

THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, N.Y. 12234

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE ONE PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-5802

December 20, 1991

Robert M. Takos, Physician 5623 Old Canton Road Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Re: Application for Restoration

Dear Dr. Takos:

Enclosed please find the Commissioner's Order regarding Case No. 91-195-60R which is in reference to Calendar No. 0011581. This order and any decision contained there in goes into effect five (5) days after the date of this letter.

Very truly yours,

DANIEL J. KELLEHER Director of Investigations *

By: Gustane martine

Gustave Martine Superisor



IN THE MATTER

of the

Application of ROBERT M. TAKOS for restoration of his license to practice medicine in the State of New York

Case No. 91-195-60R

It appearing that the license of ROBERT M. TAKOS, 5623 Old Canton Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39211, to practice medicine in the State of New York, was revoked by action of the Board of Regents on December 19, 1986, and he having petitioned the Board of Regents for restoration of said license, and the Regents having given consideration to said petition, and having agreed with and accepted the recommendation of the Committee on the Professions, now, pursuant to action taken by the Board of Regents on October 18, 1991, it is hereby

ORDERED that the petition for restoration of license No. 137676, authorizing ROBERT M. TAKOS to practice medicine in the State of New York, is denied, but that the revocation of said license is stayed, and petitioner is placed on probation for a period of two years under certain terms and conditions, said period of probation to begin when petitioner resumes actual practice in the State of New York, and to end two years from that date. During the period of his probation, petitioner shall be limited to practice exclusively in the specialty of pathology.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, THOMAS SOBOL, Commissioner of Education of the State of New York, for and on behalf of the State Education Department, do hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the State Education Department at the City of Albany, this $/0^{th}$ day of December, 1991.

James SM

Commissioner of Education

Case No. 91-195-60R

It appearing that the license of ROBERT M. TAKOS, 5623 Old Canton Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39211, to practice medicine in the State of New York, was revoked by action of the Board of Regents on December 19, 1986, and he having petitioned the Board of Regents for restoration of said license, and the Regents having given consideration to said petition, and having agreed with and accepted the recommendation of the Committee on the Professions, now, pursuant to action taken by the Board of Regents on October 18, 1991, it was

VOTED that the petition for restoration of license No. 137676, authorizing ROBERT M. TAKOS to practice medicine in the State of New York, be denied, but that the revocation of said license be stayed, and that petitioner be placed on probation for a period of two years under certain terms and conditions, said two year probationary period to begin when petitioner resumes actual practice in the State of New York and to end two years following that date. During the period of his probation petitioner shall be limited to practice exclusively in the specialty of pathology.

TERMS OF PROBATION

ROBERT M. TAKOS

- I. That applicant shall make quarterly visits to an employee of and selected by the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of the New York State Department of Health, unless said employee agrees otherwise as to said visits, for the purpose of determining whether applicant is in compliance with the following:
 - a. Applicant shall remain alcohol and drug-free;
 - b. Applicant's alcohol and drug addiction problem shall be monitored, at applicant's expense, by licensed as a physician to be selected by applicant and previously approved, in writing, by the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct;
 - c. The above-said monitor shall monitor applicant's compliance with the terms of this probation;
 - d. The above-said monitor shall cause to be performed at least bi-monthly random, unannounced drug and urine tests for the presence of alcohol or drugs in applicant and shall immediately notify the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) if a test is refused by applicant or if a test reveals, or the monitor otherwise learns, that applicant is not drug and alcohol-free;

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- e. The above-said monitor shall submit quarterly reports to OPMC either certifying applicant's compliance, or detailing his failure to comply, with each of the terms of this probation. The reports shall include, among other things, the results of the tests performed pursuant to paragraph d;
- f. The monitoring physician shall see the applicant at least twice every three months;
- g. Applicant shall continue attending Alcoholics Anonymous and/or other similar peer support meetings at least twice a week;

