

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

In the Matter of the Accusation and  
First Amended Accusation Against:

Sharmistha Barai, M.D.

Case No. 800-2016-028702

Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate No. A 135050

Respondent.

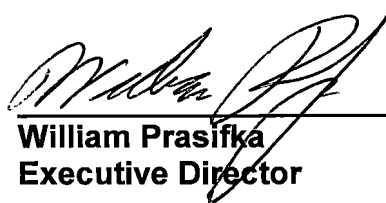
DECISION

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED June 23, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



\_\_\_\_\_  
William Prasifka  
Executive Director

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 STEVEN D. MUNI  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 VERONICA VO  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 230698  
1300 I Street, Suite 125  
5 P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550  
6 Telephone: (916) 210-7508  
Facsimile: (916) 327-2247  
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation and First  
Amended Accusation Against:

13 **SHARMISTHA BARAI, M.D.**  
14 **Register Number: 76033-097**  
**FMC Farswell**  
15 **P.O. Box 27137**  
**Fort Worth, Texas 76127-0137**  
16  
17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A**  
**135050**

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2016-028702

OAH No. 2020010614

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF  
LICENSE AND ORDER**

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

23 **PARTIES**

24 1. Christine J. Lally was the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of  
25 California (Board) at the time the initial Accusation was filed on November 5, 2019.<sup>1</sup> She  
26 brought this action solely in her official capacity. The Medical Board of California is represented  
27

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>1</sup> William Prasifka (Complainant) is currently the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California.

1 in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Veronica Vo, Deputy  
2 Attorney General.

3 2. Sharmistha Barai, M.D. (Respondent) is representing herself in this proceeding and  
4 has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.

5 3. On or about March 12, 2015, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
6 No. A 135050 to Sharmistha Barai, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's  
7 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in the  
8 Accusation and First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028702. The Physician's and  
9 Surgeon's Certificate expired on April 30, 2020.

#### 10 JURISDICTION

11 4. The Accusation and the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028702 was filed  
12 before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and First  
13 Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on  
14 Respondent on November 5, 2019 and February 12, 2021. Respondent timely filed her Notice of  
15 Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of the Accusation and First Amended Accusation No.  
16 800-2016-028702 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

#### 17 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

18 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in the  
19 Accusation and First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028702. Respondent also has carefully  
20 read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

21 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a  
22 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation and First Amended Accusation; the right  
23 to be represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the  
24 witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to  
25 the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of  
26 documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other  
27 rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.  
28

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

3   **CULPABILITY**

4           8. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in the Accusation  
5 and First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028702, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for  
6 imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

7           9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of  
8 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima*  
9 *facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in the Accusation and First  
10 Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028702 and that Respondent hereby gives up her right to  
11 contest those charges.

12           10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Executive  
13 Director, on behalf of the Board, to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Physician's and  
14 Surgeon's Certificate without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent.

15   **CONTINGENCY**

16           11. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b) provides, in pertinent  
17 part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a  
18 stipulation for surrender of a license."

19           12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands  
20 and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly  
21 with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by  
22 Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not  
23 withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers  
24 and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the  
25 Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this  
26 paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not  
27 be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.  
28

1 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile  
2 copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures  
3 thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

4 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that  
5 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

6 **ORDER**

7 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 135050,  
8 issued to Respondent Sharmistha Barai, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

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

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

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

17 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in  
18 the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must  
19 comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered  
20 license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in  
21 Accusation and First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028702 shall be deemed to be true,  
22 correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the  
23 petition.

24  
25 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or  
26 petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of  
27 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation and First Amended  
28 Accusation, No. 800-2016-028702 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by

1 Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or  
2 restrict licensure.

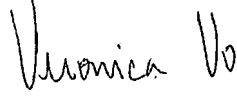
3 **ACCEPTANCE**

4 I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the  
5 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into  
6 this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and  
7 agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

8  
9 DATED: 05/20/21   
10 SHARMISTHA BARAI, M.D.  
11 Respondent

12 **ENDORSEMENT**

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

15 DATED: May 20, 2021  
16 Respectfully submitted,  
17 ROB BONTA  
18 Attorney General of California  
19 STEVEN D. MUNI  
20 Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
21   
22 VERONICA VO  
23 Deputy Attorney General  
24 Attorneys for Complainant

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26 35017260.docx

**Exhibit A**

**Accusation and First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028702**

FILED  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
SACRAMENTO NOV 5 20 19  
BY D. Richards ANALYST

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 VERONICA VO  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 230698  
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5 P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550  
6 Telephone: (916) 210-7508  
7 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the Automatic Suspension  
14 Order Against:

Case No. 800-2016-028702

**ACCUSATION**

15 **Sharmistha Barai, M.D.**  
16 **3805 Shoreview Dr.**  
**Kissimmee, FL 34744-0003**

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
**No. A 135050,**

18 Respondent.

19  
20 Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity  
23 as the Deputy Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs  
24 (Board).

