

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

# NEWSLETTER



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Licensees:

Spring is here, Mardi Gras came and went without the anticipated Covid surge, and the country and the state are opening up! As of March the offices of the LSBME are again open to visitors. We hope your healthcare workplaces are getting back to more "normal" activities and practices, whatever that may look like as of now.

On March 16, the governor ended his declaration of a public health emergency. As a result, for those who held a COVID-19 temporary permit at the close of the public health emergency and who remained in good standing with their original state/country of licensure, a one-time 90-day COVID-19 permit extension, through June 14, 2022, was allowed for the orderly transition of care and to maintain continuity of care of patients. Please make plans and adjustments accordingly. To see the full letter to temporary permit holders pertaining to this matter, please click [here](#).

On April 25, the Board met in person for only the third time since February of 2020. As always, licensees and members of the public are welcome to attend our board meetings in person. Licensees and members of the public are also invited to send their comments to the Board via email at [publiccomment@lsbme.la.gov](mailto:publiccomment@lsbme.la.gov). Future meeting dates can be found on the homepage of the website under the "Board Meetings" tab at [www.lsbme.la.gov](http://www.lsbme.la.gov).

I want to remind those of you who have not yet registered for an account with our electronic education tracker CE Broker that a transcript from them verifying your compliance with CE/CME requirements is mandatory for your renewal this year. In addition, we will be phasing in rules review courses over time that our licensees will be required to take on CE Broker upon their first renewal. Licensees will receive 1-3 hours of CME or CE credit for this, depending upon their licensee category. Even licensees who report their CE elsewhere, i.e. physician assistants, will eventually need to have CE Broker accounts so they may access the courses. We will keep you informed on this as it happens.

As you know, the Louisiana legislature convened on March 14, 2022 and will conclude its session on June 6th. Our next newsletter will report on those bills affecting our licensees and this agency.

Best regards until then,

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., MD

## CHANGES AT THE BOARD



The Board **welcomes Dr. Michael Francis, MD**, as our new Assistant Director of Investigations.

Dr. Francis has over 25 years in academic medicine as assistant professor in pediatrics and anesthesiology, adult, and pediatric pain medicine both at Tulane Medical School and the Medical college of Wisconsin. A native of New Orleans, Dr. Francis graduated from Marquette University in Wisconsin and received his M.D. from LSU New Orleans. He completed his residency in Anesthesiology and a fellowship in Pain Management at the Medical College of Wisconsin and affiliated hospitals, as well as a fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology and Pain at Denver Children's Hospital.

After completing his medical training, Dr. Francis accepted a position as Assistant professor of Anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and served as Director of the OR and Pediatric Pain Management Service. He then returned to New Orleans to serve as Clinical Assistant Professor at Tulane's department of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics and later as Director of Tulane's Pain Management Center. For a few years after Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Francis returned to his faculty position at the Medical College at Wisconsin's Anesthesiology department to serve as the director of interventional pain medicine. He returned to New Orleans in 2008. Since then, he has worked in private practice and in academic medicine, and fulfilled various administrative roles at local healthcare facilities, including roles as consulting physician in Ochsner's Department of Pain Medicine, where he also served on the Performance Improvement & Risk Management Committee for Ochsner Physician Partners. He has also served on various committees at Tulane's Medical Center and Regional Health network, in Utilization Review and Quality Assurance, Credentialing, Contracting, Affirmative Action and Risk Management.

Dr. Francis is board certified in Anesthesiology. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Foundation for Pain Medicine, and on the communications and the ethics committees of the American Academy of Pain Medicine. He has lectured extensively on anesthesia as well as on ethics and diversity issues. Most recently he received a certificate from the ASA Executive Leadership Program from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston Illinois.

If you are renewing your license for the first time and have a CDS permit from the Board of Pharmacy, you must take a minimum of 3 hours of board approved CME which must include the following topics: Best practices for Prescribing CDS, Anti-diversion Training, Appropriate Treatment for Addiction, and for physicians, Treatment of Chronic Pain. For the most recent list of **pre-approved** courses, go to: <http://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-approved-cme-courses-cds-requirements>. This is a one-time requirement; if you have completed a board approved CDSCME activity in the past, you do not need to do so again.

If you do NOT prescribe CDS you may fill out an exemption request form, which can be accessed [here](#). However, if your situation changed and you prescribed, administered or dispensed CDS since you filled out the exemption, you are required to meet the training requirement before your next renewal.

**IF YOU PRESCRIBE CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES, YOU MUST HAVE A PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM (PMP) ACCOUNT WITH THE BOARD OF PHARMACY. TO REGISTER, GO TO:** <https://www.pharmacy.la.gov/page/prescription-monitoring-program-pmp-information>

## Annual Licensee Statistics

ACTIVE LICENSEES BY CATEGORY, 2021	TOTAL (NEW LICENSEES)
Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist	17 (-3)
Licensed Acupuncturist	70 (6)
Physician Acupuncturist	26 (1)
Athletic Trainer	599 (9)
Clinical Exercise Physiologist	57 (0)
Clinical Laboratory Personnel	5,759 (0)
Genetic Counselors	240 (84)
Licensed Midwives	27 (3)
Licensed Respiratory Therapist	3,597 (76)
Medical Psychologist	114 (4)
Occupational Therapy/Assistant	3,198 (101)
Perfusionist	91 (-8)
Physician (MD/DO)	18,719 (703)
Physician Assistant	1,575 (116)
Podiatrist (DPM)	199 (6)
Polysomnography/Technicians & Technologists	175 (-20)
Private Radiological Technologist	3 (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,466 (1,080)</b>

Note: these numbers do not include temporary, emergency or trainee permits, or permits for visiting physicians or telemedicine. For more detailed and historical data, go to <http://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/statistical-license-data>

### Updating your contact information

All licensees should be aware that if you change your address or your email address, it is YOUR responsibility to log on to the LaMED dashboard at <https://online.lasbme.org/#/> and make the change to your record. (You may also go to the home page at [www.lsbme.la.gov](http://www.lsbme.la.gov), click on For the Practitioner > LaMED Dashboard.) Board staff cannot do this for you. To make sure that emails and communication by regular mail are reaching you, please make a point of changing your contact information as necessary.

