN 24 2024

REJI VARGHESE
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant