

# Medical Memo

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

A report on Board activities prepared as an information service for licensees

1020 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

MAY-JUNE, 1974

## Attorney General's Office Assists Board With Legal Activities, Disciplinary Cases

The Attorney General's Office of the State of California represents the Board of Medical Examiners in all legal matters, particularly any disciplinary cases involving unprofessional conduct by Medical Board licensees.

Any complaint involving a licensee is received by the Board of Medical Examiners. The staff of the Board reviews each complaint and determines if there is sufficient cause to recommend further investigation. If further action is warranted, the Board refers the case to the Division of Investigation of the Department of Consumer Affairs where an investigator is assigned to the case. A thorough investigation is conducted concerning possible unprofessional conduct by the licensee.

If the investigation substantiates the complaint, the case is referred to the Attorney General's office and a deputy Attorney General is assigned to the case.

## Voigt and Wahlen New DRC Members

Phillip R. Voigt, M.D., F.A.C.S., and Donald E. Wahlen, M.D., were recently appointed to Board District Review Committees. Dr. Voigt was appointed to the second DRC and Dr. Wahlen to the fifth DRC.

Dr. Voigt graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1935, and received his medical degree in 1937 from the University of Pennsylvania. He served his internship and residency at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee. From 1942-1946 he served as an Air Force flight surgeon.

Dr. Voigt has served as President of the Long Beach Medical Association; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Los Angeles County Medical Association;

The deputy reviews the investigative reports and determines if there is sufficient evidence for a legal case for disciplinary action or if the case should be closed. If the case is closed, all investigative material is returned to the Board and remains confidential. If the case is pursued, the deputy prepares a legal accusation against the licensee stating all charges. The accusation is then served upon the accused licensee.

The Board of Medical Examiners conducts the formal administrative hearing concerning the case. The deputy Attorney General presents the evidence on behalf of the Board complainant. These hearings are conducted similar to a court of law.

The Board makes the final determination concerning disciplinary action on each case. The licensee may appeal the decision of the Board in Superior Court and in the District Court of Appeal. The Attorney General's office represents the Board in any appeal to a higher court.

CMA Councilor, LACMA; and Fellow, American College of Surgeons. He also has been certified by the American Board of Surgery. He currently practices general surgery in Long Beach.

Dr. Wahlen practices orthopedic surgery in Visalia. He has been certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, and is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. He has served as President of the Tulare County Medical Society; alternate-delegate to the California Medical Association; President of the Kaweah Delta District Hospital; and is a Past President of the Exeter Memorial Hospital staff. He is active in the Visalia Rotary Club, YMCA and Boy Scouts of America.

## Members Visit County Societies

The Board of Medical Examiners is interested in keeping physicians and surgeons informed of Board activities. To better inform licensees of current activities, Board members, medical consultants and some staff members recently attended meetings of county medical societies throughout the state.

Visitations were held in conjunction with medical society meetings in Santa Barbara, Humboldt, Marin, Kern and Yuba counties. The results of these trips have been informative and beneficial for the Board and the medical societies involved.

## Podiatry Examining Committee Handles Exams and Licenses

The Podiatry Examining Committee is just one of eight health licensing units under the jurisdiction of the Board of Medical Examiners. Reports and recommendations made by members of the Committee are forwarded to the Board for action.

Administration of podiatric examinations and issuance of licenses are primary activities handled by the PEC.

The Board of Medical Examiners assigns podiatry disciplinary cases to the Podiatry Examining Committee. Members of the Committee hold disciplinary hearings, and pass on proposed decisions to the Board.

The Committee also evaluates reports from hospitals concerning podiatric care services, facilities and patient records.

PEC members are: Joseph N. Fields, DPM; W.L. Marlin; Howard J. Marshall, DPM; Robert S. Nichols, DPM; P.R. Eschbacher, DPM and R.J. Hughes, DPM.

**BOARD BUSINESS**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**  
 March 15, 1974 to June 10, 1974

Gordon H. Anderson, M.D., Santa Cruz, CA . . .	.4-26-74	Revoked
Wiley H. Billingsby, M.D., San Luis Obispo, CA . . .	.4-27-74	Revoked, stayed, probation 5 years, terms & conditions
James E. DeWitt, M.D., Oakland, CA . . . . .	4-8-74	Revoked, stayed, probation 5 years, terms & conditions
George Gering, M.D., Los Angeles . . . . .	.4-26-74	Suspended, stayed, proba- tion 5 years, terms & condi- tions
J. Lawrence H. Hawkins, Jr., M.D., Los Angeles, CA	4-5-74	Revoked
Melvin H. Lavine, M.D., Los Angeles, CA . . . . .	4-5-74	Revoked, stayed, probation 5 years, terms & conditions
Lionel M. Pfeffer, M.D., Pleasanton, CA . . . . .	.5-30-74	Revoked, stayed, probation 10 years, terms & condi- tions
Ruth Goldie Robinson, Los Angeles, CA . . . . .	.4-15-74	Revoked
John R. Schenken, M.D., San Diego, CA . . . . .	4-8-74	Suspended, stayed, proba- tion 5 years, terms & condi- tions
Adrian H. Ubl, M.D., Los Angeles, CA . . . . .	.4-26-74	Revoked, stayed, probation 5 years, terms & conditions
Robert Roy Watkins, M.D., San Diego, CA . . . . .	.4-26-74	Publicly Censured
Harry Weiner, M.D., Los Angeles, CA . . . . .	.5-31-74	Revoked, stayed, probation 5 years, terms & conditions

There were also three licenses fully restored, three petitions for restoration denied and one license partially restored with terms and conditions.

**MEETING AND EXAMINATION DATES**  
 July and August

Board Meeting, August 23-26 . . . . .	Los Angeles
DRC I, July 9-11 . . . . .	San Francisco
DRC II, July 16-18 . . . . .	Los Angeles
DRC III, August 6-8 . . . . .	Sacramento
DRC IV, August 20-22 . . . . .	Los Angeles
Hearing Aid Dispensers Meeting, August 1 . . . . .	Los Angeles
Physical Therapy Meeting, July 26 . . . . .	San Diego
Podiatry Meeting, July 11-12 . . . . .	San Jose
Psychology Meeting, August 3-4 . . . . .	Sacramento

Eligible applicants will be notified several weeks before every examination about the date, days, time and place where each test will be held.

## Psychology Practice Re-defined by New Legislation

New legislation concerning the practice of psychology became effective January 1, 1974. The legislation consists of several amendments to Chapter 6.6 of the Business and Professions Code.

The amendments define the "practice" of psychology. Previous legislation only described qualifications for the title of "psychologist". Under the old law, practitioners could be in violation of the code pertaining to psychology only if they used the title psychologist. The new amendments make it a violation of the law for unlicensed persons to practice any form of psychology for a fee regardless of what title they use (i.e., counselor, aide, etc.).

## Questionnaire Renewal

More than 65,000 license renewal questionnaires have been completed and returned to the Board for computer processing. The Board thanks all those physicians who participated in this survey.

Results of the survey will be published in future issues of *Medical Memo*. This information will benefit the medical profession by indicating the type and scope of medical care available in California.

Survey results will be published in the following areas: education, specialty, area of practice, professional contracts, work setting, patient load, continuing education and any other survey areas which provide meaningful results.

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STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

DEPARTMENT OF

Consumer Affairs

Board of Medical Examiners  
1020 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

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