



State of Nevada

**Board of Medical Examiners Newsletter****Board Members:**

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By: Cheryl A. Hug-English, M.D., President

**STAFF CHANGES**

Several changes to the staff of the board have occurred recently. On July 16, 2003, Drennan A. "Tony" Clark, J.D. joined the staff as Deputy Executive Secretary and Special Counsel. Mr. Clark, a veteran Nevada attorney, was a partner in the Reno law firm of Guild, Hagen and Clark for over twenty years. He became Adjutant General of Nevada Air and Army National Guard units in 1987 and served in that capacity under three Nevada governors until January, 2001, at which time he was appointed Solicitor General of Nevada in the Attorney General's office. He comes to the board from the position of Chief Security Counsel in the Attorney General's office. He has served on the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada, and as President of the Washoe County Bar Association.

The professional paths of Tony Clark and Larry Lessly, the board's Executive Secretary/Special Counsel, have crossed in the past. Both men are attorneys and served together as Air Force Staff Judge Advocates. Later in their military careers, Mr. Lessly, an Air Force Brigadier General, served as Mr. Clark's deputy, while Mr. Clark, an Air Force Major General, was Adjutant General of Nevada.

Mr. Clark brings a wealth of legal, administrative, legislative, and management experience to the board at a time when several of the board's senior staff members are nearing retirement. Mr. Clark will assume the position of Executive Secretary/Special Counsel upon Mr. Lessly's retirement.

The board has also expanded its investigative staff with the addition of another investigator and an administrative assistant. Trent S. Hiett, a graduate of the University of Utah and an experienced investigator, joined the investigative staff on July 1, 2003, as did Winnemucca native Pam C. Gabica, who serves as an administrative assistant in the Investigative Division.

Lynnette L. Krotke was promoted to the position of Chief License Specialist on June 1, 2003. She replaces Elizabeth

Larragueta, who left the board to move to the Las Vegas area. Mrs. Krotke served as an administrative investigator and later as a license specialist before this promotion.

The Board's Financial Manager, Robert A. Frantz, will retire August 15, 2003, and will be replaced by Helena J. Teeple as Financial Support Assistant reporting to the Executive Secretary/Special Counsel.

### **REGULATION CHANGES**

The board recently revised its regulations to remove the requirement that applicants for licensure complete one year of postgraduate training prior to taking Step III of the USMLE. Also deleted was the requirement that applicants must pass all three steps of the USMLE within seven years or within ten years if in a joint M.D.-Ph.D. program. The board made these changes in the belief that the changes would not have a significant impact upon the quality of applicants for licensure in Nevada.

## **NEVADA LEGISLATURE MANDATES SPECIFIC CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

AB 250, adopted in the recent legislative session and signed by the Governor, requires that in order to renew a license as a physician assistant or to register a license to practice medicine during a biennial registration, the holder of a license must have completed a course of instruction, within two years after initial licensure, related to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The legislation requires that the course must provide at least four hours of instruction, including instruction in the following subjects:

- 1) *An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;*
- 2) *Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;*
- 3) *Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to or injuries caused by chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;*
- 4) *Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and*
- 5) *An overview of the information available on and the use of the Health Alert Network.*

The legislation goes on to provide that the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners may thereafter determine whether to include in a program of continuing medical education courses of instruction relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

The board is required by this legislation to proceed to adopt such a regulation, the net effect of which will be that any physician initially licensed in the state of Nevada after July 1, 2003 will be required to complete this course of instruction prior to biennial registration renewal in 2005.

In addition, AB 349 amends the medical practice act to provide as follows:

*The board shall encourage each holder of a license who treats or cares for persons who are more than sixty years of age to receive, as a portion of their continuing education, education in Geriatrics and Gerontology, including such topics as:*

- a) *The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address aging issues;*
- b) *Approaches to providing health care to older persons, including both didactic and clinical approaches;*
- c) *The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of the aging process; and*
- d) *The importance of maintenance of function and independence for older persons.*

This legislation is also effective July 1, 2003. At its next regularly scheduled meeting, the board will consider how it will comply with this legislation.

## **A WORD FROM THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD**

By: John B. Lanzillotta, P.A.-C, Physician Assistant Advisor

At the March 2003 meeting of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, the board discussed competency evaluation testing for Nevada physicians. In light of current public and regulatory concern about medical errors, there has been growing attention in competency and competency assessment by the public, members of health care regulatory bodies and licensing boards. The results of a survey conducted by the Citizens Advocacy Center, a Washington, DC based non-profit organization that disseminates information to public members of health care regulatory agencies including licensing boards, indicate that 70 health care licensing and certification boards are considering implementing some form of competency assessment.

At the recent American Academy of Physician Assistants' (AAPA) House of Delegates meeting in May 2003, a policy

concerning continued competence was amended and adopted:

*"Continuing competence is a multidimensional construct that represents the totality of knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for professional practice and implies a minimum level of proficiency. AAPA believes it is the ethical responsibility of the practicing PA to maintain a level of competency sufficient to practice medicine safely and effectively. PAs are committed to updating knowledge and skills through lifelong learning and keeping abreast of emerging knowledge and technologies. A component of that commitment is demonstrated by participating in continuing medical education activities."*

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) in its recent mission statement outlining goals for the next 3 years indicated it would continue to recognize the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) as an essential indicator of professional competence to physician assistants. The NCCPA requires PAs to pass this exam after training and every 6 years thereafter to maintain certification. PAs in Nevada must be current in national certification to be eligible for and maintain their Nevada license.

It is paramount that all practicing PAs recognize the multi-dimensional aspects of competency. Continued professional competency has many aspects not only limited to the PANCE. Continued professional competency is a periodic assessment of strengths and deficiencies, and implies continued participation in educational activities emphasizing clinical skills on an ongoing basis. As PAs, it behooves us to keep current not only in the respective specialties we may practice, but in primary medicine as well. A commitment to 'lifelong professional learning' is not only an ethical and professional responsibility ensuring safe and effective medical practice, but is also becoming a regulatory requirement.

## **A WORD FROM THE PRACTITIONER OF RESPIRATORY CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD**

By: Michael J. Garcia, RRT, Practitioner of Respiratory Care Advisor  
Steven E. Kessinger, CRTT, Practitioner of Respiratory Care Advisor  
Donald W. Wright, RRT, Practitioner of Respiratory Care Advisor

As respiratory care practitioners look toward license renewal after the turn of the year, the Practitioner of Respiratory Care Advisory Committee of the Board recommends that each licensed practitioner review continuing education responsibilities, and continue to maintain no less than the minimum required contact hours. This article will briefly review the continuing education requirements listed in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 630.530), and provide the current list of approved educational resource sites.

At the time of license renewal, each licensed practitioner must submit proof of satisfactory completion of the following number of contact hours of continuing professional education, sixty percent (60%) of which must be from an approved educational source directly related to the practice of respiratory care, and the remainder of which must be from an educational source approved by the board, and include two (2) contact hours in ethics.

For instance, if a practitioner was initially licensed sometime during the first six months of 2001 and applies for biennial renewal, he/she will need to submit proof of completion of twenty (20) continuing hours of professional education. All twenty hours must come from educational sources approved by the board. Twelve (12) of those twenty hours must be directly related to the practice of respiratory care, and two (2) of those twenty hours must be in ethics. If the practitioner was initially licensed at some point after the first six months of 2001, the following sliding scale requirements are applicable:

- 1. If licensed during the second six months of the biennial period of registration - fifteen (15) hours, nine (9) of which must be directly related to respiratory care.*
- 2. If licensed during the third six months of the biennial period of registration - ten (10) hours, six (6) of which must be directly related to respiratory care.*
- 3. If licensed during the fourth six months of the biennial period of registration - five (5) hours, three (3) of which must be directly related to respiratory care.*

All practitioners seeking renewal must complete two (2) hours of continuing professional education in the subject matter of ethics.

The board has approved the following sources of continuing professional education:

The American Medical Association  
The American Association for Respiratory Care  
any American State Board of Respiratory Care  
any American State Board of Nursing  
The Center for Disease Control  
The American Lung Association  
The American Heart Association  
The Red Cross of America  
American Nurses Association



*Doctor, Anesthesiologist, Addict.*

*I am an early middle-aged anesthesiologist; board certified and experienced. In the past I was viewed by my peers as competent, efficient and one possessing leadership quality. Typical of most physicians in general and anesthesiologists in particular, I had no problem subordinating my life to the practice of medicine. Not one to say no, I served on many committees and as Chief of my department for five years, while maintaining a full load of clinical responsibilities within my group practice. Eighty to one hundred hour workweeks was commonplace. Loneliness, exhaustion, anxiety, anger and resentment were my constant companions. My family life was virtually nonexistent. My wife and children were strangers to me. I had no friends outside of my group and no social life to speak of. Exercise or recreation was something akin to a fantasy. Never mind trying to find an adequate adjective to describe my life. The truth is I had no life. As we say in recovery circles "my life had become unmanageable," even before the specter of the disease of addiction reared its ugly head.*

