



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Regular Board Meeting**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Melanie Blake, Board President.

Board members present: Melanie Blake, MD, President
Samantha McLerran, MD, Secretary
Keith Anderson, MD
Todd Tillmanns, MD
James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member
Randall Pearson, MD
John Hale, MD
Michael Bittel, Consumer Member

Board member(s) absent: Stephen Loyd, MD, Vice President
Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member
Deborah Christiansen, MD
John McGraw, MD

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel
Kavita Vankenini, MD, Medical Consultant
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director
Samantha Green, Board Administrator

The meeting began with a moment of silence.

I. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

Medical X-Ray Applicant Interview(s):

Walter Blankenship, MDXL – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Mr. Blankenship is an applicant for an initial limited X-Ray Operator license. Mr. Blankenship holds a Tennessee physician assistant license that is currently on probation. Mr. Blankenship is seeking a limited certification as an X-Ray Operator to perform X-Rays at his current place of practice. Dr. John Hale

motions to conditionally issue the license with probation to run concurrent with the Tennessee physician assistant license probation. Once the Tennessee Board of Physician Assistants approves the order of compliance to lift Mr. Blankenship's probation on his physician assistant license, the probation may also be lifted from the X-Ray limited certification without an additional appearance before the Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Samantha McLerran seconds the motion and the motion passes.

Mr. Michael Bittel joined the meeting during the first applicant interview.

Medical Doctor Applicant Interview(s):

FNU Umair, MD – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Umair is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Umair is an International medical school graduate who has not completed any ACGME accredited training and is not board certified. Dr. Umair has submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order for the Board's consideration. Dr. Keith Anderson motions accept Dr. Umair's Petition for Declaratory Order and to table the application for a period of one year to allow Dr. Umair to participate in the Declaratory Hearing process. Dr. McLerran seconds the motion, and it passes.

Kais Atmeh, MD – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Atmeh is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Atmeh is an International medical school graduate who has not completed any ACGME accredited training and is not board certified. Dr. Atmeh has submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order for the Board's consideration. Dr. Anderson motions accept Dr. Atmeh's Petition for Declaratory Order and to table the application for a period of one year to allow Dr. Atmeh to participate in the Declaratory Hearing process. Dr. Hale seconds the motion, and it passes.

Kenechukwu Ibeneme, MD – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Ibeneme is an applicant for initial licensure with no criminal history, no malpractice history, and no prior board action. Dr. Ibeneme is an International medical school graduate who has completed the required postgraduate training however he attended an unapproved medical school and is not currently board certified. Dr. Ibeneme will sit for his final board certification exam in August 2024. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez went over the Board's "Demonstrated Competency for International Medical School Graduates Applying for a Temporary License" Policy. Dr. McLerran motions to grant a temporary license for a period of up to one (1) year to allow Dr. Ibeneme to sit for his certification exam, after which Dr. Ibeneme will be eligible to apply for full licensure. Dr. Randall Pearson seconds the motion, and it passes.

Mahmood Kazmi, MD – did not appear before the Board as Dr. Melanie Blake allowed him to appear virtually. Dr. Blake states that given that the only reason Dr. Kazmi had to appear was for a missing transcript, she felt that nothing further could be gleaned by Dr. Kazmi's presence, however Dr. Kazmi is available by phone should any of the Board members wish to speak with him. Dr. Kazmi is an applicant for initial licensure with malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Kazmi is an International Medical School graduate who has completed a three (3) year US ACGME accredited residency, passed all steps of the USMLE, and is currently ABMS board certified. Dr. Kazmi is unable to provide the required medical school transcript from Egypt. Dr. Kazmi has submitted an ECFMG certificate of completion as proof of completion of medical school. Dr. Hale motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license. Dr. Anderson seconds the motion and the motion passes.

The Board discussed the possibility of a Rule change or creation of a Policy to allow for exceptions in cases where international medical school applicants cannot obtain a medical school transcript. Ms Baca-Chavez will bring pieces of the current proposed Rule changes to the Board at each future meeting to allow the Board to discuss the proposed changes and begin the rule-making process for the changes.

II. TENNESSEE BUPRENORPHINE GUIDELINES UPDATE – DR. WESLEY GEMINN

Wesley Geminn, PharmD, Chief Pharmacist and State Opioid Treatment Authority for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, presented the Fall 2023 edition of the Tennessee Non-Residential Buprenorphine Guidelines. The Guidelines committee is multi-disciplinary with members from different organizations and health facilities across the state of Tennessee. Dr. Todd Tillmanns motions to adopt the guidelines and for the guidelines to be listed on the website. Dr. McLerran seconds the motion and the motion passes.

