

## **On restoring public confidence to the medical profession**

To the Editor:

The pursuit of disciplinary sanctions advocated for by Baron [1], has targeted the medical doctors that innovated with early outpatient treatment protocols for COVID-19 [2] and doctors that expressed concerns about COVID-19 vaccine safety [3]. According to article 37 of the 2013 Helsinki declaration [4], when proven interventions are unavailable or ineffective, doctors may use unproven treatments under clearly delineated conditions, with informed consent, and they must then publish their findings. Doctors also have a duty to do no harm, requiring them to heed and speak out about safety concerns that may arise from their clinical experience, research literature, and available data. The public cannot trust doctors that are prevented from speaking candidly. Instead of disciplinary sanctions, these doctors need help to publish and present the real world evidence [5] accumulated through their efforts to treat COVID-19. Furthermore, doctors should continuously reassess and discuss the balance of safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines, as more pharmacovigilance data becomes available, without fear of reprisal, and learn how to treat the vaccine injured.

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