*The disease of addiction was rampant throughout my family, through multiple generations. In addition to my parents, it had claimed several of my older siblings as well. As an adult child of alcoholic parents I had assiduously avoided alcohol, thinking that if I simply didn't drink then I couldn't become an alcoholic. What I failed to appreciate was that I possessed the genetic predisposition for the disease of addiction, and that it was only a matter of time before I discovered my "drug of choice".*

*That discovery came at age thirty-nine, while at the pinnacle of my financial and career success. My drug of choice became sufentanil, a potent, short acting opiate used as a component of anesthesia during many major procedures such as open heart surgery and joint reconstructions. Although it can be inhaled nasally, I chose to inject it intravenously.*

*Initially the drug "worked" for me. It allowed me to escape the fear, anxiety, loneliness, depression and self-critical thoughts, which plagued me. In no time at all however, as with all drugs of abuse (alcohol is a drug) the sufentanil stopped working. Opiate dependency and addiction were all that I was left with. Within several months I looked like a typical "street junkie". The only difference between them and me was the endless ready source of sterile supplies and drugs, and the size of my bank account.*

*My thoughts were almost totally preoccupied with the drug as I descended further and further into the horrors of active addiction. My life became a continual, daily struggle to obtain enough sufentanil, by any means necessary, to allow me to stay ahead of the horrible syndrome of acute withdrawal. The disease co-opted every element of my life. It took from me my integrity, my spirituality, my sense of moral direction and honesty. I shunned my family, friends and colleagues. I scheduled myself at the hospital more and more in order to be close to my supply. I cancelled vacations and quit going to church. My patient care began to suffer as well.*

*Fortunately, before I could harm a patient, or kill myself, two loving partners, who, having observed my deterioration over several months, finally had the courage to break through their own denial, and refuse to believe my excuses and lies any longer. With the help of Carol Bowers, R.N., C.A.C., who serves as the Executive Director of the Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation, an intervention was scheduled at my hospital. As a direct result of her caring and professional interaction, the intervention was a success. I immediately entered treatment at Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta; arguably the finest facility specially suited for the particular needs of anesthesiologists and other health care professionals. I spent fifteen weeks in treatment there before returning to Nevada.*

*The treatment experience was the best thing that ever happened to me. Not only did I enjoy my time there immensely, but it also allowed me to face my own personal Goliath's and finally deal with them through the multifaceted treatment approach unique to Recovery. In addition, I learned to love and embrace the 12-steps of recovery as suggested by Alcoholics Anonymous, and the fellowship found therein. I continue that association here today. Perhaps most important, I found the courage to admit that for me, a return to the insanity and temptation of a career in anesthesia was far too dangerous, and so "retired" from active practice upon my return.*

*To me, recovery from chemical dependency is defined as learning a "new way of life through a new way of thinking." It is much more than just being abstinent from drugs or alcohol. It is about finding spiritual solutions to the challenges life brings to us all. I have been blessed with that new life, a better, more fulfilling and balanced life. A life that has allowed me to reconnect with my family, my spirituality and my God. As a result, almost five years later I continue to enjoy serenity, peace, love and happiness more often than not; even as I embark on a new path as a medical administrator. In conclusion, I am grateful for the intervention which allowed me to find a pathway to recovery from active addiction. It rescued a family from certain oblivion. It not only saved my life but undoubtedly other innocent lives as well. I am grateful my license to practice medicine was preserved as a result of the enlightened thinking of the Medical Board. Their willingness to accept addiction as the disease it is, and not as a moral issue, has led them to provide a mechanism through the Diversion Program of the Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation, whereby impaired practitioners can safely seek and obtain treatment, and be returned to practice as healthy, productive members of the medical community. I encourage anyone who is concerned, to contact Carol Bowers, R.N., C.A.C. at 702-521-1398 or 702-233-6393 right away. The life you save may very well be your own.*

The purpose of the Diversion Program is to provide physicians, physicians assistants, osteopaths, and practitioners of respiratory care confidential means of seeking and obtaining evaluation, treatment and monitoring for addictive disease, disruptive behavior and mental or physical impairment. We currently have 65 participants under contract with an additional 100+ participants who have successfully completed their monitoring contracts. Diversion works. The Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation is contracted by the State Board of Medical Examiners as well as the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, to administer the Diversion program in the state of Nevada.

