

Disciplinary outcomes

In 2017/18, five disciplinary matters were concluded.

APRIL 2017

Dr. Larry George Serelo Langley, BC

Following a discipline hearing on November 21, 2016, the Discipline Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC determined that Dr. Larry George Serelo engaged in unprofessional conduct, and contravened section 4-13(1) of the Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act*, by failing to respond to multiple communication and correspondence from the College. Following a hearing on penalty, the Board concluded that Dr. Serelo's failure to respond obstructed the College from fulfilling its mandate to serve and protect the public. The Board ordered that Dr. Serelo be suspended from practice for one month, commencing on April 6, 2017, be transferred to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration while he is suspended or otherwise subject to limits or conditions, pay a fine in the amount of \$5,000, and pay costs to the College in the amount of \$10,336.

APRIL 2017

Dr. Vu Ngoc Truong Burnaby, BC

Dr. Vu Ngoc Truong, a specialist in urology, admitted to engaging in unprofessional conduct as a result of multiple improper billings to the Medical Services Plan (MSP) of British Columbia. Following the issuance of a disciplinary citation, Dr. Truong consented to the following disposition by the College including a transfer from the Full class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class, a formal reprimand, a one-day suspension, and a fine of \$50,000. In determining an appropriate disposition, the College considered Dr. Truong's repayment to the MSP and his guilty plea in the criminal proceedings concerning his conduct.

JULY 2017

Dr. Stephen Michael Milne Coquitlam, BC

Dr. Milne, a family physician, admitted to engaging in unprofessional conduct by: failing to take necessary steps to ensure proper informed consent prior to taking a digital electronic medical record photograph for clinical purposes during the course of an examination of an exposed patient; and, failing to maintain adequate records at the time of taking the photograph, and subsequently supplementing and enhancing his clinical records at the time of responding to the complaint without disclosing to the College that the records were not made on the same day. Following the issuance of a disciplinary citation, the College imposed a penalty which included a transfer from the Full – General/

Family class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration. In addition, Dr. Milne was issued a formal reprimand, suspended for one month, required to participate in formal education in the areas of ethics, medical record keeping, boundaries and professionalism, comply with any monitoring of his practice, and pay a fine in the amount of \$2,500 and costs in the amount of \$10,500.

DECEMBER 2017

Dr. Nima Rabbani Farani Vancouver, BC

Dr. Nima Rabbani Farani, a surgical assistant, has admitted to engaging in unprofessional conduct by improperly billing the Medical Services Plan of British Columbia (MSP). The Medical Services Commission (MSC) conducted two audits into his billing practices. The MSC audits identified a number of significant departures from what it considered to be appropriate billing practices. Dr. Rabbani Farani has admitted that, on multiple occasions, he submitted claims for payment in respect of two or more medical services covering the same time. Following the issuance of a disciplinary citation, Dr. Rabbani Farani consented to the following disposition by the College: a transfer to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration; a fine in the amount of \$75,000; costs in the amount of \$25,000 to cover a portion of the College's investigation; and the satisfactory completion of the internationally recognized PROBE Ethics and Boundaries course no later than January 31, 2018. The College decided that a suspension for a specified term was not warranted given the fact that the MSC ordered Dr. Rabbani Farani be de-enrolled for a period of 14 months, which prevented him from billing MSP. This was equivalent to a 14-month suspension from medical practice.

FEBRUARY 2018

Dr. Lyn Melvina Killick Maple Ridge, BC

Dr. Lyn Melvina Killick, a psychiatrist, admitted to engaging in unprofessional conduct by failing to maintain professional boundaries with a patient in violation of the College's standard *Boundary Violations in the Patient-Physician Relationship* when she entered into a business relationship with a patient, hiring that patient to perform landscaping and excavating services at her personal residence. Following the issuance of a disciplinary citation, the College imposed a penalty which included a transfer from the Full – Specialty class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration. In addition, Dr. Killick was issued a formal reprimand, required to participate in continuing medical education in the areas of ethics, boundaries and professionalism, and comply with any monitoring of her practice.