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8	BEFOR	E THE	
9	BOARD OF F	PHARMACY	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CO STATE OF CO		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 4578	
13	BALBOA PHARMACY		
14	6465 Balboa Avenue, #101 San Diego, CA 92111	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION	
15	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 53437		
16	and	e e	
17	ROBERT YASMEH 13652 Winstanley Way		
18	San Diego, CA 92130		
19	Pharmacist License No. RPH 48357		
20	Respondents.		
21			
22	Complainant alleges:		
23	PARTIES		
24	Virginia Herold (Complainant) brings	this First Amended Accusation solely in her	
25	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer		
26	Affairs.		
27	2. On or about January 18, 2002, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit No.		
28	PHY 45633 to Robert Yasmeh, to do business as Balboa Pharmacy. On or about April 7, 2008,		
	1		

the Board issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45633 to RTY Pharmaceutical Inc., to do business as Balboa Pharmacy (Respondent Balboa Pharmacy). On or about April 17, 2015, Respondent Balboa Pharmacy moved addresses to 6465 Balboa Avenue, Ste. 101 in San Diego, California, 92111 and subsequently cancelled Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45633. On or about April 17, 2015, the Board issued Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 53437 to Respondent Balboa Pharmacy at their new location. The Pharmacy Permit PHY 53437 will expire on April 1, 2016, unless renewed.

3. On or about September 1, 1995, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 48357 to Robert Yasmeh (Respondent Yasmeh). The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2015, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 4. This First Amended Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 6. Section 4300(a) of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
  - 7. Section 4300.1 of the Code states:

The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license.

#### REGULATORY PROVISIONS

15. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1709.1(a) states that "[t]he pharmacist-in-charge of a pharmacy shall be employed at that location and shall have responsibility for the daily operation of the pharmacy."

#### **COST RECOVERY**

16. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

# **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 17. Since January 18, 2002, Respondent Yasmeh has been the Pharmacist-in-Charge (PIC) of Respondent Balboa Pharmacy. Respondent Balboa Pharmacy has never been licensed as a wholesaler by the Board of Pharmacy.
- 18. From March 12, 2010 to July 15, 2011, Respondents sold or furnished 650 dangerous drugs to three wholesalers, on 187 different occasions (631 different invoice/prescription numbers) for total sales in the amount of \$415,490.37. The three wholesalers that Respondents sold to were Dubin Medical Inc., Vital Healthcare and Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals, Inc.<sup>1</sup>
- 19. The drug ordering process with Dubin Medical Inc., was as follows: Dubin Medical representatives contacted Respondents with desired drugs and quantities; Dubin Medical then provided a purchase order; Respondents documented the sales in their computer system with Dubin Medical as the patient and doctor and listed the drugs as if they were filled as a prescription; Dubin Medical sent a delivery person to sign for and pick up the medications from Respondents; and Dubin Medical sent a check to Respondents based on the price listed on the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On or about November 13, 2002, the Board of Pharmacy issued Wholesaler Permit Number 4212 to Dubin Medical Inc., to do business and Dubin Medical Inc. Vital Healthcare LLC and Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals, Inc., hold Wholesaler Out-of-State Distributor (OSD) Licenses with the Board of Pharmacy.

patient printout provided by Respondents at pick up. From May 12, 2010 to July 15, 2011, Respondents sales for dangerous drugs sold to Dubin Medical totaled \$401,168.50.

20. The drug ordering process with Vital Health Care and Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals, Inc., was as follows: Respondents would receive a request (purchase order) for short supply items; if the items were available or if the allocation was anticipated, Respondents filled the order; the purchase order request was entered into the pharmacy software and invoiced by the pharmacy system; Respondents would invoice and package the items; the package was shipped or picked up by the company representative. From March 12, 2010 to September 20, 2010, Respondents sales for dangerous drugs to Vital Healthcare and Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals were \$3,790.00 and \$10,531.87, respectively.

