

## **SUMMARY**

### **DR. WALID ABAWI (CPSO# 626855)**

#### **1. Disposition**

On May 3, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required general surgeon Dr. Abawi to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to inappropriate behaviour in the workplace.

#### **2. Introduction**

The College’s Compliance Monitoring department provided information to the Committee regarding three reports from Dr. Abawi’s workplace monitor, who was put in place as a result of a 2014 order of the College’s Discipline Committee. The Committee approved the Registrar’s appointment of investigators to conduct a review of these incidents.

Dr. Abawi provided information and responses about each of three incidents which the workplace monitor had reported to the College.

#### **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.cpsso.on.ca](http://www.cpsso.on.ca), under the heading “Policies & Publications.”

#### **4. Committee’s Analysis**

The Committee noted that the 2006 incident which ultimately led to the Discipline finding involved Dr. Abawi’s conduct with a colleague in the workplace. This history helped provide the context in which the Committee viewed Dr. Abawi’s more recent behaviour. While each of the

three recent incidents reported by the workplace monitor might individually be characterized as relatively minor, taken together, the reports suggest that Dr. Abawi has a continuing problem with impulse control. He has experienced continued friction in the workplace with both patients and colleagues. Further, these reports of inappropriate behaviour or communications emerged during a period when Dr. Abawi was (and knew he was) under monitoring. It is of the utmost importance that Dr. Abawi ensure his workplace interactions are professional.

The Committee therefore determined that the appropriate disposition was to require Dr. Abawi to attend the College to be cautioned regarding inappropriate behaviour in the workplace.