

SUMMARY

DR. MOHAMMED HADI I TAWHARI (CPSO# 95022)

1. Disposition

On December 6, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required nephrologist and internist Dr. Tawhari to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to his serious breach of professionalism.

The Committee also ordered Dr. Tawhari to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (SCERP). The SCERP requires Dr. Tawhari to:

- Attend and successfully complete the next available session of ProBE (Professional/Problem-Based Ethics) Canada Program
- Engage in self-directed learning related to ethics and professionalism including review of the CPSO publication, *The Practice Guide*, and preparation of a written summary of the document to be submitted to the College.

2. Introduction

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Tawhari's ethics and professionalism and, subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to examine Dr. Tawhari's practice. Specifically, while Dr. Tawhari was a Fellow in the renal transplant program at McMaster University, Hamilton, he contravened both the terms of his registration with the College and his education program by calling in sick to his education program in order to work for pay in another hospital system.

3. Committee Process

A General Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the investigation. The Committee always has before it applicable legislation and regulations, along with policies that the College has developed, which reflect the College's professional expectations for physicians practising in Ontario. Current versions of these documents are available on the College's website at www.cpso.on.ca, under the heading "Policies & Publications."

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee noted that Dr. Tawhari acknowledged that what he had done was unethical and unprofessional and that he has also expressed remorse for his actions and completed remediation to the satisfaction of his educational program. The Committee recognized a number of mitigating factors, including that Dr. Tawhari was apparently experiencing financial pressure when his funding through the Saudi government apparently ended, and that once his actions were reported to his program director he cooperated with the process for addressing his breach of the program.

The Committee noted, however, exacerbating factors in Dr. Tawhari's actions, including: he was not forthright or honest with his program director that he was planning to "moonlight" when requesting documents in order to obtain his independent licence; his funding through Saudi Arabia directed that residents/fellows not apply for licensure in Ontario; he was dishonest with various people and lied repeatedly during the time he was working as a locum before his program director learned what he was doing. Dr. Tawhari was also not honest in his interactions with the College. Finally, Dr. Tawhari could have put patients at risk by calling in sick to his education program and cancelling clinics as a result, or working in Nephrology after doing overnight call at the other hospital.

Given the Committee's concern that Dr. Tawhari's behaviour represents a serious and troubling breach of professionalism, and considering Dr. Tawhari's plans to continue practising in Ontario, the Committee determined that a caution and SCERP were appropriate dispositions in this matter.