

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

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

**Saji T. John, M.D.**

**Physician's & Surgeon's  
Certificate No A 52030**

**Respondent.**

**Case No. 800-2018-042672**

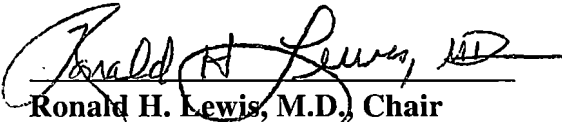
**DECISION**

**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 June 18, 2021**

**IT IS SO ORDERED May 20, 2021**

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

  
**Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair  
Panel A**

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 STEVE DIEHL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 236116  
California Department of Justice  
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*Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

14 **SAJI T. JOHN, M.D.**  
15 **11567 Devonshire Ave**  
**Fresno, CA 93730**

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
17 **No. A 52030**

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2018-042672

OAH No. 2020100106

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND  
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. William Prasifka (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 Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Michael C. Brummel,  
25 Deputy Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Saji T. John, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by  
27 attorney Ann H. Larson, Esq., whose address is: 2420 Camino Ramon, Suite 202, San Ramon,  
28 CA 94583-4202.



1 10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case  
2 or factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up her right  
3 to contest those charges. Respondent agrees that if in any future case she ever petitions for early  
4 termination or modification of probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of  
5 probation, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2018-042672 shall  
6 be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any  
7 other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

8 11. Respondent agrees that her Physicians' and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to  
9 discipline, and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the  
10 Disciplinary Order below.

11 **CONTINGENCY**

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

22 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile  
23 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile  
24 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

25 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that  
26 the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent, issue and  
27 enter the following Disciplinary Order:

28 ///

**DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 52030 issued to Respondent Saji T. John, M.D. is Publicly Reprimanded pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This Public Reprimand, which is issued in connection with Respondent's care and treatment of a single patient, as set forth in Accusation No. 800-2018-042672, is as follows:

This reprimand is issued pursuant to Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4) as a result of the allegations set forth in the Accusation, relating to her failure to conduct an adequate abdominal examination on Patient A, failure to obtain prompt labs from Patient A, and failure to adequately respond to Patient A's critical potassium levels.

1. EDUCATION COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours to be completed within one year of this Decision. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

2. FAILURE TO COMPLY. Any failure by Respondent to comply with the terms and conditions of the Disciplinary Order set forth above shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further disciplinary action.

3. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. 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 action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2018-042672 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

1 restrict license.

2 **ACCEPTANCE**

3 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully  
4 discussed it with my attorney, Ann H. Larson, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it  
5 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and  
6 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the  
7 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

8

9 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 SAJI T. JOHN, M.D.  
11 *Respondent*

12 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Saji T. John, M.D. the terms and  
13 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.  
14 I approve its form and content.


15 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Ann H. Larson, Esq.  
17 *Attorney for Respondent*

18 **ENDORSEMENT**

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

21 DATED: March 11, 2021

22 Respectfully submitted,  
23 XAVIER BECERRA  
24 Attorney General of California  
25 STEVE DIEHL  
26 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

27   
28 MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL  
29 Deputy Attorney General  
30 *Attorneys for Complainant*

FR2020301846/95379669

1 restrict license.

2 **ACCEPTANCE**

3 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully  
4 discussed it with my attorney, Ann H. Larson, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it  
5 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and  
6 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the  
7 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

8  
9 DATED: 3/10/21 Saji John  
10 SAJI T. JOHN, M.D.  
Respondent

11 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Saji T. John, M.D. the terms and  
12 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.  
13 I approve its form and content.

14 DATED: 3/11/21 Ann H. Larson  
15 Ann H. Larson, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent

16  
17 **ENDORSEMENT**

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

20  
21 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
STEVE DIEHL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorneys for Complainant

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**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2018-042672**



1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 STEVE DIEHL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 MICHAEL C. BRÜMMEL  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 236116  
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090  
5 Fresno, CA 93721  
Telephone: (559) 705-2307  
6 Facsimile: (559) 445-5106  
*Attorneys for Complainant*  
7

8  
9  
10 **BEFORE THE**  
11 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
13 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 800-2018-042672  
15 **SAJI T. JOHN, M.D.** ACCUSATION  
16 11567 Devonshire Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93730  
17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
18 **No. A 52030.**  
19 Respondent.

