



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe medical care.

Agenda Item #3

2005 Evergreen Street
Sacramento, CA 95815-5401
Phone: (916) 263-2382
Fax: (916) 263-2944
www.mbc.ca.gov

Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Department of Consumer Affairs

SPECIAL FACULTY PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

WEBEX

March 5, 2025

OPEN SESESION MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

James Healzer, M.D., Chair
Anni Chung, Vice Chair
Glenn Ault, M.D.
Neal Cohen, M.D.
Bruce Gewertz, M.D.
Jennifer Gullo, M.D.
Rajesh Gulati, M.D.
Mohammad Helmy, M.D.
Emily Lukacz, M.D.
Javed Siddiqi, M.D.
Pedro Paulo Tanaka, M.D.
Robert Whittington, M.D.

Members Absent:

Daniel Giang, M.D.
Susan Guralnick, M.D.

Staff Present:

Sean Eichelkraut, Information Technology Manager II
Dora Duran-Franco, Staff Services Manager I
Neal Funston, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Douglas Hock, Chief of Licensing
Kathryn Taylor, Staff Services Manager II
Kerrie Webb, Staff Counsel

Members of the Audience:

Sharon Lum, M.D.

Agenda Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Dr. Healzer called the meeting of the Special Faculty Permit Review Committee (Committee) of the Medical Board of California (Board) to order on March 5, 2025, at 10:11 a.m. A quorum was established. Dr. Healzer welcomed new members to the committee: Ms. Anni Chung, Public Member of the Board & Vice chair of the Committee, Dr. Rajesh Gulati representing UC Riverside, Dr. Jennifer Gullo representing California Northstate University, Dr. Emily Lukacz representing UC San Diego, Dr. Pedro Tanaka representing Stanford University.

Agenda Item 2 Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

No public comments were provided.

Agenda Item 3 Approval of the Minutes from the December 6, 2023, Special Faculty Permit Review Committee Meeting

No edits were requested for the December 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

There were no public comments on the December 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

Dr. Cohen made a motion to approve the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes; S:/ Dr. Gewertz. Motion carried (9-0-2; Dr. Giang and Dr. Guralnick absent. Ms. Chung had a connectivity issue. Dr. Gullo and Dr. Lukacz abstained).

Agenda Item 4 Application Presentation and Discussion

Dr. Lum presented Somnath Chattopadhyay's application for a Special Faculty Permit (SFP) at Loma Linda University School of Medicine pursuant to Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 2168.1. Dr. Gewertz inquired whether Dr. Chattopadhyay had any prior clinical practice in the U.S., such as through a fellowship or observership. Dr. Lum responded that Dr. Chattopadhyay completed a two-year American Society of Transplant Surgeons-approved abdominal transplant fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. It was a standard fellowship but notably demanding due to a shortage of transplant staff, which resulted in Dr. Chattopadhyay performing a higher-than-average number of procedures. During his fellowship, he independently performed kidney transplants and served as the primary surgeon for hepatic-portal vein anastomosis in other transplant procedures. There were no public comments for this application.

Dr. Gewertz presented Dr. Alexandre Gaston Michael Lellouch's application for an SFP at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center pursuant to BPC section 2168.1. There were no questions or comments from the Committee members. There were no public comments for this application.

Open session paused at 10:29 a.m. and the Committee reconvened in the Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(2), for deliberations under Agenda Item 5.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item 5 Committee Review and Recommendations

Closed session ended at 10:37 a.m., and the Committee reconvened in Open Session at 10:37 a.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Agenda Item 6 Committee Recommendations

Dr. Healzer reported that Dr. Somnath Chattopadhyay's application and qualifications were reviewed and discussed, and the Committee recommended approval for an SFP appointment.

Dr. Healzer reported that Dr. Alexandre Gaston Michael Lellouch's application and qualifications were reviewed and discussed, and the Committee recommended approval for an SFP appointment.

The applications will be reviewed at the May 2025 quarterly Board meeting.

Agenda Item 7 Adjournment

Dr. Healzer adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.