

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 26, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Maja S. Ruetschi, M.D.

ADDRESS REDACTED

RE: License No. 137641

Dear Dr. Ruetschi:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 13-109. This Order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect May 3, 2013.

If the penalty imposed by the Order is a fine, please write the check payable to the New York State Department of Health. Noting the BPMC Order number on your remittance will assist in proper crediting. Payments should be directed to the following address:

Bureau of Accounts Management
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 2784
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Please direct any questions to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, 90 Church Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10007-2919, telephone # 212-417-4445.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE REDACTED

Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

cc: Robert Frank, Esq.
1010 2nd Avenue, Ste. 2500
San Diego, California 92101

NEW YORK STATE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER

CONSENT

OF

ORDER

MAJA RUETSCHI, M.D.

BPMC #: 13-109

Upon the application of MAJA RUETSCHI, M.D., (Respondent), in the attached Consent Agreement, that is made a part of this Consent Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Consent Agreement, and its terms, are adopted and it is further

ORDERED, that this Consent Order shall be effective upon issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of this Consent Order, either by first class mail to Respondent at the address in the attached Consent Agreement or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, or upon facsimile or email transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney, whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: 04/25/13

SIGNATURE REDACTED

ARTHUR S. HENGERER, M.D.
Chair
State Board for Professional
Medical Conduct

STATE OF NEW YORK: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER

OF

MAJA RUETSCHI, M.D.
CO-12-03-1242-A

CONSENT

AGREEMENT

MAJA RUETSCHI, M.D., (Respondent), representing that all of the following statements are true, deposes and says:

That on or about March 30, 1979, I was licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York and issued license number 137641 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is ADDRESS REDACTED), and I will advise the Director (Director) of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) of any change of my address within thirty (30) days, thereof.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with two (2) Specifications of professional misconduct.

A copy of the Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit A, is attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I do not contest the two (2) Specifications, and agree to the following sanction:

Censure and Reprimand;

Respondent shall pay a \$2,000.00 fine, to be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Consent Order to the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Accounts Management, Revenue Unit, Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 2784, Albany, NY 12237-0016.

I agree, further, that the Consent Order shall impose the following conditions:

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of New York Education Law § 6502 including, but not limited to, the requirements that a licensee shall register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education

Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a licensee shall pay all registration fees. Respondent shall not exercise the option provided in New York Education Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the effective date of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 2995-a(4) and 10 NYCRR 1000.5, including but not limited to the requirements that a licensee shall : report to the department all information required by the Department to develop a public physician profile for the licensee; continue to notify the department of any change in profile information within 30 days of any change (or in the case of optional information, within 365 days of such change); and, in addition to such periodic reports and notification of any changes, update his or her profile information within six months prior to the expiration date of the licensee's registration period. Licensee shall submit changes to his or her physician profile information either electronically using the department's secure web site or on forms prescribed by the department, and licensee shall attest to the truthfulness, completeness and correctness of any changes licensee submits to the department. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State. Respondent's failure to comply with this condition, if proven and found at a hearing pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230, shall constitute professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(21) and N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29). Potential penalties for failure to comply with this condition may include all penalties for professional misconduct set forth in N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230-a, including but not limited to: revocation or suspension of license, Censure and Reprimand, probation, public service and/or fines of up to \$10,000 per specification of misconduct found; and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the OPMC in its administration and enforcement of the Consent Order and in its investigations of matters concerning Respondent. Respondent shall respond in a timely manner to all OPMC requests for written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with this Consent Agreement. Respondent shall meet with a person designated by the Director, OPMC, as directed. Respondent shall respond promptly and provide all documents and information within Respondent's control, as directed. This condition shall take effect upon the Board's issuance of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains

licensed in New York State.

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of the Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by New York Education Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and the Consent Order shall be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand that if the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of alleged misconduct; this Consent Agreement shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Board's denial shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to New York Public Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board adopts this Consent Agreement, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Consent Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that the Consent Order shall take effect upon its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Consent Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Consent Agreement, or to my attorney by certified mail, or upon facsimile or email transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first. The Consent Order, this Consent Agreement, and all attached Exhibits shall be public documents, with only patient identities, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department of Health website.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by New York Public Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board and OPMC have the requisite powers to carry out all included terms. I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Consent Order for which I apply, administratively and/or judicially, I agree to be bound by the Consent Order, and I ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director, OPMC, and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed Consent Agreement and Consent Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further

understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

AFFIRMED:

DATED: 4-18-13

SIGNATURE REDACTED

MAJA RUETSCHI, M.D.
Respondent

DATED: 4-18-13

SIGNATURE REDACTED

ROBERT FRANK, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: 4-18-13

SIGNATURE REDACTED

JOEL E. ABELOVE
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 4/23/13

SIGNATURE REDACTED

KEITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

STATE OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER
OF
MAJA RUETSCHI, M.D.
CO-12-03-1242-A

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

MAJA RUETSCHI, M.D., Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York state on March 30, 1979, by the issuance of license number 137641 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- A. On or about March 16, 2012, the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (hereinafter "California Board"), by a Decision and Order (hereinafter "California Decision"), inter alia, Revoked Respondent's medical license, stayed the revocation, and placed Respondent on probation for thirty-five months with terms and conditions, based on Respondent's gross negligence; repeated negligent acts; conviction of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon; dishonesty or corruption; and general unprofessional conduct.
- B. On or about June 18, 2008, in the United States District Court, Central District of California, Eastern Division, Respondent pled guilty to the misdemeanor crime of Receipt of Interstate Commerce of Misbranded Drug and Delivery Thereof, in violation of Title 21 United States Code, Sections 331(c), 333(a)(1), and 352(f), and was sentenced on July 2, 2008, to one year of probation, a \$1,000.00 fine and a \$25.00 special assessment.
- C. The conduct resulting in the California Board disciplinary action against Respondent would constitutes misconduct under the laws of New York state, pursuant to the following sections of New York state Law:
1. New York Education Law §6530(4) (Practicing the profession with gross negligence on a particular occasion).

2. New York Education Law §6530(3) (Practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion).

3. New York Education Law §6530(20) (Moral unfitness).

SPECIFICATIONS
FIRST SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct upon which the finding was based would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, in that Petitioner charges:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A, and/or B and/or C.

SECOND SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(d) by having his license to practice medicine revoked and/or having other disciplinary action taken or having surrendered his license to practice medicine after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the surrender of license, revocation of license and/or other disciplinary action would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws New York state, in that Petitioner charges:

2. The facts in Paragraphs A, and/or B and/or C.

DATED: *Feb. 21*, 2013
Albany, New York

SIGNATURE REDACTED

PETER D. VAN BUREN
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct