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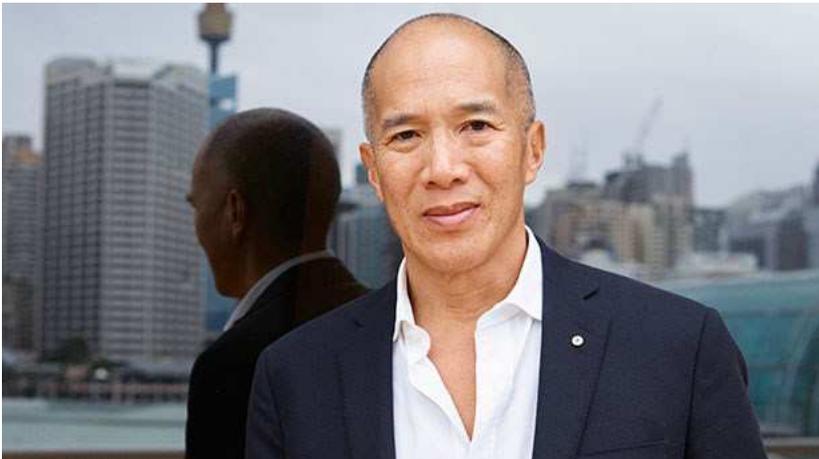


Photo: Nic Bezzina

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Doctors share harrowing bullying stories at conference

Tessa Hoffman | 11 April, 2016 | 0 comments Read Later

Doctors and nurses have shared harrowing personal stories of workplace bullying at a conference calling for urgent reform of the health regulation system.

About 70 specialists, GPs, nurses and other health professionals gathered in Sydney last Friday at the inaugural AGM of the Health Professionals Australia Reform Association.

The group claims the current regulation system is allowing vexatious complaints to flourish, good doctors to be persecuted and dodgy doctors to get away with harming the public.

The association — whose members include prominent Sydney neurosurgeon Dr Charlie Teo — says change is urgently needed.

Related News: *Complaints system is destroying lives, says doctors' group*

Speakers included Dr Gabrielle McMullin (pictured). Last year, Dr McMullin raised the alarm about the prevalence of sexual harassment in surgery.

She told the conference the surgical profession was a boys' club riddled with sexism and nepotism.

"Merit is decided by a group of men ... and in their eyes merit is a white heterosexual man. The only difference women can make in this process is by sex.

"Sex is a commodity and women can use it. I know women who have been given prestigious jobs by certainly submitting to sex."

Speakers also told of colleagues who had taken their own lives after being pulled through the complaints process.

One nurse, who had been named in a coronial inquest into the death of woman a day after she had given birth, said she experienced PTSD after being subject to a six-year investigation by regulators.

She said she was cleared of all wrongdoing, but her career was ruined.

Best known for his work involving keyhole surgery to treat brain cancer, Dr Teo (pictured) alleged opponents had used slander, litigation and vexatious claims lodged with the state and national health regulators in an attempt to destroy his career.

Dr Teo claimed at one point it was suggested that he should not be allowed to practise because

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he had urinary incontinence.

"That all was generated because I did a case that took me a long time, 14 hours.

"I had saline and blood all over the front of my gown and when I took off my gown I go, 'Oh my God, it looks like I wet myself'. So it was reported that I urinated during the case.

"I had to go through the humiliating situation of having to write and get a urologist to say I am continent."

Dr Teo said he'd been told the reason he evoked such animosity was because he was a self-promoter and had an "attitude problem".

But he claimed it was more to do with the fact he would operate on patients whom the rest of the medical profession had given up on.

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Mike's mole · 8 months ago
I'm afraid this is an ongoing issue in Australia where both tattoos and melanomas are common.

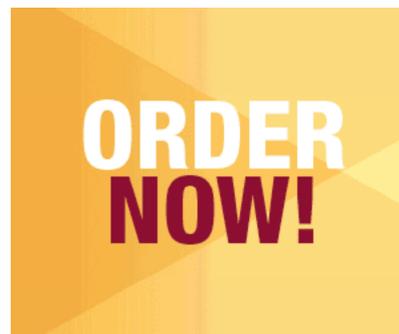
Tattoo 'artists' are meant to leave pre existing pigmented lesions uninked to allow them to be clearly visualised in future skin checks. Some do but most don't. I'm forever seeing acquired & congenital melanocytic naevi inked over by tattoos.

I've written articles in the local paper encouraging people to have their moles uninked.

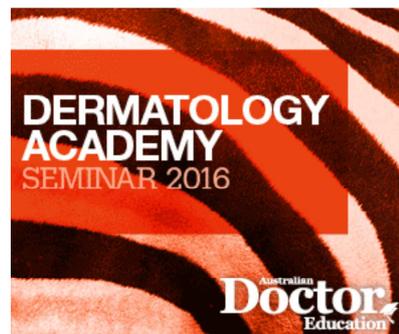
It makes early dermoscopic diagnosis of melanoma pretty much impossible.

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DR. AHAD KHAN · 10 months ago
AMA needs to draw the attention of the Populace - i.e. the 99.8% of the Populace - the Voting Population.
No Govt. cares a hoot about the 0.2% of the Voters - i.e. we Doctors.
An intense Media Release (Radio / TV / Print), followed by a STOP WORK for even half a day on a Monday, by GPs Nation-wide is the only way that this Govt. will stop in its tracks & will commence behaving respectfully towards us hard-working GPs.
DR. AHAD KHAN
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