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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR DR WONG YOKE MENG

1. The Disciplinary Committee ("DC") of the Singapore Medical Council ("SMC") held a disciplinary inquiry for Dr Wong Yoke Meng ("Dr Wong"), a registered medical practitioner specialising as an obstetrician and gynaecologist. The inquiry hearing was held in November 2010 and the verdict was given in March 2011. The proceedings arose out of a complaint to the SMC dated 3 September 2007 by the Ministry of Health. At all material times, Dr Wong practised at a clinic formerly known as "Clinique Suisse", located at 290 Orchard Road #08-01/02 Paragon Medical Centre, Singapore 238859.
2. Dr Wong faced seven charges of professional misconduct under the Medical Registration Act, for offering various procedures which were alleged to be not medically proven as treatments:
 - i. Stem cell treatment ("the 1st Charge");
 - ii. Colonic Irrigation as "Detox Medicine" ("the 2nd Charge");
 - iii. Chelation as "Detox Medicine" ("the 3rd Charge");
 - iv. Detoxification for Heavy Metals as "Detox Medicine" ("the 4th Charge");
 - v. Face Treatment using Oxygen ("the 5th Charge");
 - vi. Lymphatic Drainage in the process of non-surgical facelift (the 6th Charge);
and
 - vii. Nutritional Therapy in the form of vitamins and antioxidant supplements ("the 7th Charge").
3. The procedures in the 1st to 4th Charges were offered by Dr Wong by way of an advertisement on Clinique Suisse published in the 2007 edition of the "The Guide to Singapore's Private Medical & Dental Specialist Care" ("the Advertisement"). The procedures in the 5th to 7th Charges were offered by Dr Wong as part of the "Clinique Suisse Stem Cells Programme" ("Stem Cells Programme").

4. Dr Wong pleaded guilty to the 1st Charge and contested the remaining charges. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the DC convicted Dr Wong on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Charges and acquitted him of the 2nd, 6th and 7th Charges.

The charges on which Dr Wong was convicted

The 1st Charge

5. Dr Wong was convicted of the 1st Charge which alleged that he had offered in the Advertisement, stem cell treatment for cellular rejuvenation, outside the context of a formal and approved clinical trial.

The 3rd Charge

6. In respect of the 3rd Charge, the DC in its deliberations was satisfied that Chelation was not medically proven, and was not generally accepted by the medical profession as a treatment for detoxification in the absence of confirmed toxicity. The DC concluded that Dr Wong offered Chelation as a management plan or remedy in his professional capacity as a medical practitioner, or as part of his professional practice, and because Chelation was not medically proven nor generally accepted by the medical profession in Singapore as a treatment for detoxification in the absence of confirmed toxicity, the DC found Dr Wong guilty of the 3rd Charge.

The 4th Charge

7. Similarly, in respect of the 4th Charge, in the context of the Advertisement, the DC found that Detoxification for Heavy Metals was offered by Dr Wong as a preventive therapy, before the onset of an actual medical condition, i.e. before the patient suffered from toxicity. The DC concluded that Dr Wong offered Detoxification for Heavy Metals as a management plan or remedy in his professional capacity as a medical practitioner and because Detoxification for Heavy Metals was not medically proven and was not generally accepted by the medical profession in Singapore as a treatment for detoxification in the absence of confirmed toxicity, the DC therefore found Dr Wong guilty of the 4th Charge.

The 5th Charge

8. The 5th Charge alleged that Dr Wong offered Face Treatment using Oxygen to his patients after carrying out laser and Intense Pulse Light Treatments on their faces, and that such Face Treatment using Oxygen was not medically proven as a treatment. The DC noted that Dr Wong carried out “Oxygen Therapy” by administering oxygen on the face using an oxyjet machine through a mask. The DC noted expert evidence that giving oxygen to an asymptomatic patient i.e. one not suffering from lack of oxygen and was not breathless, was not justified, and such a treatment was scientifically unsound in logic and non evidence-based. Accordingly, the DC found Dr Wong guilty of the 5th Charge.

The Charges on which Dr Wong was acquitted

The 2nd Charge

9. In relation to the 2nd Charge, the DC was not satisfied that it had been proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Colonic Irrigation was not medically proven as a treatment for detoxification. The DC acquitted Dr Wong of the 2nd Charge.

The 6th Charge

10. The 6th Charge alleged that Dr Wong offered Lymphatic Drainage in the process of non-surgical face-lifts to his patients, and that the use of Lymphatic Drainage in the process of non-surgical face-lifts was not medically proven as a treatment. The DC accepted the evidence that the lymphatic drainage as offered by Dr Wong was supported by moderate to high level of scientific evidence and/or have local medical expert consensus that the procedures are well-established and acceptable. Accordingly, the DC acquitted Dr Wong of the 6th Charge.

The 7th Charge

11. The 7th Charge alleged that Dr Wong offered Nutritional Therapy in the form of vitamins and antioxidant supplements to his patients, and such use of Nutritional Therapy in the form of vitamins and antioxidant supplements in the absence of deficiency of these substances was not medically proven as a treatment. The DC noted that nutritional therapy in the form of vitamins and antioxidants was generally accepted by the medical profession as long as those substances were administered within their recommended dosage. Accordingly, the DC acquitted Dr Wong of the 7th Charge.

The Verdict

12. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the DC ordered that Dr Wong be fined \$10,000 and censured. The DC also ordered that Dr Wong give a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of or any similar conduct. Dr Wong was also ordered to pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the solicitors to the SMC and the Legal Assessor.

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