20 **PARTIES**

- 21 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity  
22 as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs  
23 (Board).  
24 2. On or about June 14, 1993, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
25 Certificate No. A 52030 to Saji T. John, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's  
26 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will  
27 expire on May 31, 2021, unless renewed.  
28 ///

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  
9 into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the  
10 provisions of this chapter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 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:

...

(b) Gross negligence.

(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more  
negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a  
separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute  
repeated negligent acts.

...

1 (g) The failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend  
2 and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a  
certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board.

3 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

4 **(Gross Negligence)**

5 6. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 52030 to  
6 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of  
7 the Code, in that she was grossly negligent in her care and treatment of Patient A,<sup>1</sup> as more  
8 particularly alleged hereinafter:

9 7. On or about October 10, 2015, Patient A, a then 78-year-old female presented to  
10 urgent care at Kaiser Permanente (Kaiser) with complaints of nausea, vomiting, and acute  
11 constant abdominal pain. Abdominal tenderness was noted on physical examination, and her vital  
12 signs were found to be within normal limits. The treating physician diagnosed the patient with  
13 likely food poisoning. Patient A was provided intravenous (IV) Zofran,<sup>2</sup> a prescription for oral  
14 Zofran, and was discharged home with instructions to follow-up with her primary care physician<sup>3</sup>  
15 if her symptoms persist.

16 8. On or about October 12, 2015, Respondent reviewed the urgent care notes from  
17 Patient A's visit and contacted her by phone. At that time, the patient reported that she was still  
18 feeling sick and tired, had no energy, no appetite, dry lips, and was trying to drink fluids.  
19 Respondent did not inquire about the duration, severity, or location of her abdominal pain.  
20 Respondent recommended the patient make an appointment to come see her either that day or the  
21 next day.

22 9. On or about October 13, 2015, Patient A presented to Respondent with continued  
23 complaints of nausea, vomiting, feeling tired, weak, and requested hospitalization for IV fluids.  
24 The patient's vital signs were found to be within normal limits. Respondent did not perform an

25 <sup>1</sup> To protect the privacy of the patient involved, the patient's name has not been included  
26 in this pleading. Respondent is aware of the identity of the patient referred to herein.

27 <sup>2</sup> Zofran (brand name for ondansetron) is a medication used to prevent nausea and  
vomiting.

28 <sup>3</sup> Respondent had been Patient A's primary care physician since approximately 2006.

1 abdominal examination, and did not inquire about the duration, severity, or location of her  
2 abdominal pain, or about her bowel movements, bloody stools, or flatus. Respondent diagnosed  
3 Patient A with dehydration, and ordered labs that included a complete blood count (CBC) and IV  
4 fluids.

5 10. After leaving Respondent's office, Patient A reported for her labs and IV fluids as  
6 directed. Only partial labs were able to be drawn from the patient at that time. Later that day,  
7 Respondent reviewed the patient's partial lab results, which revealed a CBC within normal limits.  
8 Respondent did not order repeat complete labs.

9 11. On or about October 16, 2015, at approximately 11:15 a.m., Patient A presented to  
10 Kaiser with continued complaints of nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain, and was seen by  
11 M.R., M.D. (Dr. M.R.). Patient A reported that her last bowel movement was four (4) days prior,  
12 but denied any fever or chills. Dr. M.R. noted some distention and tenderness on abdominal  
13 exam, and diagnosed Patient A with lower left quadrant abdominal pain and possible  
14 diverticulitis. Dr. M.R. ordered a CT scan and instructed the patient to complete the labs that had  
15 been previously ordered by Respondent.

