

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

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

James Thanh-Long Tran, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 180450**

Case No.: 800-2022-094031

Respondent.

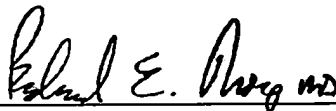
DECISION

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED: September 12, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



**Richard E. Thorp, M.D., Chair
Panel B**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

12 **JAMES THANH-LONG TRAN, M.D.**
13 **5251 Princeton Ave.**
Westminster, CA 92683-2752

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
15 **A 180450**

16 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2022-094031

OAH No. 2024091025

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

17
18 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
19 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

20 **PARTIES**

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

25 2. Respondent James Thanh-Long Tran, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
26 proceeding by attorney Suzanne M. Crouts, Esq., whose address is: 2945 Townsgate Road, Suite
27 200, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

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1 3. On or about July 14, 2022, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
2 A 180450 to James Thanh-Long Tran, 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. 800-2022-094031, and will expire on September 30, 2026, unless renewed.

5 **JURISDICTION**

6 4. Accusation No. 800-2022-094031 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 August 21, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of
9 Defense contesting the Accusation.

10 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-094031 is attached as Exhibit A and
11 incorporated herein by reference.

12 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

13 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
14 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-094031. Respondent has also carefully read,
15 fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement 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.

25 **CULPABILITY**

26 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
27 No. 800-2022-094031, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his
28 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case or factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

11. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-094031, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate, No. A 180450 to disciplinary action.

12. ACKNOWLEDGMENT. Respondent acknowledges the Disciplinary Order below, requiring the disclosure of probation pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2228.1, serves to protect the public interest.

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

CONTINGENCY

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

15. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreement of the parties in this above entitled matter.

16. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-094031 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

17. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement 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 that the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 180450 issued to Respondent James Thanh-Long Tran, M.D., is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years from the effective date of the Decision on the following terms and conditions:

1. PATIENT DISCLOSURE. Before a patient's first visit following the effective date of this order and while Respondent is on probation, Respondent must provide all patients, or patient's guardian or health care surrogate, with a separate disclosure that includes Respondent's probation status, the length of the probation, the probation end date, all practice restrictions placed on Respondent by the Board, the Board's telephone number, and an explanation of how the patient can find further information on Respondent's probation on Respondent's profile page on the Board's website. Respondent shall obtain from the patient, or the patient's guardian or health care surrogate, a separate, signed copy of that disclosure. Respondent shall not be required to provide a disclosure if any of the following applies: (1) the patient is unconscious or otherwise unable to comprehend the disclosure and sign the copy of the disclosure and a guardian or health care surrogate is unavailable to comprehend the disclosure and sign the copy; (2) the visit occurs in an emergency room or an urgent care facility or the visit is unscheduled, including

1 consultations in inpatient facilities; (3) Respondent is not known to the patient until immediately
2 prior to the start of the visit; (4) Respondent does not have a direct treatment relationship with the
3 patient.

4 2. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - ABSTAIN FROM USE. Respondent shall abstain
5 completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined in the
6 California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, dangerous drugs as defined by Business and
7 Professions Code section 4022, and any drugs requiring a prescription. This prohibition does not
8 apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent by another practitioner for a bona fide
9 illness or condition.

10 Within 15 calendar days of receiving any lawfully prescribed medications, Respondent
11 shall notify the Board or its designee of the: issuing practitioner's name, address, and telephone
12 number; medication name, strength, and quantity; and issuing pharmacy name, address, and
13 telephone number.

14 3. ALCOHOL - ABSTAIN FROM USE. Respondent shall abstain completely from the
15 use of products or beverages containing alcohol.

16 4. BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING. Respondent shall immediately submit to
17 biological fluid testing, at Respondent's expense, upon request of the Board or its designee.
18 "Biological fluid testing" may include, but is not limited to, urine, blood, breathalyzer, hair
19 follicle testing, or similar drug screening approved by the Board or its designee. Prior to
20 practicing medicine, Respondent shall contract with a laboratory or service approved in advance
21 by the Board or its designee that will conduct random, unannounced, observed, biological fluid
22 testing. The contract shall require results of the tests to be transmitted by the laboratory or
23 service directly to the Board or its designee within four hours of the results becoming available.
24 Respondent shall maintain this laboratory or service contract during the period of probation.

