Reno, Nevada 89521

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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**Against:** 

Respondent.

In the Matter of Charges and Complaint

ABDEL MALICK KHALEK, M.D.,

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Case No. 21-8734-1

FILED

DEC - 7 2021

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS By:

### FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

This case was presented for adjudication and decision before the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), during a regularly scheduled Board meeting on December 3, 2021, at 8:40 a.m., (Pacific Standard Time), located at 325 E. Warm Springs Road, Suite 225, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Abdel Malick Khalek, M.D. (Respondent), was properly served with a notice of the adjudication, including the date, time, and location. Respondent was not present personally or through an attorney. Rosalie M. Bordelove, Esq., Chief Deputy Attorney General, served as legal counsel to the Board. The adjudicating members of the Board rendering these Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law (FOFCOL) and Order are: Victor M. Muro, M.D., Ms. Maggie Arias-Petrel, Ms. Pamela J. Beal, Nicola (Nick) M. Spirtos, M.D., FACOG, and Carl N. Williams, Jr., M.D., FACS.

The Board, having received and read the formal Complaint and exhibits admitted at the hearing of this matter, the Hearing Officer's Findings and Recommendations<sup>1</sup>, and the transcript of the hearing, made its decision pursuant to its authority and provisions of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), NRS Chapter 622A, and NRS Chapter 233B, as applicable.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Hearing Officer's Findings and Recommendations were prepared by Patricia Halstead, Esq., who was appointed as Hearing Officer under NRS 630.106 in this matter and presided over the hearing.

The Board, after due consideration of the record, evidence and law, and being fully advised in the premises, makes its FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER in this matter, as follows:

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

I.

Respondent held a license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada issued by the Board from August 14, 1993 to June 30, 2021.

II.

On February 1, 2021, the Investigative Committee filed its formal Complaint in Case No. 21-8734-1, alleging Respondent violated the Medical Practice Act. Respondent was served with the Complaint on February 18, 2021, at his address of record with the Board. Pursuant to NRS 630.254, each licensee shall maintain a permanent mailing address with the board to which all communications from the Board to the licensee must be sent. A licensee who changes his or her permanent mailing address shall notify the Board in writing of the new permanent mailing address within 30 days after the change.

The Complaint alleges two (2) violations of the Medical Practice Act that constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee, as follows: one (1) violation of NRS 630.306(1)(c), Unlawful Prescribing of Controlled Substances and Dangerous Drugs (Count I); and one (1) violation of NRS 630.305(1)(e), Aiding and Assisting the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine (Count II). Respondent did not answer or file a response to the allegations set forth in the Complaint. Pursuant to NAC 630.460(4), the allegations of the Complaint are deemed generally denied if an answer is not filed.

III.

An Order Scheduling Early Case Conference was filed on April 12, 2021, scheduling the Early Case Conference for the pending matter for May 6, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. This Order was mailed via USPS Certified Mail, postage pre-paid, on April 13, 2021 to Respondent's address of record. In addition, Respondent was contacted several times by telephone, whereby he was repeatedly informed of the proceedings, including the date, time and how to participate in the

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telephonic Early Case Conference. An Affidavit describing attempts to contact Respondent was filed on May 3, 2021, and was delivered on May 6, 2021, at 3:40 p.m., to Respondent's address of record with the Board. On May 6, 2021, a telephonic Early Case Conference was conducted in this matter. Aaron Bart Fricke, J.D., General Counsel, (Mr. Fricke) was present on behalf of the Investigative Committee (IC) of the Board, with Hearing Officer Patricia Halstead, Esq. Respondent did not appear or participate. The parties agreed to dates for the pre-hearing conference, exchange of documents, and the hearing date.

In compliance with NAC 630.465, a Scheduling Order, setting pre-hearing and hearing was filed on May 12, 2021, setting the pre-hearing conference for July 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., and setting the hearing for August 26, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., at the Office of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, 9600 Gateway Drive, Reno, Nevada 89521, and video conferenced to the Board's Las Vegas Office, located at 325 E. Warm Springs Road, Suite 225, Las Vegas, NV The Scheduling Order was delivered to Respondent at his address of record via USPS Certified Mail on May 17, 2021, at 1:27 p.m.