25 2. On or about March 12, 2015, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
26 Certificate No. A 135050 to Sharmistha Barai, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and  
27 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought  
28 herein and will expire on April 30, 2020, unless renewed.



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**JURISDICTION**

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

4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, 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.

5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct.<sup>1</sup> In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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

(b) Gross negligence.

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<sup>1</sup> Unprofessional conduct under California Business and Professions Code section 2234 is conduct which breaches the rules of ethical codes of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.)

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

5 (1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically  
6 appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single  
7 negligent act.

8 (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or  
9 omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but  
10 not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the  
11 licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure  
12 constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

13 (d) Incompetence.

14 (e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is  
15 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and  
16 surgeon.

17 (f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a  
18 certificate.

19 (g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country  
20 without meeting the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of  
21 medicine. Section 2314 shall not apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall  
22 become operative upon the implementation of the proposed registration program  
23 described in Section 2052.5.

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

27 6. Section 2236 of the Code states:

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.

(b) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify  
the Medical Board of the pendency of an action against a licensee charging a felony  
or misdemeanor immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a  
licensee. The notice shall identify the licensee and describe the crimes charged and  
the facts alleged. The prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in  
which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record  
prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license as a physician and surgeon.

(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

1 duties of a physician and surgeon.

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

6 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 (Conviction of a Crime)

8 7. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 135050 to  
9 disciplinary action under Business and Professions Code (Code) sections 2227 and 2234, as  
10 defined by section 2236, of the Code, in that Respondent was convicted of a crime substantially  
11 related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances  
12 are as follows:

13 8. Between on or about February 21, 2014, and continuing through on or about October  
14 3, 2016, Respondent did knowingly conspire and agree to provide and obtain the labor and  
15 services of persons by means of threat or force.

16 9. Respondent used Internet websites and other advertising media to seek out foreign  
17 domestic laborers. Through those advertisements, Respondent made materially false  
18 representations and omissions regarding the amount of compensation and the conditions of  
19 employment including, but not limited to, the hours of employment, the duties of employment,  
20 and the conditions under which these duties would be performed.

21 10. In total, three foreign workers responded to the advertisements.

22 11. Once workers arrived at the Respondent's residence, the Respondent imposed a work  
23 schedule consisting of approximately 18 hours a day with limited rest and nourishment. Workers  
24 were required to help with childcare, cooking and household chores.

25 12. Respondent obtained labor and services from the workers without the payment of  
26 wages and with the use of threat or force such that it caused the workers to believe that if they did  
27 not perform as ordered, they would suffer serious harm and physical restraint. Instances of such  
28 physical harm and threats included Respondent physically striking a worker and preventing  
another worker from leaving the home by threatening to call the police.

1           13. On March 14, 2019, in the case entitled *United States of America v. Sharmistha*  
2 *Barai*, criminal case number 2:16-cr-00217-MCE, in the United States District Court, Eastern  
3 District of California, Respondent, upon jury verdict, was convicted of violations of 18 United  
4 States Code section 1594, subdivision (b), Conspiracy to Commit Forced Labor, and two counts  
5 of 18 United States Code section 1589, subdivision (a), Forced Labor.

6           14. Respondent is scheduled for sentencing on January 30, 2020.

7  
8                                   **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

9                                   **(General Unprofessional Conduct)**

10           15. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
11 A 135050 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234 of the Code, in that she has  
12 engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct  
13 which is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which  
14 demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 7  
15 through 14 above, which is hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth  
16 herein.

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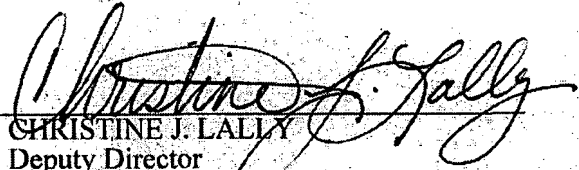
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**PRAYER**

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 135050, issued to Sharmistha Barai, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Sharmistha Barai, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Sharmistha Barai, 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: November 5, 2019

  
CHRISTINE J. LALLY  
Deputy Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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14097103.docx

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 STEVEN D. MUNI  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 VERONICA VO  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 230698  
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7

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation  
14 Against:

Case No. 800-2016-028702

15 **Sharmistha Barai, M.D.**  
16 **3805 Shoreview Dr.**  
**Kissimmee, FL 34744-0003**

**FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION**

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
**No. A 135050,**

18 Respondent.  
19

20 Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in his  
23 official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of  
24 Consumer Affairs (Board).