III. REVISED CHRONIC PAIN GUIDELINES

Ms. Tracy Alcock, Deputy General Counsel, presented the January 2024 Chronic Pain Guidelines. The guidelines were updated by Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACP, Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health (hereinafter “TDH”). T.C.A. § 63-1-401 requires the TDH Commissioner to develop recommended treatment guidelines for prescribing opioids that can be used by Tennessee prescribers as a guide for caring for patients. The law requires the Commissioner to review the guidelines annually and to post them on the Department’s website. The law states that the guidelines shall be submitted to each prescribing board that licenses health professionals who can legally prescribe controlled substances. Each board shall review the treatment guidelines and determine how the treatment guidelines should be used by that board’s licensees. In reviewing the Tennessee Chronic Pain Guidelines, the Commissioner set up an internal group, which included some of the Commissioner’s employees and consultants, including a Tennessee physician who is a pain management specialist. This internal group reviewed the guidelines to provide feedback to the Commissioner, including items such as outdated material and/or websites. Dr. McLerran requested that a more multi-disciplinary approach be taken during the next review of the chronic pain guidelines, similar to the Committee that revises the Tennessee Buprenorphine Guidelines. Ms. Alcock stated she would take the suggestion back to the Commissioner. Dr. Hale motions to adopt the guidelines and for the guidelines to be listed on the website. Dr. Anderson seconds the motion and the motion passes.

IV. PRESENTATION OPEN MEETINGS ACT – FRANCINE BACA-CHAVEZ

Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez, Advisory Attorney to the Board of Medical Examiners, gave a presentation to reeducate the Board on the Open Meetings Act, also known as the Sunshine law. The Act is codified under 8-44-101 et seq. The General Assembly declares it to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy and decisions is public business and shall not be conducted in secret. When two or more Board members are talking about Board business then the Open Meetings Act is implicated. The meeting will then need to be “sunshined”. The Public must have appropriate notice of any business being discussed by the Board prior to the meeting so those that wish to make public comment can. For this reason, the Board cannot take any action on matters that are not listed on the public notice. A bill was introduced last legislative session seeks to amend the Open Meetings Act. It would allow all Health-Related Boards to enter into an executive session for any discussion of licensee or prospective licensee health conditions that are revealed in the application process. This would allow for these issues to be discussed outside of a public meeting and that the discussion and deliberation would not be a public meeting as described in the Open Meetings Act. The vote would still be in public. The meeting minutes and recordings of the executive sessions would not be subject to public record under this amendment if it were go into effect. Meeting minutes must be completed for all meetings and all voting must be documented as there are no secret votes under the Open Meetings Act. A bill became effective in July 2023 which added a new section to the Open Meetings Act (T.C.A. § 8-44-112). This section pertains to public comment. While all health-related boards had already included a section for public comment on their agenda, this will further structure the public comment section of the meeting.

V. **CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discuss and take action as needed regarding application changes to support the Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation ALL IN WellBeing First Champion Challenge – Ms. Stacy Tarr presented proposed changes to application questions to comply with recommendations by the Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation. The Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation awards states for asking questions that do not stigmatize reporting to a physician health plan. Ms. Tarr and Ms. Brandi Allocco have met with the AMA and the Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation to revise current competency questions to be less invasive and less stigmatizing. Dr. Michael Baron went over the history of the Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation and the reason for the changes behind the application questions. Dr. McLerran motions to accept the changes to the application questions as proposed. Dr. Tillmanns seconds the motion and the motion passes.
- b. Discuss and take action as needed regarding X-Ray course approval – Dr. Hale motions to approve the programs. Mr. Diaz Barriga seconds the motion and the motion passes.
 - i. X-Ray Instructional Guidelines – The courses were previously approved by the Board and are being brought before the Board for reapproval.
 - ii. Radiology Education Seminars - The courses were previously approved by the Board and are being brought before the Board for reapproval.
- c. Discuss and take action as needed regarding Approval of BME case consultants – Ms. Baca-Chavez discussed the matters in which these consultants would be utilized. Dr. Hale motions to approve the case consultants. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion and the motion passes with Mr. Bittle and Dr. Tillmanns opposed.
 - i. Tia Aryal, MD
 - ii. Frederick Bossert, MD
 - iii. Mark Peacock, MD

The Board recessed for lunch.