25 A certified copy of any laboratory test result may be received in evidence in any
26 proceedings between the Board and Respondent.

27 If Respondent fails to cooperate in a random biological fluid testing program within the
28 specified time frame, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to

1 immediately cease the practice of medicine. The Respondent shall not resume the practice of
2 medicine until the final decision on an accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation is
3 effective. An accusation and/or petition to revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 30
4 days of the notification to cease practice. If the Respondent requests a hearing on the accusation
5 and/or petition to revoke probation, the Board shall provide the Respondent with a hearing within
6 30 days of the request, unless the Respondent stipulates to a later hearing. If the case is heard by
7 an Administrative Law Judge alone, he or she shall forward a Proposed Decision to the Board
8 within 15 days of submission of the matter. Within 15 days of receipt by the Board of the
9 Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision, the Board shall issue its Decision, unless good
10 cause can be shown for the delay. If the case is heard by the Board, the Board shall issue its
11 decision within 15 days of submission of the case, unless good cause can be shown for the delay.
12 Good cause includes, but is not limited to, non-adoption of the proposed decision, requests for
13 reconsideration, remands and other interlocutory orders issued by the Board. The cessation of
14 practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.

15 If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 15 days of the
16 issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide Respondent with a hearing
17 within 30 days of such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

18 5. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of
19 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that
20 meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1.
21 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall
22 provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall
23 successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after
24 Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the
25 time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom
26 component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in
27 addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

28 A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the

1 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board
2 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have
3 been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of
4 this Decision.

5 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
6 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later
7 than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

8 6. PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION. Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of
9 this Decision, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter may be required by the Board or its
10 designee, Respondent shall undergo and complete a psychiatric evaluation (and psychological
11 testing, if deemed necessary) by a Board-appointed board certified psychiatrist, who shall
12 consider any information provided by the Board or designee and any other information the
13 psychiatrist deems relevant, and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its
14 designee. Psychiatric evaluations conducted prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not
15 be accepted towards the fulfillment of this requirement. Respondent shall pay the cost of all
16 psychiatric evaluations and psychological testing.

17 Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the evaluating
18 psychiatrist within 15 calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee.

19 7. PSYCHOTHERAPY. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision,
20 Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval the name and
21 qualifications of a California-licensed board certified psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist who
22 has a doctoral degree in psychology and at least five years of postgraduate experience in the
23 diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders. Upon approval, Respondent shall
24 undergo and continue psychotherapy treatment, including any modifications to the frequency of
25 psychotherapy, until the Board or its designee deems that no further psychotherapy is necessary.

26 The psychotherapist shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee
27 and any other information the psychotherapist deems relevant and shall furnish a written
28 evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall cooperate in providing the

1 psychotherapist with any information and documents that the psychotherapist may deem
2 pertinent.

3 Respondent shall have the treating psychotherapist submit quarterly status reports to the
4 Board or its designee. The Board or its designee may require Respondent to undergo psychiatric
5 evaluations by a Board-appointed board certified psychiatrist. If, prior to the completion of
6 probation, Respondent is found to be mentally unfit to resume the practice of medicine without
7 restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing jurisdiction over Respondent's license and the
8 period of probation shall be extended until the Board determines that Respondent is mentally fit
9 to resume the practice of medicine without restrictions.

10 Respondent shall pay the cost of all psychotherapy and psychiatric evaluations.

11 8. MEDICAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT. Within 30 calendar days of the
12 effective date of this Decision, and on a periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the Board
13 or its designee, Respondent shall undergo a medical evaluation by a Board-appointed physician
14 who shall consider any information provided by the Board or designee and any other information
15 the evaluating physician deems relevant and shall furnish a medical report to the Board or its
16 designee. Respondent shall provide the evaluating physician with any information and
17 documentation that the evaluating physician may deem pertinent.

