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8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2023-094846
12 <b>Jia Mao, M.D.</b>	<b>A C C U S A T I O N</b>
13 <b>2105 Foothill Blvd., Suite B271</b>	
14 <b>La Verne, CA 91750-2901</b>	
15 <b>Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate</b>	
16 <b>No. A 117957,</b>	
Respondent.	

17 **PARTIES**

18 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as  
19 the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs  
20 (Board).

21 2. On or about August 10, 2011, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
22 Number A 117957 to Jia Mao, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
23 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on  
24 February 28, 2025, unless renewed.

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26 **JURISDICTION**

27 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following  
28 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise

1 indicated.

2 4. Section 2220 of the Code states:

3 Except as otherwise provided by law, the board may take action against all  
4 persons guilty of violating this chapter. The board shall enforce and administer this  
5 article as to physician and surgeon certificate holders, including those who hold  
6 certificates that do not permit them to practice medicine, such as, but not limited to,  
7 retired, inactive, or disabled status certificate holders, and the board shall have all the  
8 powers granted in this chapter for these purposes including, but not limited to:

9 (a) Investigating complaints from the public, from other licensees, from health  
10 care facilities, or from the board that a physician and surgeon may be guilty of  
11 unprofessional conduct. The board shall investigate the circumstances underlying a  
12 report received pursuant to Section 805 or 805.01 within 30 days to determine if an  
13 interim suspension order or temporary restraining order should be issued. The board  
14 shall otherwise provide timely disposition of the reports received pursuant to Section  
15 805 and Section 805.01.

16 (b) Investigating the circumstances of practice of any physician and surgeon  
17 where there have been any judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards requiring the  
18 physician and surgeon or his or her professional liability insurer to pay an amount in  
19 damages in excess of a cumulative total of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) with  
20 respect to any claim that injury or damage was proximately caused by the physician's  
21 and surgeon's error, negligence, or omission.

22 (c) Investigating the nature and causes of injuries from cases which shall be  
23 reported of a high number of judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards against a  
24 physician and surgeon.

25 5. Section 2227 of the Code states:

26 (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of  
27 the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government  
28 Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered  
into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the  
provisions of this chapter:

(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.

(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one  
year upon order of the board.

(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation  
monitoring upon order of the board.

(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a  
requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the  
board.

(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of  
probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.

(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters,  
medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations,

1 continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are  
2 agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters  
3 made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made  
4 available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1.

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6 **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

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8 6. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

9 The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with  
10 unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional  
11 conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

12 (a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or  
13 abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

14 ...

15 (e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption that is  
16 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and  
17 surgeon.

18 (f) Any action or conduct that would have warranted the denial of a certificate

19 ....

20 7. Section 820 of the Code states:

21 Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit  
22 under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be  
23 unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to  
24 practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency,  
25 the licensing agency may order the licentiate to be examined by one or more  
26 physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the  
27 examiners shall be made available to the licentiate and may be received as direct  
28 evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822.

8. Section 822 of the Code states:

If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her  
profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill  
affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the  
following methods:

(a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.

(b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.

(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency  
in its discretion deems proper.

1 The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or  
2 license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the  
3 condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the  
4 public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be  
5 safely reinstated.

6 9. Unprofessional conduct is conduct which breaches rules or ethical codes of a  
7 profession or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of a profession. (*Shea v.*  
8 *Board of Medical Examiners* (1978) 81 Cal.App.3rd 564, 575.)

#### 9 COST RECOVERY

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

#### 16 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

17 **(Mental Illness and/or Physical Illness Affecting Competency; Dishonest and/or Corrupt  
18 Acts)**

19 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 822 and 2234, subdivision  
20 (e) of the Code, in that her ability to practice medicine safely is impaired due to a mental illness  
21 and/or physical illness affecting competency and/or that Respondner has engaged in dishonest  
22 and/or corrupt acts substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician  
23 and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows:

#### 24 Residential Burglary

25 12. On or about January 13, 2023, at 6:42 p.m., the Pasadena Police Department  
26 dispatched a police officer to conduct a residential burglary investigation in the city of Pasadena.  
27 Upon arrival at a residential apartment complex (RAC), the officer made contact with the  
28 reporting party, who advised the officer that he believed Respondent, his ex-girlfriend, had  
entered his apartment, without permission, and stolen property from his apartment. The officer  
reviewed video from a security system which showed that the door to the reporting party's

1 apartment was closed at 8:08 a.m. and then open at 09:08 a.m. The investigating officer  
2 interviewed other witnesses, one of whom described seeing an Asian female in the apartment  
3 complex around the same time, loading boxes into a grey sedan. That witness also positively  
4 identified Respondent as the woman that the witness observed being at the apartment complex  
5 and loading boxes into a grey sedan, after the witness viewed a picture of Respondent provided to  
6 the witness.

7 13. On or about January 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m., Pasadena police officers went to the RAC  
8 “in regards to a disturbance between [the reporting party] and [Respondent].” When the officers  
9 arrived, the reporting party advised the officers that he witnessed Respondent “pulling the fire  
10 alarm...because he was not answering his phone.” The officers confronted Respondent and  
11 provided her with Miranda warnings. She acknowledged that she understood her rights, elected  
12 to speak to the interviewing officer anyway, and made the following admissions: she admitted to  
13 using a key that had previously been provided to her, entering the reporting party’s apartment,  
14 and taking property from the apartment. Respondent also admitted to activating the fire alarm  
15 which resulted in the Pasadena Fire Department responding to reset the fire alarm panel. The  
16 police then searched Respondent’s vehicle and recovered property stolen from the reporting  
17 party’s apartment. The police then arrested Respondent for sending a false fire alarm, committing  
18 a residential burglary, and being in receipt of stolen property.

