



Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners Declaratory Order Hearing Board Meeting

Thursday, July 17, 2025

The declaratory order hearing meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 12:00 a.m. virtually via Microsoft Teams by the Honorable Claudia Padfield, Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Health.

Declaratory Order Hearing – Microsoft Teams

Katarzyna Kotfis, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners Microsoft Teams

Administrative Law Judge: Richard Murrell

Panelists: Deborah Christiansen, MD, Randall Pearson, MD, and James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Counsel for Petitioner: Kimberly Silvus

A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Deborah Christiansen, heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

The Petitioner, Katarzyna Kotfis, MD, PhD, EDAIC, completed a six-year medical degree program at the Pomeranian Medical University Faculty of Medicine in Szczecin, Poland, and graduated with honors in 2003. Pomeranian Medical University is recognized by the Medical Board of California and is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools. From October 2003 through September 2004, Dr. Kotfis completed an internship in the areas of general medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, anesthesia, intensive care, obstetrics, and psychiatry at University Hospital No. 2 in Szczecin, Poland. In October 2004, Dr. Kotfis began her residency training at Pomeranian Medical University, University Hospital No. 1 where she completed her first year of residency training. From August 2005 through June 2008, Dr. Kotfis continued her residency training through the Birmingham School of Anaesthesia with training in anesthesia and intensive care at two hospitals in the United Kingdom, Worcestershire Royal Hospital and Hereford County Hospital. From June 2008 through November 2012, Dr. Kotfis completed her residency training in anesthesiology and intensive care through the Pomeranian Medical University at University Hospital No. 2. In 2011, Dr. Kotfis obtained her Ph.D. at the Pomeranian Medical University. In 2012, Dr. Kotfis obtained Board certification as a Specialist/Consultant in Anesthesia and Intensive Care by the Polish Medical Examinations Center. In December 2012, Dr. Kotfis began her independent practice as an anesthesiologist and intensivist at University Hospital No. 2 in Szczecin, Poland, where she currently practices. In 2014, Dr. Kotfis obtained additional Board certification through the European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care upon her successful completion of the two-part examination, European Diploma in Anaesthesiology and

Intensive Care (“EDAIC”). In February 2013, Dr. Kotfis became an Assistant Professor at the Pomeranian Medical University. In 2017, Dr. Kotfis became registered without a license to practice by the United Kingdom’s General Medical Council on the Specialist Register in Anaesthetics. In January 2022, Dr. Kotfis was promoted to the rank of Full Professor with tenure at the Pomeranian Medical University. In October 2023, Dr. Kotfis was appointed Head of the Department of Anesthesiology, Intensive Care, and Pain Management, a position she currently holds. From October 2023 through October 2024, Dr. Kotfis completed Harvard Medical School’s one-year Polish Clinical Scholars Research Training Program. In June 2024, Dr. Kotfis was appointed as a National Consultant in Anesthesiology and Intensive Care by the Polish Minister of Health for a five-year term. Dr. Kotfis obtained a medical license from the Polish Regional Chamber of Physicians in 2004. She has maintained an active, full license to practice in Poland since then. The petition for Declaratory Order, for this Petitioner, and the relief requested therein was approved.

Declaratory Order Hearing – Microsoft Teams

Mark Balavage, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Microsoft Teams

Administrative Law Judge: Richard Murrell

Panelists: Deborah Christiansen, MD, Randall Pearson, MD, and James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Counsel for Petitioner: Kimberly Silvus

A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Deborah Christiansen, heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