We currently have two Caduceus groups, one in Northern Nevada and one in Southern Nevada. These groups serve as a place for the physician to be with peers and discuss issues pertaining to chemical dependency. In addition to the Caduceus groups, there are weekly therapy groups in both regions as well.

The Foundation is available to the hospitals for presentations on addiction, disruptive behaviors, or to explain the role and functioning of the Diversion Program. Dr. Vic Rueckl, Dr. Roger Belcourt, Dr. Timothy Coughlin, Dr. Rex Baggett, Dr. Jerry

Cade and I are available upon request. The Foundation can and will assist you with any difficulties you are experiencing with physician health.

*Do you know a colleague who needs help?*

**Call the Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation  
for confidential, expert assistance.**

**Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation  
Carol R. Bowers, R.N.,C.D., Executive Director  
(702) 233-6393 OR (702) 521-1398 fax: (702) 242-3560**

**The board appreciates the hard work and dedication  
of the Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation  
in helping its licensees to continue safe practice  
in the state of Nevada.**

**Your tax deductible contribution to the  
Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation  
to assist in its important service to physicians,  
physician assistants and practitioners of respiratory  
care in administering a Diversion Program  
would be greatly appreciated.**

*Thank you for your generosity and support.*

**Contributions may be made payable to  
Nevada Health Professionals Assistance Foundation  
and mailed to:  
NHPAF  
10525 Cerotto Ln  
Las Vegas, NV 89135**

## **PREJUDICIAL AND NON-PREJUDICIAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST MEDICAL DOCTORS AS REPORTED TO THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS**

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>REVOCAATION</u> | <u>PROBATION</u> | <u>SUSPENSION</u> | <u>MISCELLANEOUS *</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 2002        | 8                  | 1                |                   | 11                     | 20           |
| 2001        | 12                 | 4                |                   | 4                      | 20           |
| 2000        | 12                 | 1                |                   | 3                      | 16           |
| 1999        | 10                 | 1                |                   | 4                      | 15           |
| 1998        | 8                  | 5                |                   | 3                      | 16           |
| 1997        | 8                  | 2                |                   | 6                      | 16           |
| 1996        | 9                  | 7                |                   | 4                      | 20           |
| 1995        | 1                  | 1                | 2                 | 21                     | 25           |
| 1994        | 2                  | 4                |                   | 8                      | 14           |
| 1993        | 1                  | 3                | 1                 | 10                     | 15           |
| 1992        | 3                  |                  | 1                 | 9                      | 13           |
| 1991        | 3                  |                  |                   | 10                     | 13           |
| 1990        | 1                  | 2                |                   | 11                     | 14           |
| 1989        | 2                  | 1                | 1                 | 8                      | 12           |
| 1988        | 6                  | 4                | 2                 | 5                      | 17           |
| 1987        | 2                  | 4                | 3                 | 3                      | 12           |
| 1986        | 2                  | 1                | 1                 | 3                      | 7            |
| 1985        | 11                 | 3                | 3                 | 11                     | 28           |

\* **MISCELLANEOUS actions include:** - License Restriction, Public Reprimand, Licensure Denied, CME Ordered, Drug or Alcohol Treatment Program Ordered, or Competency Exams (Medical, Physical, Mental) Ordered

