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September 20, 2016

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
1400 E Washington Ave
PO Box 7190
Madison WI 53707

RE: Complaint Number 16 MED 330

To Ms. Tseten:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated September 15, 2016. Please accept this response to the outrageous and demonstrably factually inaccurate anonymous claims raised in the letter attached to your correspondence.

I have recently reported to the Wisconsin Medical Board that I pled guilty to Driving While Intoxicated on August 31, 2016. The incident occurred on March 1, 2016 at approximately 945 PM and not in the afternoon as the complaint wrongfully asserts. Further, I was off-duty and not engaged in patient related activities at the time of the arrest. The assertion that the arrest was in the afternoon prior to surgery is outright false and incorrect.

Unfortunately, however, this represents a third lifetime offense, the first in 1991 followed by an offense in 2014 in Illinois. This assertion is correct and, as mentioned above, was reported to the Board in my letter dated August 31, 2016.

I notified my employer, Aurora Health Care Metro Medical Staff of Milwaukee immediately after my arrest and was immediately mandated to have an evaluation by an adult addiction specialist, Dr. Lance Longo prior to resuming my clinical duties. As I had not, nor have I ever been, involved in patient care or related activities when this or the other alcohol related events occurred, I was mandated by the Aurora Credentialing Committee to follow the terms of a Monitoring Agreement, with which I have remained in full compliance. The monitoring agreement is attached. I am currently under the care of psychiatrist, Dr. Lance Longo and treating psychotherapist Katherine Gerhardt. For your review and consideration, I have included letters from my treating physician Dr. Lance Longo and therapist, Katherine Gerhard, MSW, LCSW SAC that reflect their respective assessments and recommendations. The allegation that issues were "swept under the rug" is simply unfounded and misinformed.

As part of the agreement, I have undergone continuous urine drug and Breathalyzer testing since the arrest up to the present date. All tests have and will continue to

remain negative as I have embraced full abstinence from alcohol. A copy of the dates of these screening tests is also included. Therefore, the claim that I have not been undergoing urine tests is also false and without merit.

The claim, "that infection rates tripled after the arrest," is a non sequitur and there is no data offered that this is in any way accurate. I treat many complex patients with co-morbidities such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension and chronic steroid use –to name a few, which may increase risk of wound breakdown or dehiscence. These issues bear no relation to the OWI or my patient care in any respect. I continued with clinical duties in full compliance with all requirements made of me.

Competent and effective legal council was obtained in order to navigate through this personally tumultuous event, as is my legal right to do so.

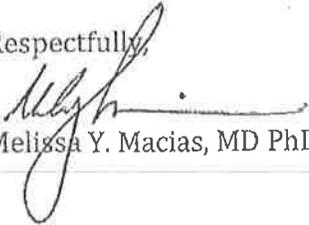
I bear full accountability for these actions and though they occurred outside of my clinical duties and I have never consumed alcohol or any other substance while engaged in patient care, I recognize the gravity of my actions. I am committed to full and complete abstinence from alcohol.

Please know that I am fully and unequivocally devoted to facing and addressing all facets of these events and will take all measures required to satisfy the Board that I remain alcohol free and that the safety and well being of my patients is never compromised.

I must emphasize that the allegations made by this anonymous health care provider are malicious and simply false, as outlined above. I have not endangered the safety of patient care in the past and nor will I in the future. I cannot address allegations made regarding other physicians, but am grateful for the opportunity to clarify the misinformation presented in this complaint.

In the event you believe additional information may be helpful, please contact me with questions related to this matter.

Respectfully,



Melissa Y. Macias, MD PhD

Cc: Michael Hart