

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. G 55475

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2018-048376

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED April 14, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Reji Varghese
Executive Director

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
3 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
5 GIOVANNI F. MEJIA
6 Deputy Attorney General
7 State Bar No. 309951
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8 || *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2018-048376
14	FRITZ JOHN BAUMGARTNER, M.D. 3791 Katella Ave., #201 Los Alamitos, CA 90720	OAH No. 2024101071
15		STIPULATED SURRENDER AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475,	
17		Respondent.

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

PARTIES

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 Giovanni F. Mejia, Deputy
25 Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
27 proceeding by attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq., whose address is: Doyle Schafer
28 McMahon, LLP, 5440 Trabuco Road, Irvine, CA 92620.

1 3. On or about July 29, 1985, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
2 No. G 55475 to Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's
3 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation
4 No. 800-2018-048376. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate expired on September 30, 2024.

JURISDICTION

6 4. Accusation No. 800-2018-048376 was filed before the Board, and is currently
7 pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were
8 properly served on Respondent on April 18, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense
9 contesting the Accusation.

10 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2018-048376 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated
11 herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

13 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
14 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2018-048376. Respondent has also carefully read,
15 fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender and
16 Disciplinary Order.

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

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

CULPABILITY

26 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could
27 establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation

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1 No. 800-2018-048376, a copy of which is attached hereto as exhibit A, and that he has thereby
2 subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475 to disciplinary action.

3 10. Respondent understands and agrees that by signing this stipulation he enables the
4 Board, or the Executive Director of the Board on the Board's behalf, to issue an order accepting
5 the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

6 11. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for reinstatement of his Physician's and
7 Surgeon's Certificate, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him
8 before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2018-
9 048376 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such
10 proceeding, or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

CONTINGENCY

12 12. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b) provides, in pertinent
13 part, that the Board “shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a . . . stipulation
14 for surrender of a license.”

13. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive
14 Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his
15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475 without further notice to, or opportunity to be
16 heard by, Respondent.

19 14. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the
20 approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated
21 Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his
22 consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a
23 reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and
24 Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands
25 and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the
26 time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

27 15. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order
28 shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the

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

17 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

18 16. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties herein to be
19 an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the
20 agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

21 17. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary
22 Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents
23 and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

24 18. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the
25 Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by
26 Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

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DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475 issued to Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation and the Board's Decision and Order constitute a record of 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 Board's Decision and Order.

4. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2273, subdivision (b), Respondent shall have his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate surrendered for a period of not less than ten years from the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order. After the expiration of this ten-year period, Respondent may petition for reinstatement pursuant to the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time any such petition is filed.

5. 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 any such petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2018-048376 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny any such petition.

6. Respondent shall pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$12,237.00 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

7. 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. 800-2018-048376 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.

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ACCEPTANCE

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

DATED: 02/27/25

Dr. Baumgartner

Dr. Baumgartner (Feb. 27, 2013 15:05 PST)
FRITZ JOHN BAUMGARTNER, M.D.
Respondent

10 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. the terms
11 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary
12 Order. I approve its form and content. *[Signature]*

13 || DATED: February 27, 2025

RAYMOND J. MCMAHON, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

16 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted
17 for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

18 DATED: February 27, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

GIOVANNI F. MEJIA
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2018-048376

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
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Attorneys for Complainant
9

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 800-2018-048376
14 Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. ACCUSATION
3791 Katella Ave., #201
15 Los Alamitos, CA 90720
16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G 55475,
17 Respondent.
18

19 PARTIES

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

23 2. On or about July 29, 1985, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
24 Certificate No. G 55475 to Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
25 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
26 herein and will expire on September 30, 2024, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

2 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following
3 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise
4 indicated.

5 || 4. Section 2227, subdivision (a) of the Code states:

6 A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the
7 Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government
8 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:

9 (1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.

10 (2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.

12 (3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation
monitoring upon order of the board.

15 (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.

17 5. Section 2234 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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

20 (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.

11. *Leucosia* (Leucosia) *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Fig. 11)

23 6. Section 2236 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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(c) The clerk of the court in which a licensee is convicted of a crime shall, within 48 hours after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of conviction to the board. The division may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of a crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

(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.

7. Section 2273, subdivision (b) of the Code states:

A licensee shall have the licensee's license revoked for a period of 10 years, or shall stipulate to surrender of the license for 10 years, upon a second conviction for violating any of the following provisions or upon being convicted of more than one count of violating any of the following provisions in a single case: Section 650 of this code, Section 750 or 1871.4 of the Insurance Code, or Section 549 or 550 of the Penal Code. After the expiration of this 10-year period, an application for license reinstatement may be made pursuant to Section 2307.

8. Section 550 of the Penal Code states, in pertinent part:

(a) It is unlawful to do any of the following, or to aid, abet, solicit, or conspire with any person to do any of the following:

(6) Knowingly make or cause to be made any false or fraudulent claim for payment of a health care benefit.

9. Section 1360 of title 16, division 13 of the California Code of Regulations (the
Medical Practice Regulations) states:

(a) For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license pursuant to Section 141 or Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime, professional misconduct, or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license to perform the functions authorized by the license 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.

