# New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct



Commissioner of Health

Corning Tower • Empire State Plaza • Albany, NY 12237 • (518) 474-8357

Charles J. Vacanti, M.D. Chair

November 20, 1996

## CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Roberto Chabebe, M.D. 52-22 Van Loon Street Elmhurst, New York 11373

RE:

License No. 168051

Dear Dr. Chabebe:

EFFECTIVE DATE NOVEMBER 27, 1996

Enclosed please find Order #BPMC 96-278 of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct. This Order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect upon receipt of this letter or seven (7) days after the date of this letter, whichever is earlier.

If the penalty imposed by the Order is a surrender, revocation or suspension of this license, you are required to deliver to the Board the license and registration within five (5) days of receipt of the Order.

> Board for Professional Medical Conduct New York State Department of Health **Empire State Plaza** Tower Building-Room 438 Albany, New York 12237-0756

> > Sincerely, Charles Vocanti

Charles Vacanti, M.D.

Chair

Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Daniel Guenzburger, Esq.

### IN THE MATTER

OF

# ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D.

SURRENDER ORDER

BPMC #96-278

Upon the Application of ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D. (Respondent) to Surrender his/her license as a physician in the State of New York, which application is made a part hereof, it is

ORDERED, that the application and the provisions thereof are hereby adopted; it is further

ORDERED, that the name of Respondent be stricken from the roster of physicians in the State of New York; it is further

ORDERED, that this order shall take effect as of the date of the personal service of this order upon Respondent, upon receipt by Respondent of this order via certified mail, or seven days after mailing of this order via certified mail, whichever is earliest.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: 18 November 1996

CHARLES J. VACANTI, M.D.

Chairperson

State Board for Professional

**Medical Conduct** 

#### IN THE MATTER

**OF** 

### ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D.

APPLICATION TO SURRENDER LICENSE

STATE OF NEW YORK )

SS.:

COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D., being duly sworn, deposes and says:

On or about August 7, 1987, I was licensed to practice medicine as a physician in the State of New York having been issued License No. 168051 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is 52-22 Van Loon Street, Elmhurst, New York 11373, and I will advise the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of any change of my address.

I understand that I have been charged with two specifications of professional misconduct as set forth in the Statement of Charges, annexed hereto, made a part hereof, and marked as Exhibit "A".

I am applying to the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct for permission to surrender my license as a physician in the State of New York on the grounds that I agree not to contest the allegations in the Statement of Charges, and/or cannot successfully defend against at least one of the acts of misconduct. The surrender of my license is in full satisfaction of the Statement of Charges.

I hereby make this application to the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct and request that it be granted.

I understand that, in the event that the application is not granted by the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, nothing contained herein shall be binding upon me or construed to be an admission of any act of misconduct alleged or charged against me, such application shall not be used against me in any way, and

shall be kept in strict confidence during the pendency of the professional misconduct disciplinary proceeding; and such denial by the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct shall be made without prejudice to the continuance of any disciplinary proceeding and the final determination by a Committee on Professional Medical Conduct pursuant to the provisions of the Public Health Law.

I agree that, in the event the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct grants my application, an order shall be issued striking my name from the roster of physicians in the State of New York without further notice to me. I am making this Application of my own free will and accord and not under duress, compulsion or restraint of any kind or manner. In consideration of the value to me of the acceptance by the Board of this Application, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive any right I may have to contest the Consent Order for which I hereby apply, whether administratively or judicially, and ask that the Application be granted.

ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D. Respondent

ZIA elelo

Sworn to before me this

13thday of Nov., 1996

SILVIA PASTOR FINKELSTEIN Notary Public, State of New York No. 4791537

Qualified in Nassau County
Commission Expires December 31, 1937

#### IN THE MATTER

**OF** 

## ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D.

APPLICATION TO SURRENDER LICENSE

The undersigned agree to the attached application of the Respondent to surrender his license. Date: 7/1 /3 , 1996 Respondent Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 1996 DANIEL GUENZBURGER **Assistant Counsel** Bureau of Professional
Medical Conduct Date: 1996 ANNE F. SAILE Acting Director Office of Professional Medical Conduct Date: Mountes, 1996 CHARLES J. VACANTI, M.D. Chairperson State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

#### IN THE MATTER

OF

ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

ROBERTO CHABEBE, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about October 8, 1986, by the issuance of license number 168051 by the New York State Education Department. On or about August 7, 1987, the Commissioner of the Department of Health summarily suspended Respondent's medical license on the ground that Respondent's continued practice represented an "imminent danger" to the public. The Department of Health simultaneously initiated a professional misconduct disciplinary proceeding, in which Respondent was charged with being dependent upon and a habitual user of narcotics, practicing the profession while being impaired by narcotics, and practicing with gross negligence. The summary suspension remained in effect until the conclusion of the professional misconduct disciplinary proceeding. On or about September 15, 1989 the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Health Department Commissioner and a Committee of the State Board of Professional Conduct, sustained the professional misconduct charges and revoked Respondent's medical license. On or about April 23, 1993, the Board of Regents stayed the revocation of Respondent's medical license and placed the Respondent on two years probation.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

A. Respondent, a 47 year old psychiatrist, had been employed at the

Metropolitan Hospital Mental Health Clinic, New York, New York, until on or about August 19, 1996. He has a past history of chronic abuse of and being dependent upon the controlled substance cocaine. After a period of abstinence from the abuse of substances, in or about March 1995 Respondent suffered a relapse. Since his relapse:

- Respondent has continued to abuse substances, including cocaine and alcohol.
- 2. Respondent has practiced while impaired, including but not limited to his having failed to adequately fulfill his professional responsibilities at the Metropolitan Hospital Mental Health Clinic.

# SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

# FIRST SPECIFICATION BEING A HABITUAL USER OF ALCOHOL AND NARCOTICS

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law §6530(8)(McKinney Supp. 1996) by being a habitual user of alcohol, or being dependent on or a habitual user of narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or other drugs having similar effect, or having a psychiatric condition which impairs the licensee's ability to practice, as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. Paragraph A and A1.

# SECOND SPECIFICATION PRACTICING WHILE IMPAIRED

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law §6530(7)(McKinney Supp. 1996) by practicing the profession while impaired by alcohol, drugs, physical disability, or mental disability, as alleged in the facts of the following:

2. Paragraph A, A1, and A2.

DATED:

November , 1996 New York, New York

ROY NEMERSON
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional
Medical Conduct