An Order Continuing Prehearing Conference was then filed on July 19, 2021, changing the Pre-Hearing Conference to July 27, 2021, the remainder of the Scheduling Order filed on May 12, 2021, remained the same. The Order Continuing Prehearing Conference was delivered to Respondent at his address of record via USPS Certified Mail on July 24, 2021, at 1:44 p.m.

The Pre-Hearing Conference was held telephonically as noticed and ordered, at which time, legal counsel for the IC, Mr. Fricke, appeared. Neither the Respondent nor any representative of the Respondent appeared at the Pre-Hearing Conference.

IV.

On August 26, 2021, as duly noticed and ordered, a hearing was held before the Hearing Officer to receive evidence and to hear the arguments of both parties. Legal counsel for the IC, Mr. Fricke, appeared. Respondent did not attend the hearing, nor did he have counsel appear on his behalf. Mr. Fricke presented the IC's case, offered documentary evidence and presented witness testimony. Exhibits 1 through 16, were marked and admitted into evidence.

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Pursuant to NRS 622A.350(1) and (2), as Respondent did not appear and as a continuance had not been scheduled, sought or granted, Mr. Fricke made an offer of proof on the record that Respondent was given sufficient legal notice. Upon a determination by the regulatory body or hearing panel or officer that the absent party was given sufficient legal notice, the regulatory body or hearing panel or officer may proceed to consider and dispose of the case without the participation of the absent party. Based thereon, good cause appearing, the Hearing Officer found that sufficient legal notice had been provided to the Respondent, and therefore found that the Board may accept the IC's allegations against the Respondent in the Complaint as true.

Notwithstanding the presumption afforded the Board pursuant to NRS 622A.350(2), Mr. Fricke presented the IC's case in its entirety, thus establishing a record for the Board to review the case on the merits.

**Findings** The Hearing Officer provided the and Recommendations, filed October 21, 2021. This matter was scheduled for final adjudication on December 3, 2021, at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The notice of the adjudication was sent via USPS Certified Mail on October 27, 2021, and was delivered on Respondent's address of record on November 1, 2021, at 1:52 p.m.

A copy of the adjudication materials along with a copy of the Hearing Officer's Findings and Recommendation, were mailed via USPS Certified Mail on November 2, 2021, and were delivered to Respondent's address of record on November 5, 2021, at 3:35 p.m.

V.

Pursuant to NRS 622A.300(5)(a), the Findings and Recommendations of the Hearing Officer are hereby approved and adopted by the Board, in their entirety and without modification, and are hereby specifically incorporated and made part of this Order by reference. A copy of the Findings and Recommendations filed October 21, 2021, in this matter is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

VI.

The Board hereby finds that Counts I and II, as set forth in the Complaint, and as recapitulated in Paragraph II above, have been established by a preponderance of the evidence.

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 89521 

#### VII.

If any of the foregoing Findings of Fact is more properly deemed a Conclusion of Law, it may be so construed.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

T.

The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the Complaint, and an adjudication of this matter by the Board members as set forth herein is proper.

II.

Respondent was timely and properly served with the Complaint, and all notices and orders in advance of the hearing and adjudication thereon, in accordance with NRS and NAC Chapters 630, NRS Chapters 241, 622A and 233B, and all legal requirements of due process.

III.

With respect to the allegations of the Complaint, the Board concludes that Respondent has violated the Medical Practice Act, as alleged in the Complaint, as follows: one (1) violation of NRS 630.306(1)(c), Unlawful Prescribing of Controlled Substances and Dangerous Drugs (Count I); and one (1) violation of NRS 630.305(1)(e), Aiding and Assisting the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine (Count II). Accordingly, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to NRS 630.352.

IV.