The Petitioner, Mark Balavage, attended University of Glasgow Faculty of Medicine in Glasgow, Scotland, and graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) in 2014, which is the medical degree in Scotland for the independent practice of physicians. University of Glasgow Faculty of Medicine’s MBChB program is accredited by the General Medical Council in the United Kingdom. University of Glasgow Faculty of Medicine is recognized by the Medical Board of California and listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools. From August 2014 through August 2016, Dr. Balavage completed a two-year internship through the Scottish Foundation School’s Foundation Programme in the West of Scotland region in Glasgow, Scotland. From August 2016 through August 2019, Dr. Balavage completed core residency training in anesthesia and intensive care in Scotland at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and Inverclyde Royal Hospital. From August 2019 through February 2024, Dr. Balavage worked as an anesthetic Registrar at various hospitals throughout Australia and Scotland. Dr. Balavage became certified as a Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (“FRCA”) in 2022. From February 2024 through February 2025, Dr. Balavage completed an advanced fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesia and critical care at Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Scotland. From February 2025 through May 2025, Dr. Balavage worked as an anesthetic Registrar at Glasgow Royal Infirmary in Scotland. In May 2025, Dr. Balavage began working as an anesthetic Registrar at the Royal Hospital for Children Glasgow. His training as a Registrar is expected to conclude on August 5, 2025. Dr. Balavage became certified in Adult Transesophageal Echocardiography by the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging in May 2025. Dr. Balavage obtained a medical license from the General Medical Council in 2014. He maintains an active, full medical license and registration in the United Kingdom. Dr. Balavage holds no other state medical licenses. Dr. Balavage has not completed 3 years of ACGME training in the United States. Dr. Balavage has not taken any steps of the USMLE examination. Dr. Balavage does not have ECFMG certification. The Petitioner has been offered a position

at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as an Assistant Professor in Vanderbilt's Department of Anesthesiology, Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Division. He has accepted this role contingent on the approval of his license to practice medicine in Tennessee. Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, has an immediate need for qualified cardiothoracic anesthesiologists and will continue to have this need for the foreseeable future. The Petitioner will bring his invaluable skillset to Vanderbilt to make a positive impact on patients in the State of Tennessee. The petition for Declaratory Order, for this Petitioner, and the relief requested therein was approved.

Declaratory Order Hearing – Microsoft Teams

Jayanthan Subramanian, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Microsoft Teams

Administrative Law Judge: Richard Murrell

Panelists: Deborah Christiansen, MD, Randall Pearson, MD, and James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member

Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Counsel for Petitioner: Kimberly Silvus

A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Deborah Christiansen, heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

The Petitioner, Jayanthan Subramanian, attended K.A.P. Viswanatham Government Medical College in Trichy, India, for nearly six years and completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Science in June 2014. The Medical Board of California recognizes K.A.P. Viswanatham Government Medical College. K.A.P. Viswanatham Government Medical College is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools. From April 2015 to April 2018, Dr. Subramanian completed a General Surgery Residency at the Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute in Chennai, India. The Medical Board of California recognizes Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute. Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools. From June 2018 to May 2019, Dr. Subramanian worked as a Junior Consultant Surgeon at Selvarangam Hospitals in Chennai, India. From November 2019 to March 2020, Dr. Subramanian was employed as a Senior Resident Surgeon at Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital in Chennai, India. From March 2020 to April 2021, Dr. Subramanian was employed as a Senior Resident Surgeon at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education in Chennai, India. From August 2021 to July 2024, Dr. Subramanian completed two fellowships at The Ohio State University; a two-year Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship and a one-year Advanced Liver Transplantation Fellowship. Dr. Subramanian has taken and passed all steps of the USMLE. In October 2019, Dr. Subramanian completed his ECFMG Certification. Dr. Subramanian has an active license to practice medicine in Ohio. Dr. Subramanian is currently employed by Tennessee Donor Services as an organ recovery surgeon. The Petitioner currently holds an active Ohio medical license, which expires in 2026. The Petitioner currently holds certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support. The Petitioner has made significant academic contributions to medicine, having authored and published 10 peer-reviewed papers in prestigious publications. Tennessee Donor Services recruited Dr. Subramanian for his advanced expertise in organ recovery and transplantation, as well as his knowledge and experience with cutting-edge perfusion technology including, Normothermic Machine Perfusion (NMP) and Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP). The Petitioner completed six years of medical school as well as a three-year general surgery residency in India. The Petitioner then completed two Fellowships at The Ohio State University, lasting three years. Although the Petitioner did not complete a three-year residency in the United States pursuant to Rule 0880-02-.04(5) and Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-207(a)(2)(F), his education, training, experience, and skillset

meet or exceed any competency requirement for physicians in the State of Tennessee. Given the Petitioner's skillset and the need for his exceptional expertise in organ transplantation, the citizens of the State of Tennessee would benefit from him having a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine. The Petitioner did not complete 3 years of ACGME training in the United States. The petition for Declaratory Order, for this Petitioner, and the relief requested therein was approved.

This concludes the Declaratory Order Hearings.