

Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
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In The Matter Of	:	No. 08-I-673
LINDA C. BUNCH, M.D.	:	
<i>(Certificate No. 018178)</i>	:	CONSENT ORDER
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An investigation conducted by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the “Board”) has revealed that Linda C. Bunch, M.D. (“Dr. Bunch”), a physician who at all pertinent times has been licensed and engaged in the practice of medicine in and around Monroe, Louisiana, was indicted in the United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, Monroe Division,¹ and in December 2011 pled guilty to Count one (1) of the indictment – Conspiracy to Import and Distribute Human Growth Hormone (“hGH”) – in violation of Title 18 U.S.C, Section 371, a felony under the laws of the United States (“criminal conviction”). Underlying the charges the indictment alleged that Respondent conspired with a chiropractor and another individual to import human growth hormone (“hGH”) from China that was unapproved by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration and for purposes other than the treatment of a disease or other recognized medical condition authorized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (anti-aging therapy and other purposes).²

Predicated upon the foregoing information the Investigating Officer assigned by the Board with respect to this matter has determined that reasonable cause exists for recommending that a formal Administrative Complaint be filed against Dr. Bunch, charging her with violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§37:1285(A)(1), (2), (13), and (14).³

¹Indictment, *United States of America vs. Linda C. Bunch*, Cr. No. 10-CR-00198, USDC, WDLA, Monroe Division (June 24, 2010).

²Judgment, *United States of America vs. Linda C. Bunch*, Cr. No. 10-CR-00198, USDC, WDLA, Monroe Division (Dec. 29, 2011).

³Pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A, the Board may take action against the license of a physician as the result of: (1) ‘[C]onviction of a crime or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal charge constituting a felony under the laws of Louisiana or of the United States;’ (2) ‘[C]onviction of a crime or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge arising out of or in connection with the practice of medicine; (13) ‘[U]nprofessional conduct;’ and (14) ‘[C]ontinuing or recurring medical practice which fails to satisfy the prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical practice in this state.’

As evidenced by her subscription hereto, Dr. Bunch acknowledges that the information developed by the Board's investigation would constitute probable cause for the institution of administrative proceedings against her medical license and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing would establish grounds under the Act for the suspension or revocation of her license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, or for such other action as the Board might deem appropriate.

Recognizing her right to have notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be filed in this matter, at which time Dr. Bunch would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on her own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et seq.*, Dr. Bunch, nonetheless, hereby waives her right to notice and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D) consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Bunch also acknowledges that she hereby waives any right to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §49:951 *et seq.*, or to which she otherwise may be afforded by any law to contest her agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court or other forum. By her subscription hereto Dr. Bunch also hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation and she waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Bunch expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to proceed with the filing and adjudication of an administrative complaint against her, or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such charges should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order.

Based upon the information provided, accordingly, and upon the recommendation of the Investigating Officer assigned to this matter, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to insure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 and La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D),

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Linda C. Bunch, M.D. to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by *Certificate No.* 018178 is hereby, effective as of the date of this Order, *suspended* for a period of six (6) months;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing Order of Suspension is hereby stayed; provided however, that should Dr. Bunch be incarcerated as a result of her criminal conviction, whether in a penitentiary, halfway house or elsewhere, her license shall be suspended throughout the period of her incarceration;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Bunch's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana is hereby placed on probation for a minimum period of *three (3) years* or for such greater period of time as may be imposed by the federal court as a result of her criminal conviction, whichever is longer (the "probationary term"); provided, however, that her license and Dr. Bunch's continuing exercise of rights and privileges thereunder shall be conditioned upon her acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

- 1. Continuing Practice; Limitation.** For so long as she possesses a license to practice medicine in this state, Dr. Bunch shall not prescribe, promote or utilize testosterone, hGH, growth or thyroid hormones or hormone replacements for the purpose of providing anti-aging therapy. However, nothing in this paragraph shall prevent Dr. Bunch from utilizing these drugs in conformity with the standards of care applicable to conventional medicine therapy.
- 2. Off-Label Prescribing Prohibited.** For so long as she holds a license to practice medicine in this state, Dr. Bunch shall not prescribe, dispense or administer any drug approved for use in humans, other than for a purpose expressly approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- 3. Prescription, Dispensation, Administration of Controlled Substances Prohibited.** Dr. Bunch shall not, during the probationary term, prescribe, dispense or administer any controlled substance which may be classified, defined, enumerated or included in 21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11-15, La. Rev. Stat. §40:964 as a Schedule I or II controlled substance, or any substance which may hereafter be designated as a Schedule I or II controlled substance by amendment or supplementation of such regulations and statute. This prohibition shall not prohibit Dr. Bunch from ordering any Schedule III, IV or V controlled substance. Further, this prohibition shall not prohibit Dr. Bunch from ordering any controlled substance for administration to in-patients of and at a hospital or similar institution where she may be employed or exercise staff and clinical privileges under the controlled substance license and registration of such hospital or institution and in accordance with such hospital or institution's prescribed policies and procedures governing the administration of controlled substances.
- 4. Medical Ethics.** Within the first year of her probationary term, Dr. Bunch shall provide written confirmation that she has taken and successfully completed a course on medical ethics that is acceptable to and approved in writing by the Board.
- 5. Continuing Education - Internal Medicine.** Within the first year of her probationary term, Dr. Bunch shall provide written confirmation that she has taken and successfully attended an updated comprehensive course on internal medicine that is acceptable to and approved in writing by the Board.