# **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

# (Functioning as an Unlicensed Wholesaler)

21. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating section 4160 of the Code, in that Respondents "sold" or furnished dangerous drugs to Dubin Medical and by doing so acted as an unlicensed wholesaler, as set forth in paragraphs 17 through 20, which are incorporated herein by reference.

#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

## (Selling Dangerous Drugs Under Unauthorized Conditions)

22. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating pharmacy law, by selling or furnishing dangerous drugs to Dubin Medical under unauthorized conditions, in violation of Code section 4126.5, as set forth in paragraphs 17 through 20, which are incorporated herein by reference.

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (General Unprofessional Conduct)

23. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, for general unprofessional conduct in that Respondents acted as a purchasing agent for wholesalers and removed drugs from normal distribution to increase the wholesaler's supply of a scare drug, thereby affecting the allocation system implemented by the manufacturer and authorized

distributors of the drug, as set forth in paragraphs 17 through 20, which are incorporated herein by reference.

## FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Failing to Deliver Dangerous Drugs)

24. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating Code section 4059.5(a), in that Respondents did not deliver dangerous drugs to the licensed premises, but instead allowed a representative of the wholesaler to pick up the drugs at Respondent Balboa Pharmacy, as set forth in paragraphs 17 through 20, which are incorporated herein by reference.

#### **DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 25. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondents, Complainant alleges:
- 26. On or about August 9, 2011, the Board of Pharmacy issued Citation No. CI 2010 47313 to Respondent Balboa Pharmacy for violation of California Code of Regulations, Title 16, sections 1714(c) and 1716 and Business and Professions Code section 4115(e), in that on April 14, 2011, Respondent allowed an non-licensed individual to perform the duties of a pharmacy technician, dispensed a prescription that varied from the dosage as written on the prescription and the pharmacy did not have hot running water for use. The Board assessed a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00 and Respondent Balboa Pharmacy complied with Citation No. CI 2010 47313.
- 27. On or about August 9, 2011, the Board of Pharmacy issued Citation No. CI 2011 49175 to Respondent Yasmeh for violation of California Code of Regulations, Title 16, sections 1714(c) and 1716 and Business and Professions Code section 4115(e), as set forth in paragraph 26, above. The Board assessed a fine the in amount of \$575.00 and Respondent Yasmeh complied with Citation No. CI 2011 49175.
- 28. On or about October 12, 2012, the Board of Pharmacy issued Citation No. CI 2011 48852 to Respondent Balboa Pharmacy for violation of Business and Professions Code sections 4126.5(a)(4) and 4059(b), for illegally furnishing dangerous drugs to a wholesaler, Optimal Pharmaceutical, and for failing to correctly or accurately list the quantities of dangerous drugs on

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7	Telephone: (619) 645-2143 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061	
8	Attorneys for Complainant	
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
10	STATEOF	LALIFORNIA
		Case No. 4578
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	·
13 14	BALBOA PHARMACY 5222 Balboa Avenue San Diego, CA 92117	ACCUSATION
15	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45633	·
16	and	
17	ROBERT YASMEH	
18	13652 Winstanley Way San Diego, CA 92130	
19	Pharmacist License No. RPH 48357	
20	Respondents.	
21		
22	Complainant alleges:	
23	PAR	TIES
24	1. Virginia Herold (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity	
25	as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs.	
26	2. On or about January 18, 2002, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit	
27	Number PHY 45633 to Robert Yasmeh, to do business as Balboa Pharmacy. On or about April 7	
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business as Balboa Pharmacy (Respondent Balboa Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 1, 2016, unless renewed.

3. On or about September 1, 1995, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 48357 to Robert Yasmeh (Respondent Yasmeh). The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2015, unless renewed.

#### JURISDICTION

- 4. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 6. Section 4300(a) of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
  - 7. Section 4300.1 of the Code states:

The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license.