(b) In making the substantial relationship determination required under subdivision (a) for a crime, the board shall consider the following criteria:

(1) The nature and gravity of the crime;

(2) The number of years elapsed since the date of the crime; and
(3) The nature and duties of the profession.

COST RECOVERY

10. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

(b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.

(c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be *prima facie* evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

(d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision (a).

(e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.

(f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

(g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid costs.

(h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.

(i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

(j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative disciplinary proceeding.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

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

8 11. Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. has subjected his Physician's and
9 Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475 to disciplinary action under sections 2227, 2234 and 2236 of
10 the Code, and section 1360 of the Medical Practice Regulations, in that he was convicted of one
11 or more offenses substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a physician and
12 surgeon. The circumstances are as follows:

13 12. On or about and between February 23, 2016 and March 30, 2017, Respondent owned,
14 and was medical director, at Doctor Surgery Center dba Guardian Surgery Center in Fountain
15 Valley, California where Respondent performed experimental surgeries by implanting Naltrexone
16 Pellets, a procedure, and use of Naltrexone, Respondent knew was not approved by the U.S. Food
17 and Drug Administration (FDA), on at least 85 of his patients with the specific intent, and
18 knowing, that coconspirators would submit insurance claims to Anthem Insurance on
19 Respondent's behalf, and on behalf of Doctor Surgery Center dba Guardian Surgery Center, for
20 payment without informing Anthem Insurance that the procedure Respondent performed was not
21 FDA approved. Respondent knew the claims billed were in excess of \$950,000. These acts
22 involved a pattern of conduct that resulted in the fraudulent taking of more than \$500,000.

23 13. On or about and between January 21, 2015 and July 18, 2018, Respondent owned,
24 and Respondent was medical director, at Community Surgery Center dba Guardian Surgery in
25 Fountain Valley, California where Respondent did willfully and unlawfully perform experimental
26 surgeries by implanting Naltrexone Pellets, a procedure, and use of Naltrexone, Respondent knew
27 was not approved by the FDA, on at least 70 of Respondent's patients with the specific intent, and
28 knowing, that coconspirators would submit insurance claims to United Health Care on

1 Respondent's behalf, and the behalf of Community Surgery Center dba Guardian Surgery Center,
2 for payment without informing United Health Care that the procedure Respondent performed was
3 not FDA approved. Respondent knew the claims billed were in excess of \$950,000. These acts
4 involved a pattern of conduct that resulted in the fraudulent taking of more than \$500,000.

5 14. On or about December 5, 2023, in the case entitled *The People of the State of*
6 *California v. Fritz John Baumgartner*, Superior Court of California, County of Orange, case
7 No. 18CF2717, a felony first amended criminal complaint was filed charging Respondent with
8 one felony count of violating Business and Professions Code section 2052, subdivision (b)
9 (Conspiring in the Unauthorized Practice of Medicine), four felony counts of violating Penal
10 Code section 650, subdivision (a) (Unlawful Compensation/Inducement for Patient Referrals),
11 five felony counts of violating Penal Code section 550, subdivision (a)(5) (Insurance Fraud –
12 Written Claim), four felony counts of violating Penal Code section 550, subdivision (a)(6)
13 (Conspiracy to Commit Medical Insurance Fraud), and one felony count of violating Penal Code
14 section 245, subdivision (a)(4) (Assault with Force Likely to Produce Great Bodily Injury).

15 15. On or about December 20, 2023, in the case entitled *The People of the State of*
16 *California v. Fritz John Baumgartner*, Superior Court of California, County of Orange, case
17 No. 18CF2717, Respondent was convicted, upon his plea of guilty, of two felony violations of
18 Penal Code section 550, subdivision (a)(6) (Conspiracy to Commit Medical Insurance Fraud).

16. On or about December 20, 2023, as a result of this conviction, Respondent was
17 sentenced to 180 days in county jail (which may be served as home confinement) and 10 years'
18 formal probation. The probation terms and conditions included, but were not limited to,
19 abstaining from receiving or possessing any dangerous or deadly weapon, and restitution in the
20 amount of approximately \$977,945 plus interest.
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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of More than One Count of Violating Section 550 of the Penal Code)

26 17. Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. has further subjected his Physician's and
27 Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2273,
28 subdivision (b) of the Code in that he was convicted of more than one count of violating section

1 550 of the Penal Code as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 14 through 16, above, which are
2 hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

3 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

4 **(Violation of the Medical Practice Act)**

5 18. Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D. has further subjected his Physician's and
6 Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475 to disciplinary action under sections 2227, 2234, and 2234,
7 subdivision (a) of the Code in that he violated or attempted to violate, directly or indirectly,
8 assisted in or abetted the violation of, or conspired to violate any provision of the Medical
9 Practice Act, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 14 through 17, above, which are hereby
10 incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

11 **PRAYER**

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

14 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55475, issued
15 to Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D.;

16 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Fritz John
17 Baumgartner, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

18 3. Ordering Respondent Fritz John Baumgartner, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the
19 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation
20 monitoring; and

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

22 APR 18 2024

23 DATED: _____

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

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