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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
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P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101

FILED

October 2, 2008

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By: Tobey Palan
Deputy Attorney General
Tel: (973) 648-2436

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
) Administrative Action
)
 MEETA S. PATEL, M.D.)
) CONSENT ORDER OF
) RESIDENCY TRAINING
 TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY)
 IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY) PERMIT LIMITED TO
) PGY2 WITH CONDITIONS
_____)

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) upon receipt of a petition by Meeta Patel, M.D.'s counsel, Cindy Perr, Esq., on or about August 4, 2008, requesting that the Board reconsider its' July 15, 2008 ineligibility letter to Dr. Patel stating that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-8a(2) and N.J.A.C. 13:35-1.5 Dr. Patel is not eligible for a residency training permit to continue her second post graduate year (PGY2) surgical residency program at St. Francis Medical Center. The basis for the ineligibility is that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-1.5(c) she did not complete her didactic medical education training in the jurisdiction (i.e. Uganda) in which her medical school (i.e. Kigezi International School of Medicine which was closed in or about October 2004) was authorized to confer a medical degree. In the alternative, Ms. Perr petitioned the Board to grant Dr. Patel a waiver pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-1.5(p) and issue her a residency training permit. On August 13, 2008, the Board remanded this matter to the Medical Board Credentials Committee (Credentials Committee) to perform a fact finding hearing which was conducted on August 18, 2008, to determine whether Dr. Patel has received a thorough and satisfactory didactic medical education through her attendance at Kigezi International School of Medicine.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

On August 18, 2008, Dr. Patel along with her counsel, Cindy Perr, and Dr. Peter Benotti, residency program director, Department of Surgery, at St. Francis Medical Center, appeared before the Credentials Committee. Based upon the testimony and all documentary evidence submitted, the Board and the Credentials Committee determined that the applicant had not demonstrated sufficient evidence of a medical education with the depth or breadth or integration of a didactic medical education with a thorough and satisfactory course of instruction in medicine and surgery as required by the Board's statutes and regulations. The Credentials Committee further determined that although Dr. Patel's USMLE scores for Step 1 and 2 are impressive and a review of all of her evaluations as a PGY1 at St. Francis were positive, ranging from average to above-average, these two facts do not substitute for a fundamental didactic education. However, Dr. Patel has demonstrated that with appropriate protections in place, she can complete a supervised year of training in an institution, aware of the didactic training deficiency and willing to provide heightened protections. Therefore, the Credentials Committee recommended and the Board approved this recommendation at its September 10, 2008 meeting that Dr. Patel be granted a limited waiver to receive her residency training permit solely so that she may complete her PGY2 residency at St. Francis Hospital with certain conditions and protections in place. The Board finding that the within disposition is adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare with the following conditions;

IT IS THEREFORE on this 1st day of October , 2008
ORDERED:

1. The Board shall issue a residency training permit to Dr. Meeta Patel for the limited purpose of completion of her PGY2 residency at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton, NJ. Said permit will automatically expire on September 30, 2009, and is not renewable. The PGY2 permit is subject to the following conditions:

- A) Dr. Patel shall assure that Dr. Benotti, residency program director, Dept. of Surgery, at St. Francis Medical Center, or his successor, shall submit detailed monthly reports to William Roeder, Executive Director of the Medical Board, addressing Dr. Patel's performance, including, but not limited to, an ongoing assessment of her strengths and weaknesses. Any failure by Dr. Benotti or his successor to submit monthly reports within ten days of the end of each month will result in Dr. Patel's automatic removal from the residency program.

OCT-01-2008 15:38 From:

To: 973 648 3396

P.4/5

Oct 01 08 03:40p

To: 5996233

p.4

P.4/5

B) Dr. Patel agrees not to seek any extension of her residency training in New Jersey beyond her 2012 year.

2. This Order is without prejudice to Dr. Patel applying for plenary licensure to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey. In order to be granted a plenary license, Dr. Patel will be required to meet all of the requirements for licensure in New Jersey pursuant to the applicable statutes and regulations.

3. Dr. Patel expressly waives any claim to privilege or confidentiality that she may have concerning reports and disclosures to the Board, and use by the Board of that information in any licensure proceedings.

4. Dr. Patel hereby consents to the entry of an Order of automatic suspension of her residency training permit without notice, upon the Board's receipt of any information which the Board in its sole discretion deems reliable that Dr. Patel has failed to comply with any of the provisions of this Order.

5. Dr. Patel shall have the right to apply for removal of the automatic suspension on five (5) days' notice. The sole issue at any such hearing shall be whether Dr. Patel has violated any provision of this Order.

6. This Order is effective upon its filing with the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Paul C. Mendelowitz, M.D., Board President

I have read and understood the above Order and agree to be bound by its terms. I hereby consent to the entry of this Order.

Meeta Patel, M.D.

Oct 1 2008 15:11 P.06

Fax: 973-648-7156

DIV OF LRM

Oct 2 2008 11:03 P.04

Fax: 973-648-7156

DIV OF LRM

B) Dr. Patel agrees not to seek any extension of her residency training in New Jersey beyond her PGY2 year.

2. This Order is without prejudice to Dr. Patel applying for plenary licensure to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey. In order to be granted a plenary license, Dr. Patel will be required to meet all of the requirements for licensure in New Jersey pursuant to the applicable statutes and regulations.

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NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____
Paul C. Mendelowitz, M.D., Board President

I have read and understood
the above Order and agree to
be bound by its terms. I hereby
consent to the entry of this Order:

Meeta Patel, M.D.

OCT-01-2008 15:39 From:

Oct 01 08 03:41p

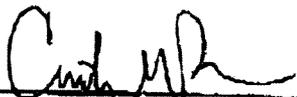
ULI-01-2008 14:40 FROM:

To: 973 648 3396

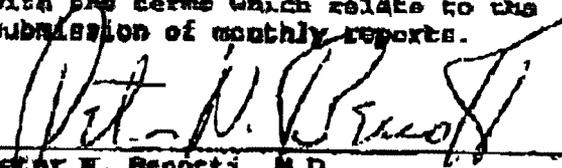
P.5/5

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P.5/5

I consent to the form
and entry of this Order.


Cindy Parr, Esq.

I have read and understand the
within Order and agree to comply
with the terms which relate to the
submission of monthly reports.


Peter W. Benetti, N.D.,
residency director, Department of Surgery,
St. Francis Medical Center

Oct 1 2008 13:11 P.07

Fax: 973-648-7156

DIV OF LAW

Oct 2 2008 11:04 P.05

Fax: 973-648-7156

DIV OF LAW

I consent to the form
and entry of this Order.

Cindy Perr, Esq.

I have read and understand the
within Order and agree to comply
with the terms which relate to the
submission of monthly reports.

Peter N. Benotti, M.D.,
residency director, Department of Surgery,
St. Francis Medical Center