ROBERT M. TAKOS

- II. Applicant shall enroll in a residency in pathology in New York State.
 - a. Applicant shall be supervised during his residency by a supervising physician;
 - b. The supervising physician shall have the authority to direct applicant's submission to unannounced tests of his blood and/or urine for the presence of drugs or alcohol and shall immediately notify OPMC if a test is refused by applicant or if a test reveals, or the supervising physician otherwise learns, that applicant is not drug and alcohol-free;
 - c. The supervising physician shall submit to OPMC quarterly reports regarding the quality of applicant's medical practice, any unexplained absences from work and certifying applicant's compliance, or detailing his failure to comply, with each of the terms of probation;
 - d. Applicant is prohibited from handling all controlled substances and drugs having addiction - forming or addiction sustaining liability and the supervising physician shall monitor applicant's practice with respect to these prohibitions and shall include applicant's compliance or lack thereof in the quarterly reports submitted to OPMC.
 - e. If applicant no longer desires to work in the field of pathology, he must first petition the State Board for Medicine and seek its approval prior to doing so.
- III. Applicant will continue in treatment with a health care professional or a successor treating health care professional approved by the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, as long as he is on probation. If the treating health care professional deems it appropriate to terminate therapy before the probation period ends, he should so notify OPMC in writing; and

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a. Applicant's treating health care professional shall submit to OPMC quarterly reports certifying applicant's compliance with the treatment. The treating health care professional shall report to OPMC immediately any discontinuation by applicant of treatment and shall report any significant pattern of .

absence from scheduled treatment sessions.

IV. If the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct determines that applicant may have violated probation, the Department of Health may initiate a violation of probation proceeding and/or such other proceeding pursuant to the Public Health Law, Education Law and/or Rules of the Board of Regents.

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<u>Case Number 91-195-60R</u> August 13, 1991

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK The State Education Department

Report of the Committee on the Professions Application for Restoration of Medical License

Re: Robert M. Takos (Personal Appearance)

Not represented by counsel

Robert M. Takos, 5623 Old Canton Road, Jackson, Mississippi, 39211, petitioned for restoration of his medical license. The chronology of events is as follows:

- 03/30/79 Licensed to practice medicine in New York State.
- 08/03/84 Pled guilty to the crime of Possession of a Controlled Substance. (See "Disciplinary History.")
- 11/24/86 Regents Review Committee recommended that license be revoked.
- 12/19/86 Regents voted revocation.
- 01/21/87 Commissioner's Order effective.
- 04/03/90 Petition for restoration submitted. (See "Petition for Restoration.")
- 01/18/91 Peer Panel restoration review. (See "Report and Recommendation of Peer Review Panel.")
- 03/14/91 Report of Peer Review Panel.
- 08/13/91 Report of personal appearance and recommendation of the Committee on the Professions. (See "Recommendation of the Committee on the Professions.")

Disciplinary History. On or about August 3, 1984, in the Circuit Court, Forrest County, Mississippi, Dr. Takos pled guilty to the crime of Possession of a Controlled Substance (heroin) with intent to distribute. Dr. Takos was sentenced to a three year prison term, which was suspended. He was placed on probation for a three year period, and was fined \$2,500.00, plus costs and forfeited his vehicle. He enrolled in a drug rehabilitation program at the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield, Mississippi. He was discharged from probation on July 30, 1987.

On May 12, 1986 the New York State Department of Health charged Dr. Takos with professional misconduct by reason of his being convicted of an act in another jurisdiction which if committed within this State would have constituted a crime under New York State law.

On September 10, 1986 the Regents Review Committee (Batista, Picariello, Wachtel) met to consider the charge and the evidence. Dr. Takos did not appear. In its report, dated November 24, 1986, the Committee unanimously found Dr. Takos guilty of the charge, and recommended to the Board of Regents that Dr. Takos' license be revoked.

On December 19, 1986 the Board of Regents voted to revoke Dr. Takos' medical license. The Commissioner's Order was served effective January 21, 1987.

Petition for Restoration. In his petition for restoration, dated April 3, 1990, Dr. Takos explained that he was requesting the restoration of his license so that he could enter a medical residency program in New York.

