In the Matter of

Holder of License No. 21702

In the State of Arizona.

For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine

JOSE H. ALVAREZ, M.D.

ORDER FOR LETTER OF REPRIMAND AND PROBATION; AND CONSENT TO THE SAME

Jose H. Alvarez, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Letter of Reprimand and Probation with Practice Restriction; admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of this Order by the Board.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 21702 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 3. The Board initiated case number MD-21-0877A after receiving a self-report from Respondent disclosing that he had entered into a settlement with the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners ("Nevada Board").
- 4. On September 20, 2021, Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Nevada Board regarding Complaint 21-28177-1 ("First Settlement"). The case arose out of allegations that a patient received full thickness burns and tissue necrosis following post-surgical laser treatments. Pursuant to the First Settlement, the Nevada Board issued Respondent a Letter of Reprimand, and required Respondent to complete 5 hours of Continuing Medical Education ("CME") related to best practices in laser burn treatments, as well as pay a fine and costs of investigation.

5. On June 9, 2023, Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Nevada Board regarding Complaint 21-28177-2 ("Second Settlement"). The case arose out of allegations that Respondent was practicing brachioplasties, abdominoplasties, or fat transfers to the buttocks without adequate training, failure to maintain proper medical records and failure to utilize a CRNA or anesthesiologist during surgical procedures for four patients. Pursuant to the Second Settlement, Respondent was issued a Letter of Reprimand and required to pay a fine and costs of investigation. Additionally, Respondent was required to immediately inactivate his license. If Respondent reactivates his license, the Nevada Board will require Respondent to complete 30 hours of CME in medical recordkeeping within the first six months of his return to practice, and Respondent will be prohibited from performing cosmetic surgery until after he completes the Certified General Cosmetic Surgery Fellowship offered by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- a. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
   Respondent.
- b. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(p)("Action that is taken against a doctor of medicine by another licensing or regulatory jurisdiction due to that doctor's mental or physical inability to engage safely in the practice of medicine, the doctor's medical incompetence or for unprofessional conduct as defined by that jurisdiction and that corresponds directly or indirectly to an act of unprofessional conduct prescribed by this paragraph. The action taken may include refusing, denying, revoking or suspending a license by that jurisdiction or a surrendering of a license to that jurisdiction, otherwise limiting, restricting or monitoring a licensee by that jurisdiction or placing a licensee on probation by that jurisdiction.").

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#### **ORDER**

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.
- 2. Respondent is placed on Probation with the following terms and conditions:

#### a. Practice Restriction

Respondent shall be prohibited from performing cosmetic surgical procedures in the State of Arizona until he has successfully completed the Certified General Cosmetic Surgery Fellowship offered by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.

# b. Continuing Medical Education

Respondent shall within 6 months of the effective date of this Order obtain no less than 10 hours of Board Staff pre-approved Category I Continuing Medical Education ("CME") in an intensive, in-person course regarding medical recordkeeping. Respondent shall within **thirty days** of the effective date of this Order submit his request for CME to the Board for pre-approval. Upon completion of the CME, Respondent shall provide Board staff with satisfactory proof of attendance. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for the biennial renewal of medical licensure.

## c. Obey All Laws

Respondent shall obey all state, federal and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in Arizona, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.

#### d. Tolling

In the event Respondent should leave Arizona to reside or practice outside the State or for any reason should Respondent stop practicing medicine in Arizona, Respondent shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten days of departure and return or the dates of non-practice within Arizona. Non-practice is defined as any period of

time exceeding thirty days during which Respondent is not engaging in the practice of medicine. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside Arizona or of non-practice within Arizona, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary period.

#### e. Probation Termination

Prior to any Board consideration for termination of Probation, Respondent must submit a written request to the Board for release from the terms of this Order. Respondent's request for release will be placed on the next pending Board agenda, provided a complete submission is received by Board staff no less than 30 days prior to the Board meeting. Respondent's request for release must provide the Board with evidence establishing that he has successfully satisfied all of the terms and conditions of this Order.

The Probation shall not terminate except upon affirmative request of Respondent and approval by the Board. In the event that Respondent requests Probation termination and the Practice Restriction is in effect at the time of the request, the Board may require any combination of examinations and/or evaluations in order to determine whether or not Respondent is safe to prescribe controlled substances and the Board may continue the Practice Restriction or take any other action consistent with its authority.

3. The Board retains jurisdiction and may initiate new action against Respondent based upon any violation of this Order. A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(s)

ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

Patricia E. McSorley
Executive Director

## **CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER**

- Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order"). Respondent acknowledges he has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.
- Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.
- 3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to challenge this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of action related thereto or arising from said Order.
- 4. The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its Executive Director.
- 5. All admissions made by Respondent in this Order are solely for final disposition of this matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or

federal government regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the State of Arizona or any other state or federal court.

- 6. Notwithstanding any language in this Order, this Order does not preclude in any way any other State agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not limited to, violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Order makes no representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivisions of the State relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.
- 7. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof) to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the entry of the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties.
- 8. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.
- 9. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.
- 10. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice, prejudgment or other similar defense.

DATED: 8/29/2023