VI. **CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

- d. Discuss and take action as needed regarding selecting Board members, staff, and attorneys to attend FSMB annual conference – Ms. Tarr has handled registration for Board members attending through the FSMB scholarship. Attendees that utilize the FSMB scholarship must attend all three days. Ms. Baca-Chavez requests the Board to consider sending five attorneys to the conference who work on cases for the Board of Medical Examiners. Mr. Bittle motions to send all five attorneys to the FSMB annual conference. Dr. Tillmanns seconds the motion and the motion passes. Ms. Tarr also relayed a request from the Board’s consultant Dr. Stanley to attend the conference. Mr. Bittle motions to send Dr. Stanley to the conference. Dr. Tillmanns seconds the motion and the motion passes.
- e. Discuss and take action as needed regarding selecting voting delegate for FSMB annual conference – Dr. McLerran motions that Dr. Blake be the voting delegate for the FSMB annual conference. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion and the motion passes.

VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public comment was made by Jared Smith.

VIII. **CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

f. Discuss and take action as needed regarding sending Administrative Director to AIM Licensing Specialist conference in Augusta, Maine, July 17-18, 2024 – Ms. Brandi Allocco will be attending the conference as part of a licensing specialist program. It is largely funded by the FSMB, the request is for the Board to cover air fare so Ms. Allocco can attend the conference. Dr. McLerran motions to send Ms. Allocco to the AIM Licensing Specialist conference. Dr. Tillmanns seconds and the motion passes.

g. Discuss and take action as needed regarding Public Chapter 470 – Ms. Baca-Chavez has been working with Dr. Deborah Christiansen and Dr. Shant Garabedian on promulgating rules for this public chapter. The goal is for the proposed rules to be presented to the Board of Osteopathic Examination at their May 1, 2024 meeting. Ms. Baca-Chavez presented an overview of the public chapter and its requirements.

h. Discuss and take action as needed regarding Public Chapter 211 – Ms. Baca-Chavez presented an overview of the public chapter and its requirements. Amendments are being made to the bill, however in the meantime Ms. Baca-Chavez has been working with Dr. Blake to promulgate rules. This is the first law of its kind, so there are no other states to look to for ideas. The Board had a robust discussion regarding this public chapter.

IX. CONSIDER AND APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. McLerran motions to accept the consent agenda. Mr. James Diaz-Barriga seconds the motion, and it passes. The Consent Agenda contained the following:

1. Approval of January 23-24, 2024, Board of Medical Examiners Meeting minutes
2. Approval of January 23, 2024, Development Committee Meeting minutes
3. Ratification of new licenses, reinstatement and renewals of Medical Doctors, MD X-Ray Operators, Genetic Counselors, Surgical Assistants, Acupuncture, Polysomnography
4. Approval of Agreed Citations
 - a. [Laura Foutch, RPSGT*](#)
 - b. [Nicholas Choppa, L.Ac.*](#)
 - c. [Charles Sullivan, L.Ac.*](#)
5. Review of the Office of General Counsel Report
6. Review report from the Administrative Office
7. Review report from the Office of Investigations

X. UPDATES FROM TASKFORCES & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a. **Development Committee Meeting Update –**
 - i. The committee did not meet this morning. The committee will take up all agenda items at the next scheduled meeting on May 28, 2024.
- b. **Office-Based Surgery Taskforce Meeting Update –**
 - i. The taskforce will meet tomorrow morning, March 6, 2024.

XI. DISCIPLINARY ORDERS

Consent Order(s)

Clifford Freeman, MD – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Brittani Kendrick represented the State. Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as a medical doctor in the State of Tennessee, having been granted a medical license by the Board on September 14, 2018, which has a current expiration date of May 31, 2025. At all

pertinent times, Respondent practiced in emergency medicine in Kentucky and lived in Kentucky. On or about October 25, 2023, the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure placed Respondent's Kentucky license to practice medicine on probation for a period of five (5) years, subject to the following terms and conditions: a. Respondent shall maintain a contractual relationship with the Kentucky Physicians Health Foundation and comply with all requirements of that contractual relationship for the entirety of the period of probation; b. Respondent shall pay a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) within one (1) year of the effective date of the order; c. Respondent shall reimburse the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure the costs of the proceedings in the amount of three thousand forty-seven dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$3,047.99) within one (1) year of the order; and d. Respondent shall not violate any provision of Kentucky statutes, KRS 311.595, and KRS 311.597. The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure October 25, 2023 order was based upon findings of facts that Respondent had an unhealth relationship with alcohol. Respondent was involved in an altercation with his wife in or around July 2022. Additionally, Respondent pled guilty to Second Degree Disorderly Conduct in McCracken County, Kentucky, on February 17, 2023 because of the altercation with his wife in or around July 2022. The facts stipulated are grounds for discipline. This Order shall place Respondents license on probation to run concurrent with and for as long as the probation of his Kentucky license. During the period of probation, Respondent shall maintain good and lawful conduct and shall not serve as a collaborating physician or substitute collaborating physician. Respondent shall comply with all provisions of the Kentucky Order during the period of probation. Respondent shall have the Kentucky Physicians Health Foundation submit quarterly reports to the Disciplinary Coordinator. When Respondent's Kentucky medical license has been reinstated with no encumbrances or restrictions, and his probation is lifted in Kentucky, Respondent becomes eligible to petition the Board for an Order of Compliance lifting the probation restrictions imposed by this Consent Order. As part of his petition for an Order of Compliance, Respondent shall appear personally before the Board. Respondent shall pay the actual and reasonable costs of prosecuting this case not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00). Mr. Diaz-Barriga motions to approve the order. Dr. Pearson seconds, and the motion passes.

Agreed Order(s)

[Scott Sang-Hyun Lee, MD*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. Randall Bruce, Esq., appear on his behalf. Ms. Jessica Turner represented the State. Dr. McLerran motions to approve the order. Dr. Anderson seconds, and the motion passes.

[Eric Welling, MD*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Jessica Turner represented the State. Dr. McLerran motions to approve the order. Dr. Pearson seconds, and the motion passes.

Consent Order(s) (continued)

[Benjamin Reese, PA*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Tracy Alcock represented the State and Mr. Gerard Dolan presented the Order to the Board. Dr. McLerran motions to approve the order. Dr. Tillmanns seconds, and the motion passes.

Agreed Order(s) (continued)

[John Underwood, MD*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did her legal representative, Mr. Ron Purcell, appear on her behalf. Mr. Gerard Dolan represented the State. Dr. McLerran motions to approve the order. Dr. Hale seconds, and the motion passes.

Next Development Committee Agenda

- a. Discuss and take action as needed regarding midlevel collaboration requirements taskforce
- b. Discuss and take action as needed regarding education for licensees regarding collaboration (FAQs, SVMIC, and TMA)
- c. Discuss and take action as needed regarding TMA letter
- d. Discuss and take action as needed regarding Up-To-Date reporting CMEs directly to Tennessee.

The Board recessed at 4:00 pm CT.



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Regular Board Meeting**

Day Two of the Regular Meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Three panels of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners were called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Iris, Poplar, and Dogwood Room Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Board members present: Melanie Blake, MD, President
Samantha McLerran, MD, Secretary
Keith Anderson, MD
Todd Tillmanns, MD
James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member
Randall Pearson, MD
John Hale, MD
Michael Bittel, Consumer Member
Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel
Kavita Vankenini, MD Medical Director
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director
Samantha Green, Board Administrator

Contested Case – Iris Room

Ana Lisa Carr, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Iris Room

Administrative Law Judge: Steve Darnell

Panelists: John Hale, MD, Randall Pearson, MD, and James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Jessica Turner, Senior Associate General Counsel

Counsel for Respondent: Justin Adams

The Respondent appeared before a panel of the Board with her legal representation, Mr. Justin Adams. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Hale, heard from both parties prior to deliberation. After discussion and questions, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by the dismissal of the case.

Contested Case – Iris Room

[Mark Miller, MD](#)* v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Iris Room

Administrative Law Judge: Steve Darnell

Panelists: John Hale, MD, Randall Pearson, MD, and James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Jessica Turner, Senior Associate General Counsel

Counsel for Respondent: William Bomar

The Respondent appeared before a panel of the Board with his legal representation, Mr. William Bomar. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Hale, heard from both parties prior to deliberation. After discussion and questions, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

XII. DISCIPLINARY ORDERS (CONTINUED)

Consent Order(s) (continued)

[Thomas Helton, MD](#)* – did not appear before a panel of the Board in the Poplar room, nor did his legal representatives, Ms. Renee L Stewart and Ms. Linda A. Nathenson, appear on his behalf. Ms. Candace Carter represented the State. A motion to approve the order was made, seconded, and passed by the panel members Dr. Melanie Blake, Dr. John Hale, and Dr. Todd Tillmanns.