18 Following the evaluation, Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions
19 recommended by the evaluating physician within 15 calendar days after being notified by the
20 Board or its designee. If Respondent is required by the Board or its designee to undergo medical
21 treatment, Respondent shall within 30 calendar days of the requirement notice, submit to the
22 Board or its designee for prior approval the name and qualifications of a California licensed
23 treating physician of Respondent's choice. Upon approval of the treating physician, Respondent
24 shall within 15 calendar days undertake medical treatment and shall continue such treatment until
25 further notice from the Board or its designee.

26 The treating physician shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee
27 or any other information the treating physician may deem pertinent prior to commencement of
28 treatment. Respondent shall have the treating physician submit quarterly reports to the Board or

1 its designee indicating whether or not the Respondent is capable of practicing medicine safely.
2 Respondent shall provide the Board or its designee with any and all medical records pertaining to
3 treatment that the Board or its designee deems necessary.

4 If, prior to the completion of probation, Respondent is found to be physically incapable of
5 resuming the practice of medicine without restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing
6 jurisdiction over Respondent's license and the period of probation shall be extended until the
7 Board determines that Respondent is physically capable of resuming the practice of medicine
8 without restrictions. Respondent shall pay the cost of the medical evaluation(s) and treatment.

9 9. MONITORING - PRACTICE. Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this
10 Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a practice
11 monitor(s), the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose
12 licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical
13 Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal
14 relationship with Respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to
15 compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Board, including
16 but not limited to any form of bartering, shall be in Respondent's field of practice, and must agree
17 to serve as Respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

18 The Board or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the Decision(s)
19 and Accusation(s), and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the
20 Decision(s), Accusation(s), and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a signed
21 statement that the monitor has read the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), fully understands the role
22 of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor disagrees
23 with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan with the
24 signed statement for approval by the Board or its designee.

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

1 If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a monitor within 60 calendar days of the effective
2 date of this Decision, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to
3 cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent
4 shall cease the practice of medicine until a monitor is approved to provide monitoring
5 responsibility.

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

12 If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, Respondent shall, within 5 calendar days of
13 such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval, the
14 name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within
15 15 calendar days. If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60
16 calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, Respondent shall receive a
17 notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3)
18 calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine until a
19 replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility.

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

25 10. SOLO PRACTICE PROHIBITION. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the
26 solo practice of medicine. Prohibited solo practice includes, but is not limited to, a practice
27 where: 1) Respondent merely shares office space with another physician but is not affiliated for
28 purposes of providing patient care, or 2) Respondent is the sole physician practitioner at that

1 location.

2 If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in
3 an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision,
4 Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of
5 medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume
6 practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

7 If, during the course of the probation, the Respondent's practice setting changes and the
8 Respondent is no longer practicing in a setting in compliance with this Decision, the Respondent
9 shall notify the Board or its designee within five (5) calendar days of the practice setting change.

10 If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an
11 appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the practice setting change, Respondent
12 shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within
13 three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an
14 appropriate practice setting is established.

15 11. CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS: Within thirty (30)
16 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter as
17 may be required by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall undergo and complete a clinical
18 diagnostic evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary, by a Board-appointed
19 board certified physician and surgeon. The examiner shall consider any information provided by
20 the Board or its designee and any other information he or she deems relevant, and shall furnish a
21 written evaluation report to the Board or its designee.

22 The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted by a licensed physician and surgeon
23 who holds a valid, unrestricted license, has three (3) years' experience in providing evaluations of
24 physicians and surgeons with substance abuse disorders, and is approved by the Board or its
25 designee. The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with acceptable
26 professional standards for conducting substance abuse clinical diagnostic evaluations. The
27 evaluator shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or business relationship with
28 Respondent within the last five (5) years. The evaluator shall provide an objective, unbiased, and

1 independent evaluation. The clinical diagnostic evaluation report shall set forth, in the
2 evaluator's opinion, whether Respondent has a substance abuse problem, whether Respondent is a
3 threat to himself or herself or others, and recommendations for substance abuse treatment,
4 practice restrictions, or other recommendations related to Respondent's rehabilitation and ability
5 to practice safely. If the evaluator determines during the evaluation process that Respondent is a
6 threat to himself or herself or others, the evaluator shall notify the Board within twenty-four (24)
7 hours of such a determination.