## **LICENSURE STATISTICS - MEDICAL DOCTORS**

| <b>YEAR:</b>                               | 1987        | 1988        | 1989        | 1990        | 1991        | 1992        | 1993        | 1994        | 1995        | 1996        | 1997        | 1998        | 1999        | 2000        | 2001        | 2002        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>COUNTY</b>                              |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Carson City                                | 66          | 74          | 72          | 73          | 79          | 90          | 88          | 95          | 98          | 104         | 110         | 109         | 115         | 127         | 125         | 137         |
| Churchill                                  | 13          | 14          | 12          | 11          | 13          | 11          | 13          | 17          | 19          | 19          | 20          | 24          | 25          | 22          | 21          | 21          |
| Clark                                      | 789         | 871         | 919         | 1021        | 1114        | 1199        | 1299        | 1418        | 1517        | 1701        | 1763        | 1907        | 2023        | 2153        | 2314        | 2321        |
| Douglas                                    | 21          | 21          | 23          | 28          | 22          | 24          | 30          | 36          | 37          | 43          | 48          | 54          | 57          | 63          | 67          | 72          |
| Elko                                       | 23          | 21          | 23          | 29          | 25          | 24          | 21          | 26          | 29          | 39          | 39          | 41          | 43          | 48          | 50          | 48          |
| Esmeralda                                  | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Eureka                                     | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 2           | 2           | 1           | 1           | 2           | 1           | 2           |
| Humboldt                                   | 5           | 6           | 5           | 5           | 6           | 6           | 5           | 5           | 5           | 7           | 7           | 8           | 9           | 8           | 7           | 6           |
| Lander                                     | 3           | 3           | 3           | 1           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 3           | 2           | 2           | 3           | 3           |
| Lincoln                                    | 2           | 2           | 2           | 3           | 2           | 1           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 3           | 3           | 3           | 3           | 4           | 2           | 3           |
| Lyon                                       | 5           | 5           | 7           | 6           | 4           | 4           | 4           | 5           | 4           | 6           | 7           | 5           | 6           | 7           | 10          | 14          |
| Mineral                                    | 5           | 5           | 3           | 3           | 3           | 3           | 5           | 6           | 6           | 7           | 6           | 6           | 5           | 5           | 5           | 6           |
| Nye  | 8           | 8           | 9           | 9           | 7           | 6           | 6           | 9           | 8           | 11          | 10          | 13          | 15          | 18          | 18          | 21          |
| Pershing                                   | 2           | 3           | 4           | 1           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 1           | 0           | 0           | 1           | 3           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 2           |
| Storey                                     | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Washoe                                     | 540         | 572         | 579         | 617         | 611         | 636         | 661         | 693         | 692         | 734         | 732         | 778         | 797         | 824         | 889         | 879         |
| White Pine                                 | 4           | 5           | 4           | 3           | 4           | 5           | 6           | 7           | 5           | 8           | 10          | 10          | 10          | 10          | 9           | 11          |
| <b>Total Active Status In-State</b>        | <b>1487</b> | <b>1611</b> | <b>1666</b> | <b>1811</b> | <b>1895</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2144</b> | <b>2322</b> | <b>2424</b> | <b>2686</b> | <b>2760</b> | <b>2965</b> | <b>3113</b> | <b>3295</b> | <b>3523</b> | <b>3546</b> |
| <b>Total Active Status Out-of-State</b>    | <b>168</b>  | <b>277</b>  | <b>212</b>  | <b>357</b>  | <b>287</b>  | <b>463</b>  | <b>459</b>  | <b>639</b>  | <b>516</b>  | <b>787</b>  | <b>676</b>  | <b>882</b>  | <b>800</b>  | <b>963</b>  | <b>824</b>  | <b>991</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL ACTIVE STATUS</b>                 | <b>1654</b> | <b>1888</b> | <b>1878</b> | <b>2168</b> | <b>2182</b> | <b>2477</b> | <b>2603</b> | <b>2961</b> | <b>2840</b> | <b>3473</b> | <b>3436</b> | <b>3847</b> | <b>3913</b> | <b>4258</b> | <b>4347</b> | <b>4537</b> |
| <b>Total Inactive and Retired Statuses</b> | <b>982</b>  | <b>981</b>  | <b>993</b>  | <b>987</b>  | <b>1031</b> | <b>1003</b> | <b>983</b>  | <b>960</b>  | <b>1068</b> | <b>1049</b> | <b>1174</b> | <b>1158</b> | <b>1099</b> | <b>1084</b> | <b>1033</b> | <b>1010</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LICENSED - ALL STATUSES</b>       | <b>2637</b> | <b>2869</b> | <b>2871</b> | <b>3155</b> | <b>3213</b> | <b>3480</b> | <b>3586</b> | <b>3921</b> | <b>4008</b> | <b>4522</b> | <b>4610</b> | <b>5005</b> | <b>5012</b> | <b>5342</b> | <b>5380</b> | <b>5547</b> |

**MEDICAL DOCTORS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS OF NEVADA FROM JULY 1987 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001**

- 1) Restricted licenses issued under NRS 630.164 (rural exemption): **34 licenses issued**
- 2) Temporary licenses issued to physicians in medically underserved rural areas: **71 licenses issued**
- 3) Unrestricted licenses issued to physicians in medically underserved rural areas: **128 licenses issued**
- 4) Temporary licenses issued to physicians in medically underserved urban areas: **66 licenses issued**
- 5) Unrestricted licenses issued to physicians in medically underserved urban areas: **39 licenses issued**