19 14. On or about January 18, 2023, a one-count felony complaint was filed in *People of*  
20 *State of California v. Jia Mao*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. GA113810, which charged  
21 Respondent with first degree burglary for unlawfully entering her ex-boyfriend’s apartment on  
22 January 13, 2023.

23 **Disturbing Voicemails and 5150 Holds**

24 15. On or about January 23, 2023, Respondent left a strange voicemail on a Claremont  
25 City Council member’s phone account in which she, among other things, threatened to sue the  
26 City Council member and stated that she would be “taking this to Sacramento,” if the City  
27 Council member did not call her back.

28 16. On or about January 23, 2023, Respondent was transported to the Kaiser Permanente

1 Emergency Department after she created a disturbance which frightened her former employer.  
2 Shortly thereafter, Respondent was transferred to Kaiser Mental Health on a Welfare and  
3 Institutions Code 5150 hold for further evaluation and treatment. Respondent's past psychiatric  
4 history included previously being diagnosed with having bipolar disorder and prior  
5 hospitalizations beginning in 2013 through 2014 for mental health problems. Respondent's  
6 principal diagnosis during this stay was "bipolar 1 disorder, manic episode with associated  
7 features" with a treatment plan that included medical intervention, medication management,  
8 group sessions, and other psychiatric inpatient treatment. Respondent was discharged on  
9 February 2, 2023, after steadily improving and showing compliance with treatment. Her  
10 discharge instructions included a plan for aftercare outpatient treatment and education about her  
11 medications documented as Cogentin 0.5, Abilify 7.5 mg, Lamictal 150 mg 150 mg twice a day,  
12 Lithium 600 mg, and Restoril 15 mg.

13 17. On or about February 18, 2023, Respondent left a disturbing voicemail on the phone  
14 of a female, J.H., which contained threatening comments directed towards a Claremont City  
15 Council member and the City Council.

16 18. On or about February 20, 2023, at 10:04 a.m., Respondent was admitted to an  
17 inpatient mental facility on a Welfare and Institutions Code 5150 hold for further evaluation and  
18 treatment after she caused a disturbance in her community.

19 19. On or about March 3, 2023, Respondent was discharged from the inpatient mental  
20 health facility after it was determined that she no longer met the criteria for a 5150 hold. At the  
21 time of discharge, her thought process was noted as having "contained residual grandiose  
22 delusions and loose associations" and her judgment was listed as fair with a notation that "she is  
23 not able to anticipate the outcomes of her behavior." Respondent's status on her day of discharge  
24 was "stabilized within the hospital setting" and she was "strongly encouraged" to follow up with  
25 outpatient psychiatric care. Discharge medications were listed as Lithium carbonate 600 mg  
26 twice daily, aripiprazole 15 mg qhs (before sleep), and Lamictal 25 mg three times daily. When  
27 Respondent was discharged, she was taken into custody and transported to the Claremont Police  
28 Department, where she was booked and served with a Temporary Restraining Order, relating to

1 the voicemails sent on or about January 23 and February 18, 2023.

2 20. On or about March 15, 2023, a two-count misdemeanor complaint was filed in *People*  
3 *of State of California v. Jia Mao*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 3PCOC417, which  
4 charged Respondent with making “annoying telephone calls, in violation of Penal Code Section  
5 653m (b)” on January 23 and February 18, 2023.

6 21. On or around July 2023, Dr. M.N., a board-certified psychiatrist, performed a mental  
7 evaluation of Respondent on behalf of the Board pursuant to Business and Profession Code  
8 section 820.

9 22. On or about July 31, 2023, Dr. M.N. conducted a mental evaluation of Respondent  
10 which included, but was not limited to, a review of the investigative and medical/psychiatric  
11 materials provided to him, an interview with Respondent, and psychological testing. After  
12 completing the mental evaluation, Dr. M.N. prepared a mental evaluation report which set forth  
13 the relevant information and data, his findings, and his summary and clinical impressions as to  
14 whether Respondent has a mental condition which could impair her ability to practice medicine.

15 23. Following the mental evaluation, Dr. M.N. concluded that Respondent’s ability to  
16 practice medicine is impaired due to a mental condition, i.e., bipolar disorder 1 and Post  
17 Traumatic Stress Disorder. Dr. M.N.’s concerns regarding Respondent include, but are not  
18 limited to, periodic manic psychotic episodes which can result in loss of control or thoughts and  
19 behavior which includes risk of injury to self, others and/or disruptive behavior.

20 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

21 **(General Unprofessional Conduct)**

22 24. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 of the Code, in that  
23 Respondent engaged in general unprofessional conduct, by failing to adhere to a rule or ethical  
24 code of the medical profession, or by engaging in conduct which was unbecoming a member in  
25 good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice  
26 medicine. The circumstances are as follows:

27 25. The allegations of the First Cause for Discipline are incorporated herein by reference  
28 as if fully set forth.


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PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 117957, issued to Respondent Jia Mao, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Jia Mao, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Respondent Jia Mao, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;
4. Ordering Respondent Jia Mao, M.D., if placed on probation, to provide patient notification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 2228.1; and
5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: MAY 13 2024

  
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REJI VARGHESE  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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