Contested Case – Poplar Room

[Timothy Bunker, MD](#)* v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Poplar Room

Administrative Law Judge: Elizabeth Cambron

Panelists: Melanie Blake, MD, Todd Tillmanns, MD, and Michael Bittel, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Gerard Butler, Senior Associate General Counsel

Counsel for Respondent: G. Frank Lannom, Esq. and Elizabeth Stovall, Esq.

The Respondent appeared before a panel of the Board with his legal representation, Mr. G, Frank Lannom, Esq. and Ms. Elizabeth Stovall, Esq. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Blake, heard from both parties prior to deliberation. After discussion and questions, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

Contested Case – Poplar Room

[Samson Orusa, MD](#)* v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Poplar Room

Administrative Law Judge: Elizabeth Cambron

Panelists: Melanie Blake, MD, Todd Tillmanns, MD, and Michael Bittel, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Justin Harleman, Senior Associate General Counsel

Counsel for Respondent: Respondent was not represented by counsel

The Respondent did not appear before a panel of the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Respondent did represent his position via pleadings emailed to the parties. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Blake, heard from both parties prior to deliberation. After discussion and questions, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

XIII. DISCIPLINARY ORDERS (CONTINUED)

Consent Order(s) (continued)

[Howard Bromley, MD](#)* – did not appear before a panel of the Board in the Dogwood room, nor did his legal representative, Ms. Claire Cissell, appear on his behalf. Ms. Brittani Kendrick represented the State. A motion to approve the order was made, seconded, and passed by the panel members Dr. Keith Anderson, Dr. Samantha McLerran, and Ms. Jennifer Claxton.

Declaratory Order Hearing – Dogwood Room

Mohamed Soltan, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Dogwood Room

Administrative Law Judge: Michael Begley

Panelists: Keith Anderson, MD, Samantha McLerran, MD, and Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Counsel for Petitioner: James C. Bradshaw III, Esq.

A panel of the Board heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

Petitioner, Mohamed Soltan, MD, holds a Degree in Medicine and Surgery (“M.B.B.Ch”) and a Masters Degree (specialization) in Urology (“M.Sc.”) from Mansoura University in Mansoura, Dakahlia Governorate, Egypt. Dr. Soltan obtained extensive post graduate training in Urology and Pediatric Urology as an intern and resident at the Urology and Nephrology Center, Mansoura University, Masoura, Dakahlia Governorate, Egypt, from April 2014 to April 2019. Thereafter, Dr. Soltan was an Assistant Lecturer of Urology and specialized in Pediatric Urology at the Mansour University Urology and Nephrology Center from June 2019 to September 2022. Beginning in October 2022 to present, Dr. Soltan has been a Clinical Fellow in Urology at LeBonheur Children’s Hospital at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine, and is scheduled to complete his two-year Clinical Fellowship in October of 2024. Dr. Soltan has specialized in Pediatric Urology since 2019. There is a critical need in Memphis and surrounding areas for physicians specializing in Pediatric Urology with the skills and training possessed by Dr. Soltan. Dr. Soltan has a provisional employment opportunity in Memphis and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Department of Urology that will partially address this need. The decision to hire Dr. Soltan is also supported by the leadership at LeBonheur Children’s Hospital and St. Jude’s Hospital. Dr. Soltan will be unable to fill the offered position unless and until he is issued an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the State of Tennessee. Dr. Soltan has not completed a three-year ACGME-accredited residency in the United States as required by T.C.A. § 63-6-207(a)(2) and Rule 0880-02-.04(5). The combined training and experience Dr. Soltan has acquired during his medical training in Egypt as well as his participation as a Clinical Fellow at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s Department of Urology have provided him with a distinct combination of surgical techniques and skills needed to assist UTHSC in rebuilding its Pediatric Urology Division, and help address the critical need in Memphis and the surrounding area for pediatric urologists. The petition for Declaratory Order, for this Petitioner, and the relief requested therein was approved.

