

## SUMMARY AND STATEMENT FROM THE REGISTRAR

### Censure of Dr. Wilhelmus Petrus Grobler

The Investigation Committee of CPSM has censured<sup>1</sup> Dr. Wilhelmus Petrus Grobler for his care and conduct regarding two of his patients. Read the Censure publication [here](#).

In the first case, which occurred between June and September 2021, Dr. Grobler failed to meet the standard of care in his assessment and management of a patient's medical condition in that he provided treatment for myocarditis in the absence of sufficient evidence to support that diagnosis. He prescribed Ivermectin to the patient when he knew or ought to have known it was neither evidence-informed nor in the patient's best interest.

In the second case, Dr. Grobler failed to meet ethical and professional standards by not wearing a mask during a September 2021 clinical encounter with a patient under 18 years old. He allowed one of the patient's parents to remove their mask during the encounter without a valid reason at a time when mask-wearing was mandated. Dr. Grobler further conveyed information to the patient and their parents about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines that was contrary to Public Health recommendations, professional standards and expectations, and could pose a potential risk to personal and public safety. By doing so, in his capacity as a physician, Dr. Grobler lent credibility to misinformation from unreliable sources, including respecting the risks and benefits of vaccines.

As background to the September 2021 clinical encounter, CPSM became aware of concerns that Dr. Grobler was expressing views inconsistent with scientific evidence that contradicted Public Health recommendations about how COVID-19, is diagnosed, treated, and transmitted. Dr. Grobler was asked to sign a voluntary undertaking in October 2020, stating he would not disseminate information to his patients or the public regarding COVID-19 that does not align with current public health directives. This undertaking remains in force and the conditions are posted on Dr. Grobler's public profile on CPSM's website. In this context, Dr. Grobler's conduct was considered in breach of his undertaking.

**Statement from the Registrar:** This is a prime example of the dangers of misinformation to patient safety. During the pandemic, the public has placed great trust in the information provided by their physicians, enhancing the level of accountability on physicians when commenting or disseminating information. Advice and treatment provided to patients must be evidence-informed and in the patient's best interest. Additionally, breaching an undertaking undermines CPSM's role in protecting the public and will not be tolerated.

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<sup>1</sup> A *Censure* is a formal disciplinary record which may be considered in the future to determine action to be taken if the physician finds themselves the subject of a complaint investigation or Inquiry Panel.