

Len Miocevich

I am a 81 year old solo general practitioner, with a special interest in musculoskeletal medicine. When I received my degree in 1958, it coincided with the inception of the college of general practitioners. My degree was double barrelled. viz bachelor of science, bachelor of medicine. The first was to give me a firm scientific grounding with a never ending of searching for the truth. With the help of fellow students, & tutelage from various lecturers, professors, residents, registrars, honorary consultants I was beginning on the pathway of acquiring the art of medicine. I soon learnt that the science was short but the art was long.

I also took the Hippocratic Oath. Which begins with, *That I will carry out to my ability and judgement this oath and this indenture to hold my teacher, in this art equal to my own parents, to make him partner in my livelihood.*

Then a summary of first doing no harm when prescribing treatment. To keep abreast, in both areas, engenders an automatic respect from one's peers & the sick, viz your patients. You can have a extra whole batch of titles, after your degree, which in most cases contributes very little to learning "THE ART" This is what drives the true physicians vocation in medicine. Not the phony imposter introduced by politicians & bureaucrats.

Inducements by colleges plus arbitrary bodies & government by handing out higher rebates increase & boosts income but this can never replace or encourage, seeking scientific truth & practicing THE ART.

There are many non college members in general practice with special areas of interest & they attract patients that fall within this ambient group. They will deliver a better quality outcome in these specific areas than any college trained member. For example I would pit my knowledge & expertise in musculoskeletal medicine against any college member. How do I know this is. By the time they see me, they have already done the rounds of other GP's, specialists, physiotherapists & chiropractor herbalists. The problems have often been present for months or years without a correct diagnosis. My outcomes, achieve better patient satisfaction, as expressed by the patient, when compared to anything, they have had done for them before seeing me.

So why should they get a lesser rebate when sending their accounts to Medicare? If I had seen them in the first place I would have saved the health system thousands of dollars. 40% of patients who visit a GP in any one week have or have had a musculoskeletal complaint. My contention is that the college training programmes, in this area are nothing short of pathetic. The result is that numerous doctors will cringe when given a difficult say neck, low back , shoulder , hip or knee problem. THEY WILL REACH FOR A PAD & order X-rays or CT or MRI. Generally most are useless, then order a analgesic which never addresses the real problem, followed by the merry go round of hell in severe cases. What was needed in the first place was proper training, taking a complete & proper history, then a examination that only requires a functional thumb & index finger.

The college, has been getting into bed with the medical board of Australia & AHPRA, so that all general practitioners including non college members will have to abide to their rigid requirements or be deregistered. I do not have the time, will or patience to brush up on all aspects of general practice. My years in general practice have given me the good sense when to refer to a trusted colleague. No I am not a danger to the public, rather the opposite, I give a niche service as already outlined. If the three bodies mentioned above are allowed to proceed with their collusive pathways I feel sure I will be deregistered. Who will my patients turn to? None other than to a so called superior college graduate, what a sick

joke, pardon the pun. I am not knocking the latter, rather my heart bleeds for them on account of their inadequate training.

From reading other doctors inputs on the Medical Board website (current consultations) there seems to be enough damning input, from countries like the UK. USA & Canada where similar bodies have been rejected or found to cause a tremendous amount of anxiety within the medical community, which was not there before these catastrophic bodies were put in place.

In addition if the reports are correct the service to the community has badly slipped if the UK is taken as an example. The three bodies are engaging in a blatant lie when they say they doing this in response to intense public pressure & doctors can no longer be trusted to keep themselves up to scratch & need public servants as overseers.

Yet whenever a public poll is performed & asked which group in the community do they most trust, doctors come in at 90%. Public servants, lawyers and politicians achieve a much lower ranking. The only push is coming from them, with the collaborators within the profession viz the hierarchy in the college. The latter have proudly boasted they have gone down this pathway without canvassing their 33000 members. Their decision, if not repealed, will be delivering all future doctors to one of frustrated servitude & bondage. If the majority of members stay mute, then you are also the problem & will have to live with it. I adjure you by saying you will not remember the words of your enemy but the silence of your friends.

The initial culprits are awarding themselves with positions of power & privilege without merit.

Over the past 2-3 years, doctors have been forcibly made to pay, a huge amount of money in the form of fees to AHPRA WITH THE UNDERLYING THREAT, PAY UP, OR SOON YOU WILL BE EXPELLED. Virtually they are saying, we will show you how to build your own prison, with the illicit funds we have appropriated from you. Guess who the warders are going to be. NONE OTHER THAN THE HIERARCHY OF THE COLLEGE.

Technically at the moment I am classified as non vocationally registered. I find this insulting, as I have always been very aware of my medical vocation .Just ask my wife & children, who have often played second fiddle to my patients. Furthermore I HAVE LOST THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN INCOME by choosing not to become a bogus vocationally registered doctor. I feel sure if I could resurrect Hippocrates, he would welcome me to his ranks. How many of you doctors out there feel the same. To the foe out there, remember that you, or one of your family or friends, will one day get sick & you will reap what you have sown.

In searching for the scientific truth, over the past 10 years in particular, I have gone back & learnt my embryology histology physiology in greater depth than any other time in my life.

All medical students & doctors alike, should have this knowledge at their fingertips. You, the college have failed badly in this regard & yet this was the very charter for why you were formed in the first place.

If my ilk disappears from the face of medicine, so too will THE ART OF MEDICINE , which has a compassionate component, that meets the need, of a fellow human being in their hour of need. THE ART ENGENDERS TRUST . Medicare engenders 5-10 minute consults for economic survival.