8 In formulating his or her opinion as to whether Respondent is safe to return to either part-
9 time or full-time practice and what restrictions or recommendations should be imposed, including
10 participation in an inpatient or outpatient treatment program, the evaluator shall consider the
11 following factors: Respondent's license type; Respondent's history; Respondent's documented
12 length of sobriety (i.e., length of time that has elapsed since Respondent's last substance use);
13 Respondent's scope and pattern of substance abuse; Respondent's treatment history, medical
14 history and current medical condition; the nature, duration and severity of Respondent's
15 substance abuse problem or problems; and whether Respondent is a threat to himself or herself or
16 the public.

17 For all clinical diagnostic evaluations, a final written report shall be provided to the Board
18 no later than ten (10) days from the date the evaluator is assigned the matter. If the evaluator
19 requests additional information or time to complete the evaluation and report, an extension may
20 be granted, but shall not exceed thirty (30) days from the date the evaluator was originally
21 assigned the matter.

22 The Board shall review the clinical diagnostic evaluation report within five (5) business
23 days of receipt to determine whether Respondent is safe to return to either part-time or full-time
24 practice and what restrictions or recommendations shall be imposed on Respondent based on the
25 recommendations made by the evaluator. Respondent shall not be returned to practice until he or
26 she has at least thirty (30) days of negative biological fluid tests or biological fluid tests indicating
27 that he or she has not used, consumed, ingested, or administered to himself or herself a prohibited
28 substance, as defined in section 1361.51, subdivision (e), of Title 16 of the California Code of

1 Regulations.

2 Clinical diagnostic evaluations conducted prior to the effective date of this Decision shall
3 not be accepted towards the fulfillment of this requirement. The cost of the clinical diagnostic
4 evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary by the examiner, the Board or its
5 designee, shall be borne by the licensee.

6 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified by the Board or its
7 designee that he or she is fit to practice medicine safely. The period of time that Respondent is
8 not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation.

9 Respondent shall undergo biological fluid testing as required in this Decision at least two (2)
10 times per week while awaiting the notification from the Board if he or she is fit to practice
11 medicine safely.

12 Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the examiner
13 conducting the clinical diagnostic evaluation within fifteen (15) calendar days after being notified
14 by the Board or its designee.

15 12. NOTICE OF EMPLOYER OR SUPERVISOR INFORMATION. Within seven (7)
16 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall provide to the Board the names,
17 physical addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers of any and all employers and
18 supervisors. Respondent shall also provide specific, written consent for the Board, Respondent's
19 worksite monitor, and Respondent's employers and supervisors to communicate regarding
20 Respondent's work status, performance, and monitoring.

21 For purposes of this section, "supervisors" shall include the Chief of Staff and Health or
22 Well Being Committee Chair, or equivalent, if applicable, when the Respondent has medical staff
23 privileges.

24 13. VIOLATION OF PROBATION CONDITION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSING
25 LICENSEES. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of
26 probation.

27 A. If Respondent commits a major violation of probation as defined by section
28 1361.52, subdivision (a), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take

1 one or more of the following actions:

2 (1) Issue an immediate cease-practice order and order Respondent to undergo a clinical
3 diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of
4 Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, at Respondent's expense. The cease-practice
5 order issued by the Board or its designee shall state that Respondent must test negative for at least
6 a month of continuous biological fluid testing before being allowed to resume practice. For
7 purposes of determining the length of time a Respondent must test negative while undergoing
8 continuous biological fluid testing following issuance of a cease-practice order, a month is
9 defined as thirty calendar (30) days. Respondent may not resume the practice of medicine until
10 notified in writing by the Board or its designee that he or she may do so.

11 (2) Increase the frequency of biological fluid testing.

12 (3) Refer Respondent for further disciplinary action, such as suspension, revocation, or
13 other action as determined by the Board or its designee.