**LICENSURE / POPULATION STATISTICS - MEDICAL DOCTORS**

| <u>YEAR *</u> | <u>ACTIVE IN-STATE</u> | <u>NEW LICENSES</u> | <u>STATE POPULATION</u> | <u>RATIO OF ACTIVE IN-STATE M.D.'S PER 100,000 POPULATION</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1980          | 1,158                  | 201                 | 800,000                 | 144   |

|      |       |     |           |     |
|------|-------|-----|-----------|-----|
| 1981 | 1,196 | 285 | 851,150   | 140 |
| 1982 | 1,308 | 234 | 878,260   | 148 |
| 1983 | 1,367 | 199 | 905,660   | 151 |
| 1984 | 1,366 | 205 | 933,010   | 146 |
| 1985 | 1,442 | 192 | 969,370   | 148 |
| 1986 | 1,524 | 134 | 1,010,280 | 151 |
| 1987 | 1,487 | 142 | 1,057,030 | 141 |
| 1988 | 1,611 | 216 | 1,124,650 | 143 |
| 1989 | 1,666 | 199 | 1,197,260 | 139 |
| 1990 | 1,811 | 202 | 1,283,490 | 141 |
| 1991 | 1,895 | 233 | 1,300,000 | 146 |
| 1992 | 2,014 | 241 | 1,348,400 | 149 |
| 1993 | 2,144 | 308 | 1,389,000 | 154 |
| 1994 | 2,322 | 333 | 1,493,000 | 155 |
| 1995 | 2,424 | 331 | 1,583,000 | 153 |
| 1996 | 2,686 | 427 | 1,638,000 | 158 |
| 1997 | 2,760 | 442 | 1,741,000 | 159 |
| 1998 | 2,965 | 391 | 1,875,000 | 158 |
| 1999 | 3,113 | 377 | 2,034,000 | 153 |
| 2000 | 3,295 | 411 | 2,115,000 | 156 |
| 2001 | 3,523 | 383 | 2,133,000 | 165 |
| 2002 | 3,565 | 335 | 2,206,000 | 162 |

\* CALENDAR YEAR (JANUARY - DECEMBER)

|                     |                                     |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>1980 - 2002:</b> | Total new licenses issued           | <b>6,421</b>     |
| <b>23 years</b>     | Average new licenses per year       | <b>279</b>       |
|                     | Net gain in population              | <b>1,406,000</b> |
|                     | Net gain in M.D.'s                  | <b>2,407</b>     |
|                     | Average net gain in M.D.'s per year | <b>105</b>       |

### LICENSURE STATISTICS - PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

For year 2002 there were 223 physician assistants holding licensure in Nevada. 54 physician assistants were licensed for the first time by the BME during 2002. The chart below reflects a breakdown of the number of licensed physician's assistants practicing in Nevada, by county, from 1992 through 2002.

| <u>YEAR</u>   | 1992      | 1993      | 1994      | 1995      | 1996       | 1997       | 1998       | 1999       | 2000       | 2001       | 2002       |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>COUNTY</u> |           |           |           |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Carson City   | 5         | 5         | 5         | 3         | 3          | 2          | 5          | 7          | 9          | 11         | 11         |
| Churchill     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 2          | 2          | 3          | 3          |
| Clark         | 40        | 44        | 58        | 72        | 72         | 77         | 94         | 118        | 116        | 129        | 153        |
| Douglas       | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          | 2          | 4          | 4          |
| Elko          | 1         | 2         | 4         | 4         | 4          | 7          | 9          | 6          | 6          | 6          | 7          |
| Esmeralda     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Eureka        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 1          |
| Humboldt      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          |
| Lander        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Lincoln       | 1         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Lyon          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1          | 2          | 2          | 4          | 4          | 2          | 1          |
| Mineral       | 1         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 2          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 2          | 2          |
| Nye           | 4         | 4         | 3         | 3         | 3          | 3          | 3          | 6          | 8          | 6          | 8          |
| Pershing      | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Storey        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Washoe        | 3         | 4         | 7         | 10        | 10         | 18         | 23         | 26         | 25         | 28         | 30         |
| White Pine    | 1         | 1         | 1         | 2         | 2          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 2          | 2          | 2          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>56</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>98</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>113</b> | <b>141</b> | <b>174</b> | <b>174</b> | <b>176</b> | <b>194</b> |

### LICENSURE STATISTICS - PRACTITIONERS OF RESPIRATORY CARE

184 practitioners of respiratory care were licensed for the first time by the BME during 2002. The chart below reflects a breakdown of the number of licensed practitioners of respiratory care practicing in Nevada, by county, from 2001 through 2002.

