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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR DR QUAH WEIREN CHARLES ABRAHAM

1. A Disciplinary Committee ("DC") Inquiry was held for Dr Quah Weiren Charles Abraham ("Dr Quah"), age 26 years, on 27 May 2011 in respect of his conviction of theft on 15 June 2009 at the Subordinate Courts of Singapore where he pleaded guilty to stealing various items in a department store on 24 November 2008.
2. Dr Quah was a Houseman and was provisionally registered as a medical practitioner at the time of his conviction.
3. At the disciplinary inquiry, Dr Quah pleaded guilty before the DC for having been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty, i.e. the offence of theft.
4. Having considered the points raised by Dr Quah in mitigation, the DC was of the view that where a registered medical practitioner is convicted of a criminal offence involving dishonesty, a sentence of suspension will invariably be imposed.
5. The DC however noted Dr Quah's mitigation plea that he was not a registered medical practitioner when the offence was committed and that he is no longer a registered medical practitioner following the cancellation of his provisional registration on 25 April 2011 by the Singapore Medical Council ("SMC") for his failing to pass the Houseman training requirement.
6. The DC accepted as mitigating circumstances that the crime was committed by Dr Quah when he was experiencing stress factors, though they are not a valid excuse for the commission of the theft. The DC also took into account the fact that Dr Quah had been punished by the Court and had been fined accordingly.

7. In the circumstances, the DC did not impose a sentence of suspension and ordered as follows:
 - a) No fine will be imposed on Dr Quah in view of the mitigating circumstances;
 - b) Dr Quah shall be censured;
 - c) Dr Quah shall give a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of or any similar conduct; and
 - d) Dr Quah shall pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of counsel to the SMC and the Legal Assessor.
8. The DC ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
9. Finally, the DC pointed out that this decision **should not** be cited as a precedent that for misconduct arising from a conviction upon a criminal offence involving fraud or dishonesty, a sentence should not carry with it a suspension. It would only be in very exceptional circumstances that a sentence would not involve a suspension or removal from the medical register.

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