Declaratory Order Hearing – Dogwood Room

**Christine Barth, GC v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Dogwood Room**

Administrative Law Judge: Michael Begley

Panelists: Keith Anderson, MD, Samantha McLerran, MD, and Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Counsel for Petitioner: Petitioner was not represented by counsel

A panel of the Board heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

Petitioner, Christine Barth, GC, attended the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado and obtained a master's degree in zoology/human genetics in December of 1985. Petitioner does not qualify for the issuance of a Tennessee genetic counselor license under the Board's rules because she has not earned a master's degree from a genetic counseling training program that is accredited by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (hereinafter, "ABGC"), or an equivalent as determined by the ABGC or the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (hereinafter, "ABMGG"). Prior to the ABGC accreditation of graduate programs, which started in 1996, applications for board certification examination were reviewed individually and approved based on graduate coursework, training, and clinical genetics experience. In 1986, Petitioner applied to the ABMGG to sit for the certification examination. Her graduate training and clinical experience was evaluated and determined to meet the standards set by the ABMGG. Petitioner met the credential requirements in place at the time of application and successfully passed the written certification examination and became certified in 1987. In 1991, ABMGG stopped certifying genetic counselors when it was accepted as the 24th member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Genetic counseling is not recognized as an ABMS specialty and as a result, ABGC was established. In 1993, genetic counselors certified by the ABMGG were invited to become charter diplomates of the ABGC with all the rights and privileges. Petitioner is a charter diplomate. Certificates granted by the ABMGG prior to 1993 are valid for life. Petitioner holds a certificate for life. Accreditation of genetic counseling graduate programs by the ABGC began in 1996. Petitioner has practiced as a genetic counselor for over thirty (30) years. Petitioner is currently employed as a genetic counselor with Myriad Genetics in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has been employed in this capacity since June of 2018. Petitioner currently holds numerous state licenses to practice genetic counseling. Petitioner does not have any disciplinary action on any of her state issued genetic counselor licenses. The petition for Declaratory Order, for this Petitioner, and the relief requested therein was approved.

**Preeti Prasad, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Dogwood Room**

Administrative Law Judge: Michael Begley

Panelists: Keith Anderson, MD, Samantha McLerran, MD, and Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Counsel for Petitioner: Travis B. Swearingen and Larry Cheng

A panel of the Board heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

Petitioner, Preeti Prasad, MD, attended VM Medical College in Delhi, India and obtained a medical degree in 2006. Prior to graduating, Petitioner completed a three-year radiology residency at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi, India, the largest central government hospital in India. Petitioner is an international medical school graduate who has not submitted evidence of the satisfactory completion of a three-year US ACGME accredited residency and is not currently certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties (hereinafter, "ABMS") member board or eligible for board certification through the ABMS. Following graduation from medical school, Petitioner completed a one-year residency program in the Department of Neuro Imaging and Interventional Radiology at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Bangalore, India, which she completed in May 2008. Subsequently, from May 2008 to June 2010, Petitioner was the Senior Registrar at Manipal Hospital in Bangalore, India where she performed diagnostic radiological procedures such as X-Ray, mammography, ultrasound, multi-slice CT, PET-CT, and MRI. From November 2012 to July 2013, Petitioner was an Assistant Professor at the Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Center in Bangalore, India where she performed and interpreted various procedures such as X-Ray IVU, barium procedures, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound including color doppler and obstetric scans, CT, and MRI. During this time Petitioner also conducted undergraduate lectures and supervised radiology post-graduate students and coordinated seminars. From October 2011 to October 2012 and August 2013 to February 2014, Petitioner was a Consultant Radiologist at NM Diagnostic Center in Bangalore, India, where she performed and interpreted radiologic procedures such as X-Rays, bone densitometry, ultrasound including obstetric scans, and color doppler studies. Petitioner also discussed imaging results with referring physicians to facilitate various diagnoses. Petitioner is currently a Radiology Fellow at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee, which began in July 2020. Petitioner is expected to complete this fellowship in June 2024. Petitioner passed all USMLE steps on her first attempt. Petitioner currently holds a full and unrestricted license in India. Her medical license was first issued in 2006. Petitioner has no disciplinary action taken on this license. Petitioner has written-peer reviewed articles and given several oral presentations in national and international meetings on radiology. There is a significant need for a physician with Petitioner's qualifications in Tennessee. Petitioner has been offered a pediatric radiologist position at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee. The petition for Declaratory Order, for this Petitioner, and the relief requested therein was approved.

This concludes the Board of Medical Examiners Day 2 meeting.