The Board finds that, pursuant to NRS 622.400, recovery from Respondent of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the Board as part of its investigation and disciplinary proceedings against Respondent is appropriate. The Board has reviewed the Investigative Committee's Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements and Attorneys' Fees, and the Board finds them to be the actual fees and costs incurred by the Board as part of its investigative, administrative and disciplinary proceedings against Respondent, and finds them to be reasonable and necessary based on: (1) the abilities, training, education, experience, professional standing and skill demonstrated by Board staff and attorneys; (2) the character of the work done, its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, the time and skill required, the responsibility imposed and the prominence and character of the parties where, as in this case, they affected the importance of

the litigation; (3) the work actually performed by the Board's attorneys and staff, and the skill, time and attention given to that work; and (4) the product of the work and benefits to the Board and the people of Nevada that were derived therefrom.

#### V.

If any of the foregoing Conclusions of Law is more properly deemed a Finding of Fact, it may be so construed.

#### **ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and good cause appearing therefore,

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Pursuant to NRS 630.352(4)(e), the Board shall administer a written public reprimand to Respondent.
- 2. Pursuant to NRS 630.352(4)(d), Respondent's license to practice medicine is hereby revoked. In accord with NRS 622A.410(1), the Board hereby prescribes a period of two (2) years, during which Respondent may not apply for reinstatement of this license;
- 3. Pursuant to NRS 630.352(4)(h), Respondent is hereby ordered to pay a fine of two thousand five-hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per violation of the Medical Practice Act, for a total fine in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), to be paid within sixty (60) days of service of this Order; and

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4. Respondent is hereby further ordered to reimburse the Board the reasonable and necessary costs and expenses actually incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this case in the amount of eleven thousand five hundred seventy dollars and sixty-eight cents (\$11,570.68), to be paid within sixty (60) days of service of this Order. The Board, and/or its designee, are granted the authority to collect any and all funds due under this Order.

#### IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2021.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

VICTOR M. MURO, M.D. President of the Board

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing is the full and true original FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER on file in the office of the Board of Medical Examiners in the matter of **ABDEL MALICK KHALEK**, M.D., Case No. 21-8734-1.

I further certify that Victor M. Muro, M.D., is the President of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that full force and credit is due to his official acts as such; and that the signature to the foregoing ORDER is the signature of said Victor M. Muro, M.D.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand in my official capacity as Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2021.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Maggie Arias-Petrel
MAGGIE ARIAS-PETREL

Secretary-Treasurer and Public Member of the Board

## **EXHIBIT 1**

### **EXHIBIT 1**

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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In the Matter of Charges and

Case No. 21-8734-1

FILED

**Complaint Against** 

OCT 2 1 2021

ABDEL MALICK KHALEK, M.D.,

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Respondent.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TO:

Aaron Bart Fricke

Senior Deputy General Counsel

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

9600 Gateway Drive

Reno, Nevada 89521

Abdel Malick Khalek, M.D.

320 N. Nellis Blvd., Ste 6

Las Vegas, NV 89509

This matter came for hearing on August 26, 2021. Present were Aaron Fricke, Esq. on behalf of the Investigative Committee (the "IC") and the undersigned hearing officer. Respondent Abdel Malick Khalek, M.D. ("Dr. Khalek") did not appear nor otherwise participate.

Notice to Dr. Khalek was confirmed on the record. Specifically, proof was submitting indicating that the Scheduling Order, filed May 12, 2021, which contained notice of the hearing was sent by certified mail to Dr. Khalek at his last known address on file with the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board"). *See* NRS 630.254; NRS 630.255; NRS 630.344; and Volume 1, Exhibits 6-7. While Dr. Khalek had communications with the Board, the record indicates that he did not provide an alternative address, was aware of the proceedings, and did not

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engage in the proceedings despite several notices and attempts to contact him.<sup>1</sup> See Volume 1, Exhibits 1-11. No continuance of the hearing was requested by any interested party.

With Dr. Khalek having failed to appear and no continuance having been requested nor granted, the matter was heard as scheduled pursuant to NRS 622A.350, which provides:

- 1. If a party fails to appear at a scheduled hearing and a continuance has not been scheduled or granted, any party who is present at the hearing may make an offer of proof that the absent party was given sufficient legal notice. Upon a determination by the regulatory body or hearing panel or officer that the absent party was given sufficient legal notice, the regulatory body or hearing panel or officer may proceed to consider and dispose of the case without the participation of the absent party.
- 2. If the licensee fails to appear at a hearing, the regulatory body or hearing panel or officer may accept the allegations against the licensee in the charging document as true.

As well as pursuant to NAC 630.470(2), which provides: "If a licensee fails to appear at a scheduled hearing and no continuance has been requested and granted, the evidence may be heard and the matter may be considered and disposed of on the basis of the evidence before the Board, panel or hearing officer in the manner required by this section."

In so proceeding, undersigned heard evidence from the IC in support of the Complaint allegations that consist of: Count I, NRS 630.306(1)(c), Unlawful Prescribing of Controlled Substance and Dangerous Drug; and Count II, NRS 630.305(1)(e), Aiding and Assisting the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine, premised upon controlled substances being addressed by unlicensed practitioner Vinay Kumar Bararia, M.D. by and through credentials held by Dr. Khalek. Through sworn testimony of Senior Investigator for the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners Kim Friedman, and through the admission of Volume 1, Exhibits 1-11 and Volume II, Exhibits 1-16, the IC established as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In this respect, there are no filings in the record on behalf of Dr. Khalek including, but not limited to, an Answer to the Complaint.

- 1. Dr. Khalek was employed by Goldsmith Healthcare, Ltd., a medical clinic located in Las Vegas, Nevada, which was sold to Nevada Health Services, LLC in August 2018. See Volume II, Exhibit 14.
- 2. Nevada Health Services, LLC did business as "TrimCare" and was owned and operated by Vinay Kumar Bararia, M.D. ("Bararia"), who had surrendered his Nevada medical license in March 2013, in the midst of an indictment in the State of Arizona for seven counts of violating 21 USC §841 and §846 and conspiring to distribute controlled substances, possession of controlled substances with the intent to distribute, and distribution of controlled substances. In relation to such charges, Bararia was convicted on September 18, 2014 of two counts of Distribution of a Controlled Substance, a violation of 21 USC §841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(c). See Volume II, Exhibits 2, 4, 6, and 7.
- Bararia and Dr. Khalek whereby Dr. Khalek provided Bararia with a cashier's check for \$75,000 issued on October 16, 2018, approximately two months after Bararia's purchase of Goldsmith Healthcare, Ltd. *See* Volume II, Exhibit 14, Exhibit B. Dr. Khalek indicates the money was provided to Bararia as a loan in support of Bararia's purchase of Goldsmith Healthcare, Ltd.; however, evidence provided by Dr. Khalek and submitted the IC indicates that the sums were provided in contemplation of a 50/50 partnership in Nevada Health Services, LLC (DBA TrimCare), which is supported by the purchase price for Goldsmith Healthcare, Ltd. being \$150,000,<sup>2</sup> of which the money provided by Dr. Khalek equals exactly half. *See* Volume II, Exhibit 14, Exhibits C and D, *see also* the August 26, 2021, Transcript of Hearing Proceedings, pp. 105-107. The partnership was never finalized in writing and, in November 2018, Bararia agreed to repay the \$75,000 to Dr. Khalek. *See* Volume II, Exhibit 14, Exhibit D.
- 4. Dr. Khalek continued to work for Nevada Health Services, LLC through April 2019 when he quit. *See* Exhibit 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This figure was stated in argument and not testified to. *See* the August 26, 2021, Transcript of Hearing Proceedings, p. 19.

- 5. Commencing in late 2018 and through early 2019, prior to leaving Nevada Health Services, LLC, Dr. Khalek began to lodge complaints against Bararia with regulatory agencies such as the Board and the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy, alleging "multiple felonies" being committed by Bararia, which included, but was not limited to, practicing medicine without a license and unlawful distribution of controlled substances. *See*, *e*,*g*., Volume II, Exhibit 11; the August 26, 2021, Transcript of Hearing Proceedings, pp. 63-67.
- 6. Dr. Khalek reported that Bararia was meeting and treating patients unsupervised by a licensed physician and in so doing was improperly utilizing Dr. Khalek's credentials and access to distribute and prescribe controlled substances. <u>Id.</u> Dr. Khalek was aware of the same but failed to stop Bararia from doing so by not seeking to eliminate Bararia's access to the controlled substances for which Dr. Khalek was responsible and by failing to report his dispensing credentials as compromised, amongst other possible remedies Dr. Khalek could have availed himself of. <u>Id.</u> and the August 26, 2021, Transcript of Hearing Proceedings, pp. 67-69.
- 7. Prescription Monitoring Reports related to Nevada Health Services, LLC dated 09/01/2018 to 06/04/2019 indicate that 657 prescriptions for controlled substances were issued and attributed to 358 patients of which Dr. Khalek could only account for 57 of the patients. *See* Volume II, Exhibits 14-16. Dr. Khalek reported that he does "not know how the remaining patients may have obtained prescriptions dispensed under his name," but this is belied by Dr. Khalek's own reports of Bararia improperly dispensing and prescribing controlled substances and Bararia having Dr. Khalek's credential information such as Dr. Khalek's DEA licensing number. *See*, *e.g.*, Volume II, Exhibits 8 and 11. Dr. Khalek also indicates that he did not want to disturb the status quo, sort to speak, with Bararia pending being paid back the \$75,000. *See* Volume II, Exhibit 16.
- 8. Records submitted and testified to further support that Bararia was permitted to purchase controlled substances for distribution by using of Dr. Khalek's credentials, which Dr. Khalek would have had to provide to Bararia. *See* Volume II, Exhibits 8-12; the August 26, 2021, Transcript of Hearing Proceedings, pp. 48-57.

9. Testimony was further provided by Ms. Friedman that Dr. Khalek admitted to her that he was aware of Bararia treating patients without supervision despite not being properly licensed or supervised; writing prescriptions for patients seen by Bararia without having seen the patients himself; allowing Bararia to have a key to the controlled substance storage area that held controlled substances that were the charge of Dr. Khalek; and Nevada Health Services, LLC staff having access to an e-prescribing phone whereby controlled substances were prescribed under Dr. Khalek's credentials. See the August 26, 2021, Transcript of Hearing Proceedings, pp. 63-66.

WHEREFORE the undersigned hearing officer finds as follows:

Proper notice of the proceedings, inclusive of the evidentiary hearing, was provided to Dr. Khalek and no continuance of the evidentiary hearing was sought nor granted;

Pursuant to NRS 622A.350(2) the undersigned accepts the allegations against Dr. Khalek in the Complaint, filed February 1, 2001, as true;

Aside from the authority granted by NRS 622A.350(2), the undersigned hearing officer finds that the IC established a violation of Count I, NRS 630.306(1)(c), Unlawful Prescribing of Controlled Substance and Dangerous Drug, by establishing, as alleged, that Dr. Khalek allowed Bararia to have access to, dispense, and prescribe controlled substances to patients with whom Dr. Khalek had no bona fide therapeutic relationship by using Dr. Khalek's access and credentials, and that Dr. Khalek further failed to monitor and evidence such transactions in accordance with required reporting and record keeping, which compounded the improprieties engaged in by Dr. Khalek with respect thereto. The foregoing establishes that Dr. Khalek administered, dispensed, or prescribed controlled substances to others in a manner not authorized by law as contemplated by NRS 630.306(1)(c).

Aside from the authority granted by NRS 622A.350(2), the undersigned hearing officer finds that the IC established a violation of Count II, NRS 630.305(1)(e), Aiding and Assisting the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine, by establishing that Dr. Khalek furnished his credentials to Bararia, an unlicensed person, and knowingly permitted Bararia to utilize the same in treating and dispensing and otherwise prescribing to patients controlled substances nor tracked nor otherwise managed by Dr. Khalek as was Dr. Khalek's obligation. The foregoing establishes that Dr.

Khalek aided and assisted Bararia, an unlicensed person, to engage in the practice of medicine contrary to law.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, it is recommended that the Board find Dr. Khalek in violation of NRS 630.306(1)(c), Unlawful Prescribing of Controlled Substance and Dangerous Drug, as alleged in Count I of the Complaint field on February 1, 2021; and NRS 630.305(1)(e), Aiding and Assisting the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine, as alleged in Count II of the Complaint filed on February 1, 2021.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 18th day of October 2021.

Patricia Halstead, Esq., Hearing Officer for the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 615 S. Arlington Ave.
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 322-2244
phalstead@halsteadlawoffices.com