6. Continuing Medical Education. Dr. Bunch shall obtain not less than fifty (50) credit hours per year for each of the probationary term through attendance at and participation in continuing medical education ("CME") accredited by and qualifying for the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association, and she shall obtain such an award within three (3) years from the date of the reinstatement of her license to practice medicine. On or before the anniversary date of each year during the term of probation term, Dr. Bunch shall cause to be submitted to the Board written certification of the CME programs and credits completed by her during the proceeding twelve months.

7. Compliance with any Terms and Conditions of Criminal Judgment and Probation/Commitment Order. Dr. Bunch shall comply with all terms, conditions, penalties, sanctions, and probationary terms that may be imposed by the federal court in connection with her criminal conviction. By her subscription hereto Dr. Bunch authorizes her criminal probation officer to provide the Board with written and verbal reports relative to her compliance with the terms of her criminal probation.

8. Administrative Fine. Within ninety days of the reinstatement of her license, Dr. Bunch shall pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Three Thousand (\$3,000) Dollars.

9. Probation Monitoring Fee. Dr. Bunch shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars for each year of the probationary term. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the reinstatement of her license. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial payment.

10. Additional Probationary Terms; Extension of Probationary Term. In addition to such other terms and conditions as are placed upon her license to practice medicine by this Order, Dr. Bunch hereby consents to, agrees with and acquiesces in the imposition of any additional terms, conditions or restrictions, as well as the length and nature thereof including, but are not limited to, restrictions as to the nature, scope, location and supervision of her practice, which the Board in its sole discretion may deem necessary or appropriate. Dr. Bunch consents and agrees that the probationary term imposed by this Order shall be extended for any period of time that she may be placed on probation by the federal court as a result of her criminal conviction.

11. Sanction. By her subscription hereto, Dr. Bunch acknowledges that her receipt of written notification from the Board that it has received apparently reliable information which indicates her failure to comply with the requirements set forth by this Order in any respect shall, without need for formal hearing or providing her with any right to which she may otherwise be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et seq.*, or which otherwise may be afforded to her by law, constitute her irrevocable consent to the immediate suspension of her

license to practice medicine in this state pending the issuance of a decision by the Board following administrative adjudication of such charges.

12. Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer. Dr. Bunch shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in her current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers and she shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom she shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to her compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Consent Order.

13. Absence from State/Practice/Effect on Probation. Should Dr. Bunch at any time during the term of probation be absent from the state of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country or discontinue practicing medicine for a period of thirty (30) days or more, or should she fail to renew her license to practice medicine in this state, she shall advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary term ordered herein and all terms, conditions and restrictions thereof, shall be deemed interrupted and extended and shall not commence to run until Dr. Bunch notifies the Board in writing that she has returned to, relocated or taken up residency in, resumed practice, or renewed her Louisiana medical license. In such instance, Dr. Bunch shall not receive credit toward completion of the probationary term for the time during which she was absent from the State of Louisiana or while she was not engaged or licensed to practice medicine in this state.

14. Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms/Personal Appearance. At least sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary term Dr. Bunch shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that she has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed by this Order and she shall contact the Board and arrange for a personal appearance before the Board at its meeting preceding the expiration of her probationary term. The probationary term and all of its terms and conditions shall be, and shall be deemed to be, extended and continued in full force and effect pending Dr. Bunch's compliance with the requirements of this paragraph.

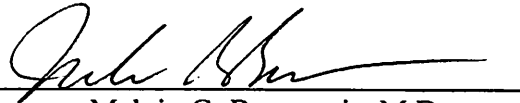
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Bunch shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Bunch's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, or for such other action as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a PUBLIC RECORD.

Signed in New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective on this 16th day of July, 2012.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By:



Melvin G. Bourgeois, M.D.
President

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STATE OF Louisiana

PARISH OF Ouachita

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT

I, LINDA C. BUNCH, M.D., hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 26th day of June, 2012.

[Signature]
LINDA C. BUNCH, M.D.

WITNESSES:

[Signature]
Signature

BRIAN E. CRAWFORD
Typed Name

1904 Royal Avenue
Address

Monroe, LA 71207
City, State, Zip Code

[Signature]
Signature

Angela M. Clark
Typed Name

170 Comanche Trail
Address

West Monroe, LA 71291
City, State, Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me at MONROE, Louisiana, this 26th day of June, 2012, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]
Notary Public (Signature)

Faye McMichael
Printed Name

43396
Bar/Notary Number