Dr. Takos stated that from March until June 1984, he was treated for chemical dependency at the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield, Mississippi. During that time, Dr. Takos said that he voluntarily surrendered his Mississippi medical license. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Takos surrendered his medical licenses in the States of Florida, California, and Nevada, at the request of the licensing authorities in those states. Dr. Takos further stated that his attorney advised him not to take action regarding his New York license, until he was contacted by the State of New York. When he received notice that New York State was beginning disciplinary proceedings, Dr. Takos referred the matter to his attorney who told him that he would handle the matter. However, Dr. Takos stated that he heard nothing more about the New York disciplinary action, until he received a notice of revocation.

Dr. Takos stated that the next phase of his treatment for chemical dependency was at Ridgeview in Atlanta, Georgia from June to August 1984. On August 8, 1984 petitioner returned to Mississippi for trial. Subsequently he returned to Ridgeview to continue treatment. The next phase of his treatment (mirror image therapy) took place at Mississippi State Hospital and continued until 1987. He asserted that he has been "sober", i.e. drug-free, for six years.

While at Mississippi State Hospital, Dr. Takos said that he learned about chemical dependency counseling through an apprenticeship, and he eventually was given his own group of patients to counsel. He began compiling information for articles about alcohol and/or chemical dependency. Copies of five published articles by Dr. Takos are attached to the petition. Dr. Takos stated that in May, 1987, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the Governor of Mississippi for his work as a volunteer at the Mississippi State Hospital. He also joined the Caduceus organization for impaired professionals.

After completing his probation, Dr. Takos petitioned to have his Mississippi license reinstated. The Mississippi Medical Board required him to have a chemical dependency evaluation, and to pass the SPEX examination. He was evaluated for chemical dependency at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center Addiction Treatment Center in Florida, in December, 1987. The physicians who performed the evaluation found no evidence of recent drug or alcohol use by Dr. Takos, and supported his application for restoration in Mississippi, provided that he undergo quarterly evaluations, have random drug screening, and practice only in a structured, closely monitored group setting. Dr. Takos said that on January 25, 1988, he was issued a restricted Mississippi medical license and was given a two year probationary period during which his practice was restricted to an approved supervised setting and he was not authorized to register for controlled substances privileges. Dr. Takos stated that he began working as a physician for the Mississippi Public Health Department in December, 1989, and is still employed by that agency.

Dr. Takos maintains that the restoration of his New York license is of the greatest importance, because he was originally licensed by examination in New York, and because he would like to enter a medical residency program in New York State.

Dr. Takos submitted copies of various letters, certificates, and articles supporting the information given by him in' his petition.

Subsequent to the petition, the following documents were received:

1. A letter, dated July 6, 1990, and documents from the Mississippi Department of Corrections verifying that Dr. Takos' probation had been terminated.

2. Letters from administrators of the Caduceus Club of Mississippi, which is an organization for impaired professionals, as well as letters from the Mississippi State Hospital, and the Mississippi State Department of Health supporting the restoration of Dr. Takos' New York license and attesting to his treatment for chemical dependency.

3. Copies of actions taken by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, which reveal that as of January 14, 1990, the Board agreed to remove the terms of the applicant's probation, except as to prescribing privileges for certain controlled substances, and upon the condition that his practice be limited to employment by the Mississippi State Health Department.

Report and Recommendation of the Peer Review Panel. The Peer Review Panel (Cournos, Baggish, Jordan) met on January 18, 1991. Dr. Takos appeared personally, but he was not represented by an attorney.

Dr. Takos told the Panel that he began using drugs in the 1960's when he smoked marijuana. He stated that his addiction problem really began in 1982, when he was a resident in anesthesiology at Tulane Hospital. At that time, he began to abuse narcotics and became dependent on chemicals but did not realize the extent of his dependency until he went into private practice and tried to stop using drugs.

Although Dr. Takos went into treatment and was discharged as cured, he was unsure of this cure and tried to avoid going back to work as an anesthesiologist, but was unable to find work elsewhere. After going back into anesthesiology, he relapsed shortly thereafter. In 1984, he was arrested and entered a comprehensive treatment program.