| <u>YEAR</u>   | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>COUNTY</u> |             |             |
| Carson City   | 11          | 14          |
| Churchill     | 5           | 4           |
| Clark         | 399         | 449         |
| Douglas       | 12          | 19          |
| Elko          | 6           | 6           |
| Esmeralda     | 0           | 0           |
| Eureka        | 0           | 0           |
| Humboldt      | 4           | 10          |
| Lander        | 2           | 2           |
| Lincoln       | 2           | 2           |
| Lyon          | 10          | 16          |
| Mineral       | 2           | 2           |
| Nye           | 7           | 15          |
| Pershing      | 0           | 0           |
| Storey        | 1           | 1           |
| Washoe        | 122         | 154         |
| White Pine    | 2           | 1           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>587</b>  | <b>748</b>  |

### **BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FEBRUARY 2003 THROUGH JULY 2003**

#### **ABEYATUNGE, Lambert R., M.D. (Las Vegas, NV)**

**Complaint Filed: 10/09/02 - Charged with: 1) Count One - violation of NRS 630.301(4), operating in the wrong area, not having previously marked the proper area for the operation, constituting malpractice; and 2) Count Two - violation of NRS 630.306(2)(a), engaging in conduct intended to deceive.**

**Board Action: 04/07/03 - The board found Dr. Abeyatunge guilty of Count One and NOT guilty of Count Two of the Complaint. The board ordered that Dr. Abeyatunge receive a public written reprimand, be fined \$2,000.00, successfully complete ten hours of CME approved in advance by the board's Secretary-Treasurer, and pay all administrative costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the case against him in the amount of \$9,344.00.**

#### **BOVELLE, Renee Claudia Bovelle, M.D. (Las Vegas, NV)**

**Complaint Filed: 11/13/02 - Charged with one count of violation of NRS 630.306(5), practicing medicine in the state of Nevada after having registered her license in inactive status and not having an active license to practice medicine in the state of Nevada.**

**Board Action: 06/24/03 - The board ordered that Dr. Bovelle receive a public written reprimand, be fined \$5,000.00, successfully complete two hours of CME in the area of medical ethics, and pay all administrative costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the case against her in the amount of \$2,657.84.**

#### **CONTE, Richard R., M.D. (Carson City, NV)**

**Complaint Filed: 03/24/03 - Charged with four counts of violation of NRS 630.301(1), conviction of three counts of felony and an offense involving moral turpitude.**

**Voluntary Surrender of License: 05/31/03 - Dr. Conte waived his rights to a hearing, an appeal and any other rights that may be accorded him under NRS 630 and 233B, and entered into a Stipulation for Settlement of the Complaint filed against him in which he voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine in the state of Nevada while under investigation by the board.**

**Board Action: 06/05/03 - The board accepted Dr. Conte's voluntary surrender of his license to practice medicine in the state of Nevada while under investigation by the board effective May 31, 2003.**

#### **MOWER, Kenneth D., M.D. (Las Vegas, NV)**

**Complaint Filed: 11/20/02 - Charged with: 1) Count One - prescribing a lethal dose of an opiate to a patient constituting malpractice, which may be evidenced by claims settled against a practitioner, a violation of NRS 630.301(4); and 2) Count Two - his continuing practice of medicine during the pendency of the time necessary for a hearing on the Complaint would endanger the health, safety, and welfare of his patients, requiring emergency action and the summary suspension of his license.**

**Summary Suspension of License: 11/21/02 - The board summarily suspended Dr. Mower's license to practice medicine in Nevada during the pendency of the time necessary for a hearing on the Complaint.**

**Board Action: 06/24/02 - The board revoked Dr. Mower's license to practice medicine in the state of Nevada and ordered that he pay all administrative costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the case against him in the amount of \$46,006.72.**

### **SCHMERLER, Elliott D., M.D. (Reno, NV)**

**Complaint Filed: 11/13/02 - Charged with one count of violation of NRS 630.301(1), the conviction of a Felony under the laws of the United States of America and on count of violation of NRS 630.301(1), an offense involving moral turpitude.**

**Board Action: 04/07/03 - The board revoked Dr. Schmerler's license to practice medicine in Nevada, and ordered that he be fined \$5,000.00 per count for a total of \$10,000.00 and pay all administrative costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the case against him in the amount of \$7,296.52.**