## PUBLIC BOARD ACTIONS, JANUARY – MARCH, 2022

Below is a list of all licensees who were subject to a public board action, January – March 2022. (Board actions include discipline, notices of summary suspension, reinstatements, voluntary surrenders etc.) Click on the name to see the documentation related to the board action.

[Otto Crawford Allanson, LRT](#), Consent order for probation, 1/24/2022  
[Robert Ancira, MD](#), Consent order for probation of license, 1/24/2022  
[David E. Barnard, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand, 1/24/2022  
[Matthew Eugene Britt, CLP](#), Consent order for indefinite suspension, 2/21/2022  
[Kenneth Edward Brown, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand, 2/21/2022  
[John Justin Caulfield, MD](#), Interim consent order for suspension of license, 1/24/2022  
[J. Foster Chapman, DO](#), Consent order for indefinite suspension, 2/21/2022  
[Laurence J. Cibley, MD](#), Stipulation and agreement for voluntary surrender of medical license, 2/21/2022  
[Robert Lyle Cleveland, MD](#), order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 3/28/2022  
[John Philip Epling, Jr., MD](#), Stipulation and agreement for voluntary surrender of medical license, 3/28/2022  
[George Demetrios Fivgas, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand, 3/28/2022  
[Shane Michael Garon, MD](#), Consent order for suspension of license, 2/21/2022  
[Anshuman Jyoti, MD](#), Consent order for probation, 1/24/2022  
[Ramakrishnarao Kongara, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand and restriction to reduced fee license, 2/21/2022  
[Robbie Boyd Marcantel, PA](#), Consent order for reprimand, 1/24/2022  
[Margo Ann Olivier, LRT](#), Consent order for probation, 1/24/2022  
[George Douglas Sagrera, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand, 3/28/2022  
[Llewellyn L. Simon, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand, 1/24/2022  
[Whitaker M. Smith, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand with restrictions mirroring Tennessee order, 2/21/2022  
[Janet Hanks Sukkar](#), RRT, Consent order for indefinite probation, 1/24/2022  
[Dawn C. Sullivan, RRT](#), Consent order for reinstatement on probation, 2/21/2022  
[Vanessa Thomas, MD](#), Order for reinstatement of license without restriction, 1/24/2022  
[Vernon A. Valentino, MD](#), Consent order for reprimand, 1/24/2022  
[Kelsey Jeannine Webb, MD](#), Consent order for conditions on practice, 2/21/2022  
[Joshua Tyson Worley, DPM](#), Consent order for reprimand, 3/28/2022

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**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.** Information on disciplinary actions may be found on the board's website at <http://www.lsbme.la.gov>. A summary of Board Orders, Consent Decrees and Reprimands and related documents may be found by selecting the "Disciplinary Actions" blue box on the home page.

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## RULES AND LAWS ADOPTED OR PROPOSED SINCE JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Since the last newsletter, several notices of proposed rules have been listed on our website, relating to rules of procedure on adjudication and the complaints process. For the most up-to-date status on revisions of existing rules or the creation of new rules, please go to our [regulatory progress](#) page.

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### FREE CME COURSE FOR SUPERVISING PHYSICIANS

To supervise physician assistants (PAs) in your practice, you must register with the board as a Supervising Physician for a permit. Since 2015, we have required physicians applying for an SP permit to take a short course on the rules pertaining to PAs and the supervisory relationship.

This course is called "Supervising Physician Assistants in Louisiana" and it is free to complete on CE Broker [here](#).

This free course is available for anyone who wishes to review the rules and responsibilities of physicians who supervise Physician Assistants. **For those of you who have never seen these rules, or who have not looked at them in many years, we urge you to take the course.** You will receive 2 hours of CME credit for it, which will automatically report to your CE Broker account and will be counted toward your annual 20 hour CME requirement.

How to access the course:

1. Click [here](#) to go directly to the course in CE Broker
2. When you click the "start course" button, you will enter the course if you already have a CE Broker account.
3. If you do not have an account, you will need to sign up for a free CE Broker Basic Account and then take the course.
  - a. Sign up for your free CE Broker Basic Account [here](#).
  - b. After you finish registering for CE Broker, you can proceed to the course.
4. Once you have successfully completed the course and passed the test, the course will appear in your CE Broker account transcript.

Upon occasion, our investigations department must deal with situations in which physicians who are unclear on the rules and their responsibilities in this area have violated the rules. We strongly recommend that if you have not familiarized yourself with these rules recently, that you avail yourself of the opportunity to take the course.

Questions/Comments? Something you'd like to see in the Newsletter? Email: [Education@lsbme.la.gov](mailto:Education@lsbme.la.gov)