16 12. After leaving Dr. M.R.'s office, Patient A reported for her labs as directed at  
17 approximately 12:30 p.m., the results of which were notable for hypokalemia with a potassium  
18 level of 2.7. Respondent acknowledged receipt of these critical lab results at approximately  
19 1:24 p.m., and subsequently mailed a letter to the patient to inform her that her labs showed a  
20 very low potassium level, and instructed her to repeat the labs in one to two weeks.

21 13. Patient A presented for her CT scan as instructed at approximately 1:15 p.m., which  
22 revealed findings concerning for small bowel obstruction and left femoral hernia containing loop  
23 of bowel. This information was urgently conveyed to Dr. M.R., at approximately 2:42 p.m., who  
24 then contacted the patient by phone to advise her to immediately report to the emergency  
25 department (ED).

26 14. Patient A presented to the ED as instructed at approximately 4:39 p.m., where she  
27 was diagnosed with left femoral hernia with obstruction. Shortly thereafter, the patient underwent  
28 an emergent operation that revealed gross fecal contamination in all four quadrants, perforated

1 and necrotic dead bowel, and purulent peritonitis and stool from strangulated hernia. Patient A  
2 was subsequently transferred to the intensive care unit and died on or about October 18, 2015,  
3 from cardiac arrest due to ventricular tachycardia and severe sepsis due to bowel perforation and  
4 obstruction.

5 15. On or about September 4, 2019, an investigator on behalf of the Board (MBC  
6 Investigator) contacted Respondent by email to schedule an interview about her care and  
7 treatment of Patient A.

8 16. On or about September 11, 2019, Respondent responded to MBC Investigator by  
9 email and indicated that she is on extended medical leave and inquired as to how she should  
10 proceed.

11 17. On or about September 19, 2019, MBC Investigator emailed Respondent asking her  
12 to have Kaiser legal counsel contact the investigator about setting up a phone interview so the  
13 interview could proceed while she is on extended medical leave.

14 18. On or about October 11, 2019, MBC Investigator emailed the Kaiser legal department  
15 to schedule an interview with Respondent, and advised them that the interview would likely be  
16 over the phone.

17 19. On or about January 24, 2020, MBC Investigator emailed the Kaiser legal department  
18 again to schedule an interview with Respondent.

19 20. On or about March 5, 2020, MBC Investigator emailed Respondent to inform her that  
20 the Kaiser legal department had not been responsive and asked of her availability for the  
21 interview.

22 21. On or about March 10, 2020, MBC Investigator emailed the Kaiser legal department  
23 again to schedule an interview with Respondent, and advised them that the interview could be by  
24 phone if Respondent was still on medical leave.

25 22. On or about April 7, 2020, MBC Investigator emailed Respondent to let her know she  
26 could waive her right to an interview and instead provide a detailed letter to the Board, or she can  
27 proceed with scheduling a phone interview. MBC Investigator requested a response by April 21,  
28 2020. As of June 17, 2020, Respondent had not responded to MBC Investigator.

1 23. Respondent committed gross negligence in her care and treatment of Patient A, which  
2 included, but was not limited to, the following:

3 A. Failing to properly evaluate and manage the patient's nausea and vomiting in  
4 the setting of abdominal pain; and

5 B. Failing to properly manage the patient's hypokalemia.

6 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

8 24. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
9 A 52030 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,  
10 subdivision (c), of the Code, in that she committed repeated negligent acts in her care and  
11 treatment of Patient A, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 6 through 23, above, which are  
12 hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

13 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

14 **(Failure to Attend and Participate in Interview by the Board)**

15 25. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
16 A 52030 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,  
17 subdivision (g), of the Code, in that without good cause, she failed to attend and participate in an  
18 interview by the board, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 15 through 22, above, which  
19 are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

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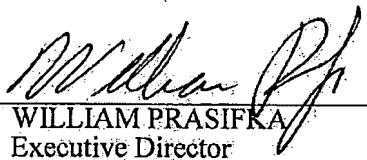
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**PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that 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 No. A 52030, issued to Respondent, Saji T. John, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending, or denying approval of Respondent, Saji T. John, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Respondent, Saji T. John, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: AUG 13 2020



WILLIAM PRASIFKA  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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