

**State Board of Medical Examiners  
Open Disciplinary Minutes  
Disciplinary Matters Pending Conclusion  
September 13, 2006**

A meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at the Richard J. Hughes Justice complex, 25 Market Street, 4th Floor Conference Center, Trenton, New Jersey for Disciplinary Matters Pending Conclusion, open to the public. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Karen Criss, Chairperson for Open Disciplinary Matters.

**PRESENT**

Board Members Cheema, Ciechanowski, Criscito, Criss, DeGregorio, Jordan, Lamazow, Mendelowitz, Nussbaum, Paul, Reichman, Salas-Lopez, Scott, Stanley, Strand, Walsh and Wheeler

**EXCUSED**

Board Member Weiss

**ABSENT**

Board Members Clemency Kohler, Haddad and Lambert

**ALSO PRESENT**

Senior Deputy Attorney General Dick, Deputy Attorneys General Ehrenkrantz, Flanzman, Kenny and Levine, Medical Director Gluck and Medical Education Director Blanks

**RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

THE BOARD, UPON MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, VOTED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 9, 2006 OPEN DISCIPLINARY BOARD MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.

**HEARINGS, PLEAS, RETURN DATES, APPEARANCES**

10:00 A.M. COLLINS, Ronald L., M.D. (License # MA 52195)  
GOLDMAN, Martin, Esq. for Defendant  
GELBER, Joan, D.A.G.

D.A.G. Gelber sought entry of a default judgment because of Respondent's failure to have filed an Answer to the Administrative Complaint filed May 22, 2006, despite service by mail and multiple efforts to communicate with him. The Attorney General also sought final judgment on the merits, costs, penalty and attorney fees. The Board considered D.A.G. Gelber's brief, certification of counsel and certifications of Enforcement Bureau personnel and Appendix documents in support of the motion. The night before the hearing, Dr.

Collins called the Board office to indicate that he had just received the appearance letter which was mailed to the hospital. The Board office apprised the Counseling Deputy (D.A.G. Dick) of this phone call and it was then determined that Dr. Collins would appear as scheduled and make a request for adjournment to the full Board. Dr. Collins did appear with his attorney. The Board went into closed session for advice of counsel and all parties, except administrative staff and counseling deputies, left the room.

The Board returned to open session, and all parties entered their appearances on the record.

D.A.G. Gelber advised the Board that she contacted Mr. Goldman on May 22, 2006 to determine if he would

accept service of the Administrative Complaint. Mr. Goldman stated that he believed the matter involved a new complaint and, therefore, indicated he had not been retained by Dr. Collins.

Dr. Collins allowed his license to lapse after the investigation began. As such, the last address of record at the Board office for Dr. Collins was a mailing address in Brooklyn, New York. All correspondence sent by certified mail by the administrative office and the Division of Law was returned with the notation "unclaimed." The correspondence was not noted as "undeliverable," or "no forwarding address." No correspondence mailed via regular mail was returned. An Enforcement Bureau Investigator personally called Dr. Collins to advise him that an Administrative Complaint was filed against him and questioned him regarding his lack of response. He indicated that he had been too busy to pick up his certified mail at that time and requested another copy be mailed to him. At least three sets of documents have been sent to Dr. Collins with no response. As a result, a default hearing was scheduled.

No contact had been made with the administrative office until the evening of September 12, 2006, when Dr. Collins called the Board office to request an adjournment. D.A.G. Gelber requested that if the Board did, in fact, grant an adjournment, it should keep in mind that the allegations of the Complaint dealt not only with Dr. Collins while he was in an office in New Jersey, but while he was at home in Brooklyn receiving what were described as test studies and reports for him to "peruse" and sign. Therefore, D.A.G. Gelber requested that strict conditions be put in place. She requested that: 1) Dr. Collins be forbidden from any attempt to reinstate his now lapsed license; 2) that he be ordered not to provide any formal treatment, directly or indirectly, to any New Jersey patient in any venue including his unlicensed assistant transporting records to Brooklyn; and 3) consider assessing Dr. Collins the attorneys' fees.

An adjournment was not granted, and Dr. Collins presented on the day of the meeting. Prior to the start of the hearing, Board Member DeGregorio stated for the record that she and Mr. Goldman had previous dealings in the past and that she thought highly of him. She advised, however, that she believed she was able to participate without bias or prejudice in the matter. Mr. Goldman and D.A.G. Gelber advised that they had no objection to Ms. DeGregorio's participation in this matter.

Board members questioned Mr. Goldman and Dr. Collins. Dr. Collins testified that he forwarded all correspondence received from the Board to Mr. Goldman, although Mr. Goldman denied having received them. Dr. Collins admitted to receiving notification that he had certified mail, but did not attempt to pick it up from the Post Office. The Board members at this point went into closed session for deliberation and all parties, except administrative staff and counseling deputies, left the room.

