

CENSURE: IC2090

MR. CHRISTOPHER WESTBROOK MANCUSO

On December 4, 2013, in accordance with Section 47(1)(c) of *The Medical Act*, the Investigation Committee censured Mr. Mancuso as a record of its disapproval of the deficiencies in his conduct. Censure creates a disciplinary record which may be considered in the future by the Investigation Committee or an Inquiry Panel when determining the action to be taken following an investigation or hearing.

I. PREAMBLE

Medical students are members of the College and are required to conduct themselves with the same professionalism and high standard of ethical behaviour expected of physicians. Attempts to mislead through the creation of false documents and forged signatures reflect a lack of honesty and integrity and, as such, are egregious breaches of the ethical and professional standards expected of medical students.

II. THE RELEVANT FACTS ARE:

1. At all material times, Mr. Mancuso was a fourth year medical student at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, and enrolled on the Educational Register of the College.
2. As part of his medical education, Mr. Mancuso was scheduled to participate in an Emergency Medicine elective during the period April 2 to April 20, 2012, consisting of 13 shifts at the Health Sciences Centre Emergency Department.
3. Mr. Mancuso attended the first shift of the Emergency Medicine rotation, but did not attend any of the remaining 12 shifts.
4. On or about April 27, 2012, Mr. Mancuso completed 11 end-of-shift feedback and evaluation forms for his Emergency Medicine elective, forged the signatures of physicians on the said forms and submitted the said forms to the Undergraduate Medical Education office.
5. Mr. Mancuso was scheduled to graduate on May 10, 2012.
6. On or about May 7, 2012, for the purpose of preparing his Final In-Training Evaluation Report on the Emergency Department elective, one of the physicians whose signature Mr. Mancuso had forged reviewed the end-of-shift feedback and evaluation form Mr. Mancuso had created and reported that the signature on that form was not his signature and the comments were not his comments. As a result, the Undergraduate Program Director reported the matter to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education.
7. Mr. Mancuso did not reveal his actions in relation to the end-of-shift feedback and evaluation forms to anyone until he was notified of the concerns on May 7, 2012 by the Undergraduate Program Director.
8. On May 8, 2012 Mr. Mancuso's graduation was suspended pending investigation.
9. On May 8, 2012 Mr. Mancuso sent an e-mail to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education in which he admitted the forgeries, and stated:

Besides medicine, in medical school I learned to lie, cheat and steal, but, I don't want to be a coward too.

10. At a meeting with the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education on May 11, 2012, Mr. Mancuso expressed his remorse. By e-mail dated May 11, 2012 Mr. Mancuso stated that the May 8th e-mail was written in a "moment of crisis" and was not a reflection of his true intentions.
11. On or about June 26, 2012, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine imposed disciplinary action on Mr. Mancuso, as follows:
 - a. Permanent expulsion from the Faculty of Medicine;
 - b. Failing mark in the Emergency Medicine elective;
 - c. Expulsion and failure to appear to Mr. Mancuso's permanent academic record; and
 - d. Notification to the College.
12. Mr. Mancuso admitted the conduct, but appealed the Dean's decision as to disciplinary action arising from that conduct. On August 1, 2012 the Faculty of Medicine Student Appeals Committee upheld the Dean's decision on disciplinary action. On September 28, 2012, the University Discipline Committee upheld the Dean's decision on disciplinary action.
13. In Mr. Mancuso's meeting with the Investigation Chair, he:
 - a. acknowledged that it was unprofessional not to have attended for the Emergency Department shifts;
 - b. described his decision to submit the forged documents as a panicked decision which arose when he was informed on April 26 that if he submitted those forms he could graduate with his classmates rather than defer graduation as he had expected would occur;
 - c. stated that he realized on April 27, 2012 that what he had done was wrong and he attempted to retrieve the forms, but the Undergraduate Medical Education office had already sent them for processing;
 - d. stated that after April 27, 2012 he did not take further steps to intercept the documents or report what he had done as he feared the repercussions and felt guilty about his actions;
 - e. expressed remorse for his actions.

III. ON THESE FACTS, THE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE NOTED THE PENALTY IMPOSED UPON MR. MANCUSO THROUGH THE DEAN'S DISCIPLINARY ACTION, UPHELD ON APPEALS, AND RECORDS ITS DISAPPROVAL OF MR. MANCUSO'S CONDUCT IN:

1. completing 11 end-of-shift feedback and evaluation forms for his Emergency Medicine elective, forging the signatures of physicians on the said forms and submitting the forms to the Undergraduate Medical Education office, and
2. despite having recognized that his actions were wrong, failing to promptly report what he had done and take responsibility for his actions.

Mr. Mancuso paid the costs of the investigation in the amount of \$2,080.00.