Dr. Takos told the Panel that in November, 1990, the Mississippi Board allowed him to enter a residency program in pediatrics. However, he is seeking to change his medical specialty, because he believes that pediatrics is too stressful. Dr. Takos stated that he would like to enter a residency in pathology, because it is less stressful and does not involve direct patient care. He also stated that he wishes to leave Mississippi. Dr. Takos said that he believes New York would offer greater educational opportunities for himself and his children.

Dr. Takos stated that, in addition to his membership in Caduceus, he attends A.A. meetings a minimum of two times a week. If his New York license is restored, Dr. Takos said that he intends to continue in A.A. and to join an impaired physician's organization in New York State. He believes that he will be able to put together a strong support system in New York.

Dr. Takos advised the Panel that he has been drug free since 1984. In response to questioning, Dr. Takos said that he and his current physician do not believe that a previous diagnosis of a manic depressive personality was correct, as the diagnosis was made while he was still using drugs and the manic times were related to a drug induced mania.

Dr. Takos said that, on the advise of counsel, he pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, although he intended to use the drugs solely for himself. Petitioner expressed remorse for his actions and said that he would be willing to abide by any restriction which the Board of Regents imposed on him.

The Department took no position on the application, but did recommend that if Dr. Takos' license is restored, conditions similar to those imposed on him in Mississippi should be imposed, including random drug testing.

The Peer Review Panel found Dr. Takos to be truly remorseful, successfully rehabilitated, and more than adequately re-educated. The Panel recommended that the revocation of Dr. Takos' license be stayed, that his license be suspended for two years, execution stayed, and that he be placed on probation for five years. The Panel recommended that the terms of probation include at least bimonthly, random, unannounced drug and urine tests of Dr. Takos, to be performed by a physician selected by Dr. Takos and approved by the State Health Department. The monitoring physician would submit quarterly reports to the Health Department. Dr. Takos would also be required to continue attending A.A. and/or other similar peer support meetings at least twice a week. Dr. Takos would be prohibited from handling all controlled substances and/or addictive As an additional term of probation, Dr. Takos would substances. be required to enroll in a pathology residency in New York State to be supervised by a supervising physician who would also have the authority to direct Dr. Takos to submit to unannounced blood and/or urine tests. Dr. Takos would be required to obtain prior approval from the State Board for Medicine before working in any field other than the field of pathology.

<u>Recommendation of the Committee on the Professions.</u> Dr. Takos appeared before the Committee on the Professions (Fernandez, Cantres, Sauer) on August 13, 1991. He was not represented by an attorney.

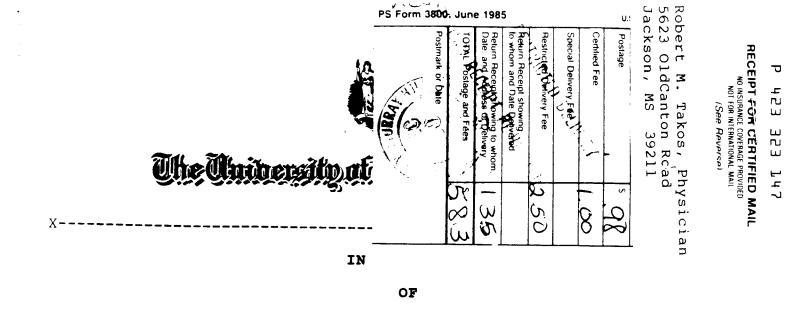
The Committee asked Dr. Takos for his reaction to the report of the Peer Review Panel. Dr. Takos stated that he agreed with the findings and recommendation of the report and looked forward to entering into a residency in pathology in upstate New York.

When asked why he wished to relocate to New York, Dr. Takos explained that he did his "Fifth Pathway" program in New York, that there are good opportunities to obtain a residency in pathology here, and that he has four children ages 4-10 who would benefit from the better educational opportunities in New York. Dr. Takos explained his preference for a residency in pathology by noting that his father had been a pathologist, and that he genuinely enjoyed the work.