### STATUTORY PROVISIONS

8. Section 4022 of the Code states:

Dangerous drug" or "dangerous device" means any drug or device unsafe for self-use in humans or animals, and includes the following:

- (a) Any drug that bears the legend: "Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription," "Rx only," or words of similar import.
- (b) Any device that bears the statement: "Caution: federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a \_\_\_\_\_," "Rx only," or words of similar import,

the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the device.

- (c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006.
- 9. Section 4043 of the Code, in pertinent part, defines "wholesaler" to mean and include "a person who acts as a wholesale merchant, broker, jobber, customs broker, reverse distributor, agent, or a nonresident wholesaler, who sells for resale, or negotiates for distribution, or takes possession of, any drug or device included in Section 4022."
  - 10. Section 4059.5, subdivision (a) of the Code states:

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, dangerous drugs or dangerous devices may only be ordered by an entity licensed by the board and shall be delivered to the licensed premises and signed for and received by a pharmacist. Where a licensee is permitted to operate through a designated representative, the designated representative shall sign for and receive the delivery.

- 11. Section 4113, subdivision (c) of the Code states: "The pharmacist-in-charge shall be responsible for a pharmacy's compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of pharmacy."
  - 12. Section 4126.5 of the Code states:
    - (a) A pharmacy may furnish dangerous drugs only to the following:
  - (1) A wholesaler owned or under common control by the wholesaler from whom the dangerous drug was acquired.
  - (2) The pharmaceutical manufacturer from whom the dangerous drug was acquired.
    - (3) A licensed wholesaler acting as a reverse distributor.
  - (4) Another pharmacy or wholesaler to alleviate a temporary shortage of a dangerous drug that could result in the denial of health care. A pharmacy furnishing dangerous drugs pursuant to this paragraph may only furnish a quantity sufficient to alleviate the temporary shortage.
  - (5) A patient or to another pharmacy pursuant to a prescription or as otherwise authorized by law.
  - (6) A health care provider that is not a pharmacy but that is authorized to purchase dangerous drugs.
    - (7) To another pharmacy under common control.
  - (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a violation of this section may subject the person or persons who committed the violation to a fine not to

exceed the amount specified in Section 125.9 for each occurrence pursuant to a citation issued by the board.

- (c) Amounts due from any person under this section on or after January 1, 2005, shall be offset as provided under Section 12419.5 of the Government Code. Amounts received by the board under this section shall be deposited into the Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund.
- (d) For purposes of this section, "common control" means the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of another person whether by ownership, by voting rights, by contract, or by other means.
- 13. Section 4160 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that a wholesaler license shall be required for a person or entity to act as a wholesaler, that every wholesaler shall be supervised or managed by a Designated Representative in Charge, and that the Designated Representative in Charge shall be responsible for the wholesaler's compliance with state and federal laws.
  - 14. Section 4301 of the Code states in pertinent part:

The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or whose license has been procured by fraud or misrepresentation or issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

(o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or by any other state or federal regulatory agency.

## REGULATORY PROVISIONS

15. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1709.1(a) states that "[t]he pharmacist-in-charge of a pharmacy shall be employed at that location and shall have responsibility for the daily operation of the pharmacy."

### COST RECOVERY

16. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being

2<sub>7</sub>  renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

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- 19. The drug ordering process with Dubin Medical Inc., was as follows: Dubin Medical representatives contacted Respondents with desired drugs and quantities; Dubin Medical then provided a purchase order; Respondents documented the sales in their computer system with Dubin Medical as the patient and doctor and listed the drugs as if they were filled as a prescription; Dubin Medical sent a delivery person to sign for and pick up the medications from Respondents; and Dubin Medical sent a check to Respondents based on the price listed on the patient printout provided by Respondents at pick up. From May 12, 2010 to July 15, 2011, Respondents sales for dangerous drugs sold to Dubin Medical totaled \$401,168.50.
- 20. The drug ordering process with Vital Health Care and Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals, Inc., was as follows: Respondents would receive a request (purchase order) for short supply items; if the items were available or if the allocation was anticipated, Respondents filled the order; the purchase order request was entered into the pharmacy software and invoiced by the pharmacy system; Respondents would invoice and package the items; the package was shipped or picked up by the company representative. From March 12, 2010 to September 20, 2010,

On or about November 13, 2002, the Board of Pharmacy issued Wholesaler Permit Number 4212 to Dubin Medical Inc., to do business and Dubin Medical Inc. Vital Healthcare LLC and Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals, Inc., hold Wholesaler Out-of-State Distributor (OSD) Licenses with the Board of Pharmacy.

