

two Boards of Medical Examiners carried on this function. One represented the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty and the other the State Homeopathic Society (Chapter 296, Acts of 1892). The General Assembly in 1957 abolished the Homeopathic Board and provided for the State Board of Medical Examiners to regulate the practice of medicine. Responsibility for disciplining licensed physicians was assigned to the Commission on Medical Discipline of Maryland, created in 1968 (Chapter 469, Acts of 1968). In 1988, the functions of both the State Board of Medical Examiners and the Commission on Medical Discipline of Maryland were combined under the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance (Chapter 109, Acts of 1988).

The Board tests and licenses physicians to practice medicine in the State. For certain causes, the Board may revoke the license of any physician. The Board also registers residents and x-ray assistants. The Board certifies seven categories of allied health practitioners, including physician assistants, psychiatrists' assistants, respiratory care practitioners, medical radiation technologists, nuclear medical technologists, cardiac rescue technicians, and emergency medical technicians-paramedics. It determines the eligibility of physicians to represent themselves as specialists. The Board works with the State Board of Nursing to review written agreements between physicians and nurse practitioners and nurse midwives.

To determine eligibility for initial medical licensure, the Board administers the United States Medical Licensing Examination. The Board also administers the Special Purpose Examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards to some applicants and licensees to determine if they have remained competent practitioners after an absence from practicing medicine.

For certain cases, the Board may take disciplinary action, including revocation, suspension, reprimand, or probation, and may fine a licensee. Where there is an imminent threat to the public, the Board may issue an emergency suspension of a license. In an effort to prevent misconduct, the Board operates a speaker's bureau, and conducts educational programs and training sessions on certain high-risk behavioral areas. Quarterly, the Board also issues a newsletter with a lead article of topical interest to the medical community as well as information about the Board's acts or sanctions.

The Board works closely with state and local law-enforcement agencies, as well as federal agencies such as the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Office of Inspector General. Since 1977, the Board and its predecessor have participated in the network of state disciplinary information bank of the Federation of State Medical Boards. Since 1990, the Board has served as a conduit of disciplinary informa-

tion between Maryland hospitals and the National Practitioners Data Bank.

Composed of fifteen members, the Board is appointed by the Governor. One consumer member is appointed to an initial term of three years with Senate advice and consent. Other members serve four-year terms. The Governor selects a physician member as chair. Authorization for the Board continues until July 1, 2003 (Code Health Occupations Article, secs. 14-101 through 15-502).

#### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

J. Andrew Sumner, M.D., *Chair*

The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee was created in 1990. The Committee advises the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance on matters regarding the certification of and regulations governing cardiac rescue technicians and emergency medical technician-paramedics. The Committee also advises the Board on matters related to the provision of prehospital advanced life support, including quality assurance, standards of practice, and treatment protocols.

#### **MEDICAL RADIATION & NUCLEAR MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mary M. Newman, M.D., *Chair*

The Medical Radiation and Nuclear Medical Technology Advisory Committee began in 1990. The Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance on all applications for certification of nuclear medical technologists and medical radiation technologists. The Committee recommends to the Board the approval, modification, or disapproval of an application for certification. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Board regarding regulations governing nuclear medical technologists and medical radiation technologists and on matters related to the practice of medical radiation technology and nuclear medical technology.

#### **MEDICAL SPECIALTY COMMITTEE**

John T. Lynn, M.D., *Chair*

The Medical Specialty Committee was established in 1989. The Committee formulates new regulations concerning criteria for specialty designation of physicians.

#### **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ira N. Brecher, M.D., *Chair*

The Physician Assistant Advisory Committee was created within the State Board of Medical Examiners in 1986 (Chapter 759, Acts of 1986). The Committee became part of the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance in 1988 (Chapter 109, Acts of 1988). The Committee recommends to the Board regulations for the certification of physician assistants. The Committee also recommends to the Board the approval, modifi-