BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY

BOARD OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition for Termination of Probation of: IRA HOWARD MONOSSON, M.D. 2310 Malcolm Avenue Los Angeles, California 90064 Respondent.	D-2402 N 16401

DECISION

This matter was heard before a panel of the Medical Quality Review Committee, District IV, on September 10, 1981, at Burlingame, California. The following members were present: Jacquelyne Arrowsmith, R.N., Chairperson; Ernest Bates, M.D.; Cherie Mohrfeld, M.D.; and Charles Lobel, M.D. By stipulation of the parties, Ina Bliss, Public Member from District IV, became the fifth member. George R. Coan, Administrative Law Judge, State of California, Office of Administrative Hearings presided at the hearing.

Suzi Tanguay, Deputy Attorney General, represented the Division of Medical Quality Assurance.

Respondent was present and represented by his attorney, Judith Gelfand, 161 So. Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90201.

Accordingly, the Committee makes the following findings of fact, determination of issues and interim order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

Respondent Ira Howard Monosson, M.D., was issued physician and surgeon's certificate on August 9, 1963.

II

Effective December 11, 1978, by stipulation, his certificate was revoked, stayed and placed on ten (10) years

probation under certain terms and conditions. Respondent, for a period of fifteen months in 1975 and 1976, wrote prescriptions for Demerol in the name of another person for his own personal use and self administration; in 1967, he had prescribed for and administered to himself narcotics; and in 1969 he diverted Demerol for his own use.

III

On October 1980, he duly filed his petition for termination of probation.

IV

Respondent introduced evidence establishing the following:

1) He has fully complied with the terms and conditions of his probation.

2) He has been drug free for five years. He was in drug therapy three times per week between 1974 and 1976; in 1977 he had six months of therapy. A psychiatrist had evaluated him and found no need for further therapy.

Respondent realizes that he took drugs because of problems with decision making, unhappiness being in private practice and for escape. He now feels confident, has no temptation to use drugs and is completely satisfied with his work in the field of occupational medicine.

3) He has been employed for several years as a Public Health Medical Officer for the California State Division of Occupational Safety and Health and is a medical consultant to both Cal/OSHA compliance and consultation programs.

He has achieved a national reputation in the field of occupational medicine. He has been a consultant for the Federal OSHA Standards Board and for the Los Angeles City attorney's office. He has written several medical surveillance programs for Cal/OSHA. He has participated in occupational medicine symposiums and is on the medical teaching staff of the University of Southern California in occupational medicine.

He has been called upon to be an expert witness in court on occupational health matters and has been

offered employment by large corporations in his field of occupational medicine.

V

Respondent has established his complete rehabilitation.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

Respondent has established that he is now rehabilitated and that it would not be against the public interest to terminate his probation.

ORDER

The petition to terminate probation of Ira Howard Monosson, M.D. is granted and respondent's license is fully restored.

DATED: October 7, 1981

Jacquelyne Arrowsmith, RN
JACQUELYNE ARROWSMITH, R.N.
Chairperson, District IV

JA:GRC:rem