When the Board returned to open session, it was announced that both parties had agreed upon a settlement. It was agreed by both parties that Dr. Collins would enter a no contest plea to all allegations of the Complaint; he would voluntarily surrender his New Jersey license with prejudice; pay \$19,000 in costs (\$5,000 immediately, and the rest over time); \$10,000 penalty to be paid within 10 days of the filing of the Consent Order; and \$10,000 in medical bills to be reimbursed to patients and insurance companies. All parties understood and agreed to the terms above.

Mr. Goldman will be advised that the motion was placed on the record after he and Dr. Collins left.

**THE BOARD, UPON MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, VOTED TO ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT AS DESCRIBED.**

1:00 P.M. SINGH, Manjit M.D. (License # MA 29339)  
CHERRY, Gloria, Esq. For Respondent  
GELBER, Joan D.A.G.

This matter was set down for oral argument and Board consideration whether to adopt, reject, or modify the recommended Initial Decision of A.L.J. Caridad F. Rigo, received by the Board's Administrative office on June 30, 2006. Judge Rigo ordered that Dr. Singh's license be suspended for 24 months (December 8, 2004 until December 8, 2006); that Dr. Singh be reprimanded for failure to maintain adequate records; under no

circumstances shall he seek to borrow any money, accept any money, or anything of value for any purpose from a patient other than for payment of legitimate medical services; he will cease and desist any type of gambling; he will engage in psychological therapy for gambling addiction; participate in Gambler's anonymous; cease and desist from control of personal finances; he must complete 120 hours of community service at the Ziek Temple; reimburse the balance of \$842,675 owed to patients; and pay \$12,000 in costs to the State of New Jersey from his previous gambling indiscretions; pay costs of transcripts from the Temporary Suspension hearing and for the OAL hearings totaling \$3,431.85; pay costs incurred by the enforcement Bureau of \$6,124 plus costs of transporting the witnesses of \$565.26; and pay the Attorney General's fees in the amount of \$438,280.

By way of background, Dr. Singh's license was temporarily suspended on December 23, 2004 pending plenary hearing based on Count I regarding his borrowing money from patient A.F. and harassing her thereafter while attempting to persuade her not to tell anyone that he sought to borrow money, but instead to say that she offered to lend him money. Count II alleged that Respondent was in violation of three prior Board orders and that during the 1990s Dr. Singh "borrowed" nearly one million dollars from at least 98 of his patients, many of whom were senior citizens with chronic conditions. On October 17, 2005, an Order Denying Reinstatement was filed following Dr. Singh's petition to seek reinstatement. At that time, Respondent proposed nine practice settings which he asserted would provide adequate protections to safeguard his patients. The Board, at that time, was not persuaded that Respondent had acknowledged the seriousness of his conduct including the stress caused to his patients, the potential for gain defrauding the vulnerable, and his failure to continue to compensate those whose savings he abrogated. Furthermore, he had not engaged in significant rehabilitation to address his behavior or made any real attempt to reconcile his bad acts with his professional obligations.

Prior to the hearing, it was discovered that only one day of OAL transcripts had been provided to the Board office.

THE BOARD, UPON MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, VOTED TO ADJOURN ORAL ARGUMENT IN THIS MATTER ON ITS OWN MOTION SO THAT THE FULL RECORD FROM THE PLENARY HEARING FROM THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW MAY BE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE INITIAL DECISION. THE MATTER WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 11, 2006. DURING THE INTERVENING TIME PERIOD, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE PARTIES PROVIDE TO THE BOARD IN WRITING A STATEMENT AS TO THE EFFECT OF THE JANUARY 2006 BANKRUPTCY DISCHARGE ON THE RESTITUTION PAYMENTS TO THE PATIENTS AT ISSUE IN THIS UNDERLYING CASE . THE BOARD ALSO NOTED THAT SOME OF THE ACTUAL TRANSCRIPT PAGES ARE MISSING FROM THE PARTY'S EXCEPTIONS AND ASKED THAT THOSE ACTUAL PAGES BE PROVIDED, AS OPPOSED TO JUST THE CITATIONS.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. AYOTTE, Nancy C., M.D. (License #MA063536)  
GREENE, Peter A., Esq.  
GELBER, Joan, D.A.G.

Submitted for Board ratification was the Final Order filed August 23, 2006 in which Dr. Ayotte voluntarily surrendered her New Jersey license and was deemed a revocation. Dr.

Ayotte was the anesthesiologist who provided services for Sri Kantha, M.D. and his entity "Meadowlands Pain Management Center". Dr. Ayotte is aware that the Attorney General planned to allege that Dr. Ayotte frequently failed to complete one or more of the essential

portions of the pre-anesthesia evaluation for surgical procedures, or administered anesthesia for the surgeries in the absence of appropriate history, examination, NPO status, airway evaluation, or monitoring of patients.

THE BOARD, UPON MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, VOTED TO RATIFY THE FINAL ORDER.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Criss, R.N., C.N.M.  
Chairperson for Open  
Disciplinary Matters

[◀ back](#)

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