14 B. If Respondent commits a minor violation of probation as defined by section
15 1361.52, subdivision (c), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take
16 one or more of the following actions:

17 (1) Issue a cease-practice order;

18 (2) Order practice limitations;

19 (3) Order or increase supervision of Respondent;

20 (4) Order increased documentation;

21 (5) Issue a citation and fine, or a warning letter;

22 (6) Order Respondent to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in
23 accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of Title 16 of the California Code of
24 Regulations, at Respondent's expense;

25 (7) Take any other action as determined by the Board or its designee.

26 C. Nothing in this Decision shall be considered a limitation on the Board's authority
27 to revoke Respondent's probation if he or she has violated any term or condition of probation. If
28 Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the

1 opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was
2 stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed
3 against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter
4 is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

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

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

14 15. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
15 NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and
16 advanced practice nurses.

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

20 17. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY. Respondent is hereby
21 ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, including, but not
22 limited to, expert review, amended accusations, legal reviews, investigation(s), and subpoena
23 enforcement, as applicable, in the amount of \$13,581.00 (thirteen thousand five hundred eighty-
24 one dollars and zero cents). Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California. Failure to
25 pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

26 Payment must be made in full within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or
27 by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board of California. Any and all requests for a
28 payment plan shall be submitted in writing by respondent to the Board. Failure to comply with

1 the payment plan shall be considered a violation of probation.

2 The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to
3 repay investigation and enforcement costs, including expert review costs (if applicable).

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

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

9 19. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

10 Compliance with Probation Unit

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

12 Address Changes

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

18 Place of Practice

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

22 License Renewal

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

25 Travel or Residence Outside California

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. This term does not include cost recovery, which is due within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board and timely satisfied. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.

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

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

25. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated

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

5 26. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for
6 a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care
7 licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in
8 Accusation No. 800-2022-094031 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by
9 Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or
10 restrict license.

11 **ACCEPTANCE**

12 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
13 discussed it with my attorney, Suzanne M. Crouts, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect
14 it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement
15 and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
16 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

17
18 DATED: 07/21/25


James Tran (Jul 21, 2025 16:17 PDT)

JAMES THANH-LONG TRAN, M.D.
Respondent

20 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent James Thanh-Long Tran, M.D., the terms
21 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
22 Order. I approve its form and content.

23
24 DATED: July 21, 2025


SUZANNE M. CROUTS, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

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ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 07/21/2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

/s. Robert W. Lincoln

ROBERT W. LINCOLN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2022-094031

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 ROBERT W. LINCOLN
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 316290
California Department of Justice
5 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
San Diego, CA 92101
6 P.O. Box 85266
San Diego, CA 92186-5266
7 Telephone: (619) 738-9453
Facsimile: (619) 645-2012
8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

9
10 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
11 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
12 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2022-094031

14 James Thanh-Long Tran, M.D.
15 5251 PRINCETON AVE
WESTMINSTER CA 92683-2752

A C C U S A T I O N

16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
17 No. A 180450,

Respondent.

18
19
20 **PARTIES**

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

24 2. On or about July 14, 2022, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
25 Certificate No. A 180450 to James Thanh-Long Tran, 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 September 29, 2024, unless renewed.

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1 **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 of the Code states:

6 (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of
7 the 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
11 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.

13 (4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a
14 requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the
board.

15 (5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of
16 probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.

17 (b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters,
18 medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations,
19 continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are
agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters
made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made
available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1.

20 **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

26 "..."

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

28 (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 [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. 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.

7. 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.

COST RECOVERY

8. 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.

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1 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

2 9. On or about December 10, 2022, at approximately 12:50 a.m., officers of the Arcadia
3 Police Department responded to reports of an unoccupied vehicle stopped at the intersection of S
4 Baldwin Avenue and W Camino Real Avenue.

5 10. As the officers approached the stopped vehicle, they could hear the engine running.
6 The driver, later identified as Respondent, was observed asleep in the front driver seat, with his
7 foot resting on the brake pedal. The gear selector was in "drive." The officers had observed the
8 vehicle approach the intersection slowly, at about one (1) mph, before stopping.

9 11. The officers could not open the locked doors of the vehicle, which had all the
10 windows rolled up. Officer 1¹ parked his vehicle in front of Respondent's vehicle to prevent it
11 from moving further into the intersection.