25 2. On or about March 12, 2015, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
26 Certificate No. A 135050 to Sharmistha Barai, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and  
27 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought  
28 herein and expired on April 30, 2020.

1 **JURISDICTION**

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

28 The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with  
unprofessional conduct.<sup>1</sup> In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional  
conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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

(b) Gross negligence.

---

<sup>1</sup> Unprofessional conduct under California Business and Professions Code section 2234 is  
conduct which breaches the rules of ethical codes of the medical profession, or conduct which is  
unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an  
unfitness to practice medicine. (Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564,  
575.)

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

5 (1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically  
6 appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single  
7 negligent act.

8 (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or  
9 omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but  
10 not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the  
11 licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure  
12 constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

13 (d) Incompetence.

14 (e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is  
15 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and  
16 surgeon.

17 (f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a  
18 certificate.

19 (g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country  
20 without meeting the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of  
21 medicine. Section 2314 shall not apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall  
22 become operative upon the implementation of the proposed registration program  
23 described in Section 2052.5.

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

27 6. Section 2236 of the Code states:

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.

(b) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify  
the Medical Board of the pendency of an action against a licensee charging a felony  
or misdemeanor immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a  
licensee. The notice shall identify the licensee and describe the crimes charged and  
the facts alleged. The prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in  
which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record  
prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license as a physician and surgeon.

(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



1 duties of a physician and surgeon.

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

6 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 **(Conviction of a Crime)**

8 7. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 135050 to  
9 disciplinary action under Business and Professions Code (Code) sections 2227 and 2234, as  
10 defined by section 2236, of the Code, in that Respondent was convicted of a crime substantially  
11 related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances  
12 are as follows:

13 8. Between on or about February 21, 2014, and continuing through on or about October  
14 3, 2016, Respondent did knowingly conspire and agree to provide and obtain the labor and  
15 services of persons by means of threat or force.

16 9. Respondent used Internet websites and other advertising media to seek out foreign  
17 domestic laborers. Through those advertisements, Respondent made materially false  
18 representations and omissions regarding the amount of compensation and the conditions of  
19 employment including, but not limited to, the hours of employment, the duties of employment,  
20 and the conditions under which these duties would be performed.

21 10. In total, three foreign workers responded to the advertisements.

22 11. Once workers arrived at the Respondent's residence, the Respondent imposed a work  
23 schedule consisting of approximately 18 hours a day with limited rest and nourishment. Workers  
24 were required to help with childcare, cooking and household chores.

25 12. Respondent obtained labor and services from the workers without the payment of  
26 wages and with the use of threat or force such that it caused the workers to believe that if they did  
27 not perform as ordered, they would suffer serious harm and physical restraint. Instances of such  
28 physical harm and threats included Respondent physically striking a worker and preventing  
another worker from leaving the home by threatening to call the police.

1           13. On March 14, 2019, in the case entitled *United States of America v. Sharmistha*  
2 *Barai*, criminal case number 2:16-cr-00217-MCE, in the United States District Court, Eastern  
3 District of California, Respondent, upon jury verdict, was convicted of violations of 18 United  
4 States Code section 1594, subdivision (b), Conspiracy to Commit Forced Labor, and two counts  
5 of 18 United States Code section 1589, subdivision (a), Forced Labor.

6           14. Respondent was initially scheduled for sentencing on January 30, 2020. Thereafter, it  
7 was rescheduled to October 2, 2020.

8           15. On or about October 2, 2020, in the case entitled *United States of America v.*  
9 *Sharmistha Barai*, criminal case number 2:16-cr-00217-MCE, in the United States District Court,  
10 Eastern District of California, Respondent was committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of  
11 Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 188 months on each of Counts 1 (18 U.S.C. §  
12 1594(b), Count 2 (18 U.S.C. § 1589(a)), and Count 4 (18 U.S.C. §1589(a)), to be served  
13 concurrently for a total term of 188 months. During the sentencing, Respondent was also ordered  
14 to pay a restitution fine totaling \$15,657.00. After completion of her prison term, Respondent will  
15 be subject to supervised probation for a total term of 36 months.

16                                   **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

17                                   **(General Unprofessional Conduct)**

18           16. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
19 A 135050 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234 of the Code, in that she has  
20 engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct  
21 which is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which  
22 demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 7  
23 through 15 above, which is hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth  
24 herein.

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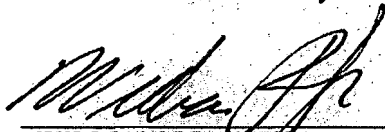
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**PRAYER**

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 135050, issued to Sharmistha Barai, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Sharmistha Barai, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Sharmistha Barai, 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: FEB 12 2021

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

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