After deliberation, the Committee on the Professions found that Dr. Takos has accepted responsibility for the actions which led to the revocation of his licenses in Mississippi and New York, and that he is genuinely remorseful for those actions. He has demonstrated his rehabilitation by his successful treatment for chemical dependency and by his willingness to share his new insight with others through counseling and his published articles on alcohol and drug dependency. Dr. Takos has demonstrated his current medical knowledge by his performance on the SPEX examination in 1988, as well as his participation in continuing education courses.

The Committee on the Professions voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Regents that the revocation of Dr. Takos' license be stayed and that he be placed on probation for two years under the terms specified below, except that the period of probation shall begin when he enters into a residency or resumes actual practice in this State and shall end two years thereafter. During the period of probation, petitioner shall work exclusively in the specialty of pathology, unless he obtains the prior approval of the Secretary of the State Board for Medicine to work in any other field of medicine. Also during the period of probation petitioner shall remain drug-free and shall submit himself, at his expense, for monitoring with regard to drug use by a facility approved by the State Education Department, as shall be provided in the terms of probation to be imposed as a condition of the restoration of petitioner's license as a physician.

> Henry A. Fernandez, Chair Lizette A. Cantres Richard J. Sauer



ROBERT M. TAKOS PHYSICIAN

Χ----X STATE OF NEW YORK) SS.: COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

Michele A. Haughton being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am over the age of twenty-one years and am an employee of the New York State Education Department, One Park Avenue, 6th Floor, New York, New York 10016.

On the 20th day of December, 1991, I personally delivered to the Murray Hill Postal Station, the Duplicate Original Order of the Commissioner of Education Case No. 91-195-60R, in reference to Calendar No. 0011581 and the Vote of the Board of Regents by Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested to the respondent herein named at 5623 Old Canton Road, Jackson, Mississippi The Certified Mail Receipt No. 39211.

The effective date of the Order being the 25th day of December, 1991,

lon

<u>Sworn</u> to before me this

day of 23 Sec 1991 Amalus Marturo

RONALD J. MASTRION Notary Public, State of New York No. 43-4801171 Qualified in Richmond County Commission Expires August 31, 1993





THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, N.Y. 12230

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF THE PROFESSIONS OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE, 622 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

January 16, 1987

Robert M. Takos, Physician 227 West 2nd Street Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

123 Canterbury Road Brandon, Mississippi 39042

Re: License No. 137676

Dear Dr. Takos:

Enclosed please find Commissioner's Order No. 6120. This Order and any penalty contained therein goes into effect five (5) days after the date of this letter.

If the penalty imposed by the Order is a surrender, revocation or suspension of your license, you must deliver your license and registration to this Department within ten (10) days after the date of this letter. In such a case your penalty goes into effect five (5) days after the date of this letter even if you fail to meet the time requirement of delivering your license and registration to this Department.

Very truly yours,

DANIEL J. KELLEHER Director of Investigations By:

GUSTAVE MARTINE Supervisor

DJK/GM/mc Enclosures

CERTIFIED MAIL - RRR



The Chinessity of the State of Ren Pork

IN THE MATTER

of the

Disciplinary Proceeding

against

ROBERT M. TAKOS

No. 6120

who is currently licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York.

Report of the Regents Review Committee

ROBERT M. TAKOS, hereinafter referred to as respondent, was given due notice of this proceeding and informed that he could appear in this proceeding at which he could be represented by an attorney.

On September 10, 1986 respondent did not appear and was not represented by an attorney. Anna Colello, Esq., represented the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of the New York State Department of Health.

We have carefully reviewed and considered the entire record in this matter.

We render the following findings of fact, determination as to guilt, and recommendation as to the penalty to be imposed.

ROBERT M. TAKOS (6120)

FINDINGS OF FACT

- We find that respondent was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York by the New York State Education Department.
- We find that the instant disciplinary proceeding was commenced by service of the notice of hearing and statement of charges upon respondent.
- 3. We find that respondent was convicted of committing an act constituting a crime, as set forth in the statement of charges annexed hereto, made a part hereof, and marked as Exhibit "A".