12 12. The officers approached Respondent's vehicle again, this time from the passenger
13 side, and were able to make contact. Officer 1 opened the passenger door and shifted the vehicle
14 into "park." While doing so, he noticed a strong odor of alcohol emanating from the vehicle.

15 13. Respondent was asked to step out of the vehicle, but appeared disoriented. The
16 officers assisted him out of the vehicle and to the curb.

17 14. Officer 1 noted that Respondent's gait was unsteady, and he could not walk without
18 assistance. Respondent's eyes were red, bloodshot, droopy, and watery. A strong odor of alcohol
19 emanated from Respondent's breath and person.

20 15. Respondent advised the officers he was returning home from a hotel in Pasadena. His
21 speech was slurred.

22 16. Respondent refused to complete the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus test.

23 17. Respondent attempted the Walk and Turn field sobriety test, but it was discontinued
24 due to losing his balance. Prior to discontinuance, Respondent started taking steps too soon, lost
25 his balance, took the wrong number of steps, and stepped off the line four times. His steps were
26 not heel-to-toe.

27 ///

28 ¹ The name of the individual has been withheld for privacy reasons.

1 18. Respondent attempted the One Leg Stand field sobriety test, but it was discontinued
2 because he lost his balance. Prior to discontinuance, Respondent started the test too soon, falling
3 and losing his balance.

4 19. Respondent attempted the Romberg field sobriety test, but it was discontinued after
5 approximately 27 seconds due to Respondent losing his balance. Prior to discontinuance,
6 Respondent began the test too soon, counted aloud, and lost his balance.

7 20. Respondent refused to submit a breath sample for a preliminary alcohol screening.
8 Officer 1 placed him under arrest and transported him to the Arcadia Police Department Jail for
9 booking, and a blood sample was drawn at approximately 2:50 a.m.

10 21. Respondent's blood sample was analyzed as having a 0.16% blood alcohol content.

11 22. On or about June 2, 2023, a misdemeanor complaint was filed against Respondent in
12 *The People of the State of California v. James Thanh-Long Tran*, Los Angeles County Superior
13 Court Case No. 3PD25328, alleging one count of driving under the influence of alcohol, in
14 violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(a); and one count of driving with a blood alcohol content
15 of 0.08% or higher, in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(b); with an enhancement under
16 Vehicle Code section 23578 for having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.15% or higher.

17 23. On or about March 23, 2024, Respondent pleaded "no contest" to driving with a
18 blood alcohol content of 0.08% or higher.

19 24. The plea was accepted by the court on or about March 25, 2024, and Respondent was
20 sentenced to three years of summary probation with various terms and conditions, including
21 payment of fines and fees and participation in a three-month DUI program.

22 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

23 **(Conviction of a Substantially Related Crime)**

24 25. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 180450 to
25 disciplinary action under section 2234, as further detailed in section 2236, subdivision (a), of the
26 Code, in that Respondent was convicted of an offense substantially related to the qualifications,
27 functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances are described in paragraphs 9
28 through 24 above, and incorporated by reference herein as if fully set forth.

1 SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 (Excessive Use of Alcohol)

3 26. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 180450 to
4 disciplinary action under section 2239, subdivision (a), of the Code, in that Respondent was
5 convicted of an offense involving his use of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a
6 manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public. The
7 circumstances are described in paragraphs 9 through 25 above, and incorporated by reference
8 herein as if fully set forth.

9 THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

10 (Unprofessional Conduct)

11 27. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 180450 to
12 disciplinary action under section 2234 of the Code, in that Respondent committed acts
13 constituting unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon. The circumstances are described
14 in paragraphs 9 through 26, above, and incorporated by reference herein as if fully set forth.

15 PRAYER

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

18 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 180450, issued
19 to Respondent James Thanh-Long Tran, M.D.;

20 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent James Thanh-Long Tran,
21 M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

22 3. Ordering Respondent James Thanh-Long Tran, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of
23 the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation
24 monitoring; and

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

2 DATED: **AUG 21 2024**

Jenna Jones for

3 REJI VARGHESE
4 Executive Director
5 Medical Board of California
6 Department of Consumer Affairs
7 State of California
8 *Complainant*

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