Respondents sales for dangerous drugs to Vital Healthcare and Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals were \$3,790.00 and \$10,531.87, respectively.

### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Functioning as an Unlicensed Wholesaler)

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# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Selling Dangerous Drugs Under Unauthorized Conditions)

22. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating pharmacy law, by selling or furnishing dangerous drugs to Dubin Medical under unauthorized conditions, in violation of Code section 4126.5, as set forth in paragraphs 17 through 20, which are incorporated herein by reference.

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (General Unprofessional Conduct)

23. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, for general unprofessional conduct in that Respondents acted as a purchasing agent for wholesalers and removed drugs from normal distribution to increase the wholesaler's supply of a scare drug, thereby affecting the allocation system implemented by the manufacturer and authorized distributors of the drug, as set forth in paragraphs 17 through 20, which are incorporated herein by reference.

## FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Failing to Deliver Dangerous Drugs)

24. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating Code section 4059.5(a), in that Respondents did not deliver dangerous drugs to the licensed premises, but instead allowed a representative of the wholesaler to pick up the drugs at

Respondent Balboa Pharmacy, as set forth in paragraphs 17 through 20, which are incorporated herein by reference.

# DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- 25. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondents, Complainant alleges:
- 26. On or about August 9, 2011, the Board of Pharmacy issued Citation No. CI 2010 47313 to Respondent Balboa Pharmacy for violation of California Code of Regulations, Title 16, sections 1714(c) and 1716 and Business and Professions Code section 4115(e), in that on April 14, 2011, Respondent allowed an non-licensed individual to perform the duties of a pharmacy technician, dispensed a prescription that varied from the dosage as written on the prescription and the pharmacy did not have hot running water for use. The Board assessed a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00 and Respondent Balboa Pharmacy complied with Citation No. CI 2010 47313.
- 27. On or about August 9, 2011, the Board of Pharmacy issued Citation No. CI 2011 49175 to Respondent Yasmeh for violation of California Code of Regulations, Title 16, sections 1714(c) and 1716 and Business and Professions Code section 4115(e), as set forth in paragraph 26, above. The Board assessed a fine the in amount of \$575.00 and Respondent Yasmeh complied with Citation No. CI 2011 49175.
- 28. On or about October 12, 2012, the Board of Pharmacy issued Citation No. CI 2011 48852 to Respondent Balboa Pharmacy for violation of Business and Professions Code sections 4126.5(a)(4) and 4059(b), for illegally furnishing dangerous drugs to a wholesaler, Optimal Pharmaceutical, and for failing to correctly or accurately list the quantities of dangerous drugs on sales records. The Board assessed a fine in the amount of \$6,850.00 and Respondent Balboa Pharmacy complied with Citation No. CI 2011 48852.
- 29. On or about October 12, 2012, the Board of Pharmacy issued Citation No. 2012 54032 to Respondent Yasmeh for violation of Business and Professions Code sections 4126.5(a)(4) and 4059(b), as set forth in paragraph 28, above. The Board assessed a fine in the amount of \$5,500.00 and Respondent Yasmeh complied with Citation No. 2012 54032.

### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Pharmacy issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45633, issued to Balboa
   Pharmacy;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 48357, issued to Robert Yasmeh;
- 3. Ordering Balboa Pharmacy and Robert Yasmeh to pay the Board of Pharmacy the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
  - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 9/11/15 VIRGINIA HEROL

VIRGINIA HEROLD Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

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