### **SELKIN, Robert P., M.D. (Charlotte, NC)**

**Complaint Filed: 11/13/02 - Charged with one count of violation of NRS 630.306(5), practicing medicine in the state of Nevada after the registration of his inactive status license and not having an active status license to practice medicine in the state of Nevada.**

**Board Action: 06/18/02 - The board accepted and approved a Stipulation for Settlement of the Complaint filed against Dr. Selkin, and ordered that he - having waived his rights to a hearing, an appeal and any other rights that may be accorded him under NRS 630 and 233B - be issued a public reprimand, pay the sum of \$9,250.00 as disgorgement of payments which he received while not licensed in the state of Nevada to practice medicine, which payment shall be used by the board for future public protection enforcement and public awareness efforts, and be fined \$1,000.00.**

### **STEIN, Jeffrey, M.D. (Reno, NV)**

**Board Action: 01/29/03 - Charged with one count of violation of NRS 630.301(4), attempting to obtain a license to practice medicine by fraud and one count of violation of NRS 630.306(2)(a), engaging in conduct intended to deceive.**

**Board Action: 04/23/03 - The board ordered that Dr. Stein receive a public written reprimand, be fined \$2,000.00 per count for a total of \$4,000.00, successfully complete six hours of CME in the area of medical ethics approved in advance by the board's Secretary-Treasurer, and pay all administrative costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the case against him in the amount of \$2,819.02.**

### **WATSON, Robert W., M.D. (Reno, NV)**

**Complaint Filed: 12/12/02 - Charged with one count of violation of NRS 630.3065(2)(a), failure to comply with an order of the board's investigative committee.**

**Board Action: 06/24/03 - The board ordered that Dr. Watson receive a public written reprimand, be fined \$5,000.00, successfully complete two hours of CME, and pay all administrative costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the case against him in the amount of \$6,055.26.**

## **PUBLIC REPRIMANDS ORDERED BY THE BOARD**

**JEFFREY STEIN, M.D.**

Dear Dr. Stein:

On July 24, 2003, the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners entered its amended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law,

and Order in Case No. 03-12784-1, wherein the Board found you guilty of engaging in the act of attempting to obtain a license to practice medicine by fraud or misrepresentation, and guilty of having engaged in conduct intended to deceive when you answered "NO" to question No. 31 on the application.

The Board ORDERED therein as follows:

1. That you be issued a public reprimand;
2. That you pay a fine in the sum of \$2,000.00;
3. That you complete six units of CME in ethics as approved by the Board Secretary within one year of the order; and,
4. That you pay all costs incurred by the Board in the disciplinary proceedings in the amount of \$2,819.02.

Accordingly, it is my unpleasant duty as President of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners to formally and publicly reprimand you for your conduct which has brought personal and professional discredit upon you, and which reflects unfavorably upon the medical profession as a whole.

*CHERYL A. HUG-ENGLISH, M.D., President*

### **ROBERT PETER SELKIN, M.D.**

Dear Dr. Selkin:

On March 7, 2003, the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners approved the stipulation for settlement entered into between you and the Investigative Committee.

In that stipulation you entered a plea of no contest to the allegations contained in the complaint, which alleged, that you, while registered Inactive in the state of Nevada and, after registering Inactive, practiced medicine in the state of Nevada in violation of the provisions of NRS 630.306(5).

As a result of your stipulated settlement and the approval thereof by the Board, the Board entered its ORDER as follows:

1. That you be issued a public reprimand.
2. That you pay the sum of NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (\$9,250.00) DOLLARS within thirty (30) days of the Order, as disgorgement of payments received by you while not licensed in the state of Nevada, said payment to the Board to be used by the Board for future public protection enforcement and public awareness efforts.
3. That you be fined the sum of ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLARS.

Accordingly, it is my unpleasant duty as President of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners to formally and publicly reprimand you for your conduct which has brought personal and professional discredit upon you, and which reflects unfavorably upon the medical profession as a whole.

*CHERYL A. HUG-ENGLISH, M.D., President*

## ***NOTIFICATION OF ADDRESS CHANGE***

Whenever a physician changes the location of his office, NRS 630.254 provides that:

*"Any licensee who changes the location of his office in-state shall notify the board of the change BEFORE practicing at the new location. Any licensee who closes his office in this state, shall notify the board of this occurrence within 14 days after the closure and for a period of 5 years thereafter keep the board apprized of the location of the medical records of his patients."*

**(Please send this Address Change Notice to: Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, PO Box 7238, Reno, NV 89510.)**

### **Address Change Notice:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Nevada License #: \_\_\_\_\_

