

SUMMARY

Dr. Elena Bulakhtina (CPSO# 88309)

1. Dispositions

On September 11, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) ordered forensic pathologist Dr. Bulakhtina to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Bulakhtina to:

- complete one-on-one coaching in communications, to be facilitated by the College

2. Introduction

The College obtained information from the Chief Forensic Pathologist for Ontario, which raised concerns regarding Dr. Bulakhtina’s professional conduct. The Chief Forensic Pathologist advised the College that Dr. Bulakhtina’s status as a pathologist was changed to a Category B (routine cases only) and that he was discussing a suspension and remediation plan with her to address deficiencies identified in her practice in her role of Collaborator, Communicator and Manager.

In August 2016, the Committee approved the Registrar’s appointment of investigators under section 75(1)(a) of the Code to examine Dr. Bulakhtina’s practice.

3. Committee Process

A Mental Health Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the complaint. 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's investigation raised concerns regarding Dr. Bulakhtina's professionalism, in particular, her interactions with colleagues, both verbally and in writing.

During the course of the investigation, the Chief Forensic Pathologist confirmed that Dr. Bulakhtina had successfully completed the remediation negotiated with her, and that she had returned to practising as a Category A Forensic Pathologist with conditions.

However, in light of the consistent concerns that had been raised over several years regarding Dr. Bulakhtina's interpersonal relationships with Colleagues and her verbal and written communications, and the fundamental importance of good communication in the practice of medicine, the Committee felt that it was appropriate to require Dr. Bulakhtina to engage in a remediation program, as set out above.