DETERMINATION AS TO GUILT

We unanimously determine that the charge has been proven by a preponderance of the evidence and that respondent is guilty of the same.

RECOMMENDATION AS TO THE PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED

We unanimously recommend to the Board of Regents that respondent's license to practice as a physician in the State of New York be revoked upon the charge of which respondent has been found guilty.

> Respectfully submitted, JORGE L. BATISTA PATRICK J. PICARIELLO ARTHUR WACHTEL

Chairperson

Dated: 1000 24,1986

NEW YORK STATE	: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
 STATE BOARD FOR	PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT	
IN	THE MATTER	STATEMENT
	OF	OF
ROBER	T M. TAKOS, M.D.	CHARGES

The State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, upon information and belief, charges and alleges as follows:

1. ROBERT M. TAKOS, M.D., hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, was authorized to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of New York on March 30, 1979 by the issuance of License Number 137676 by the State Education Department.

2. The Respondent is currently registered with the New York State Education Department to practice medicine for the period January 1, 1986 through December 31, 1988 from 227 West 2nd Street, Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614.

3. Respondent herein is charged with professional misconduct within the purview of N.Y. Educ. Law §6509 (McKinney 1985 and Supp. 1986) as set forth in the Specification attached.

SPECIFICATION

4. The Respondent is charged with professional misconduct by reason of his being convicted of an act in another jurisdiction which if committed within this state would have constituted a crime under New York State law within the meaning of N.Y. Educ. Law §6509(5)(a)(iii) (McKinney 1985 and Supp. 1986) in that:

On or about August 3, 1984 in the Circuit Court, Forrest County, Mississippi in the <u>State of Mississippi v.</u> <u>Robert M. Takos</u> (Cause No. 11, 322), the Respondent pled guilty to the crime of Possession of a Controlled Substance to-wit: Heroin, a Schedule I drug, with intent to deliver in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, Miss. Code Ann. §41-29-139(c) (1972).

Respondent was sentenced to a three year prison term which was suspended, fined \$2,500 plus costs and forfeited his vehicle. Respondent was also enrolled in a drug rehabilitation program at the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield, Mississippi.

Albany, New York DATED: 1986

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Director Office of Professional Medical Conduct



REPORT OF THE REGENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

16 1997

ROBERT M. TAKOS

CALENDAR NO. 6120

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Approved December 19, 1986

No. 6120

Upon the report of the Regents Review Committee, the record herein, under Calendar No. 6120, and in accordance with the provisions of Title VIII of the Education Law, it was

<u>voted</u>: That the record herein be accepted; that the findings of fact, determination as to guilt, and recommendation as to the penalty to be imposed rendered by the Regents Review Committee in the matter of ROBERT M. TAKOS, respondent, be accepted; that respondent is guilty of the charge by a preponderance of the evidence; that respondent's license and registration to practice as a physician in the State of New York be revoked; and that the Commissioner of Education be empowered to execute, for and on behalf of the Board of Regents, all orders necessary to carry out the terms of this vote.



The University of the State of Rem Dork.

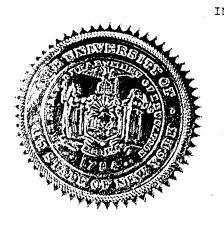
IN THE MATTER

OF

ROBERT M. TAKOS (Physician) DUPLICATE ORIGINAL ORDER NO. 6120

Upon the report of the Regents Review Committee, the record herein, under Calendar No. 6120, and the vote of the Board of Regents on December 19, 1986, which report and vote are incorporated herein and made a part hereof, it is

ORDERED that the record herein be accepted; that the findings of fact, determination as to guilt, and recommendation as to the penalty to be imposed rendered by the Regents Review Committee in the matter of ROBERT M. TAKOS, respondent, be accepted; that respondent is guilty of the charge by a preponderance of the evidence; and that respondent's license and registration to practice as a physician in the State of New York be revoked.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Gordon M. Ambach, Commissioner of Education of the State of New York, for and on behalf of the State Education Department and the Board of Regents, do hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the State Education Department, at the City of Albany, these day of December, 1986.