

The Dunning-Kruger effect and arbitrariness of health authorities in Zurich, Switzerland

«We live in a society absolutely dependent on science and technology and yet have cleverly arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology. That's a clear prescription for disaster» – Carl Sagan, US-American Scientist

«One of the great problems of our age is that we are governed by people who care more about feelings than they do about thoughts and ideas.» – Margareth Thatcher, former British Prime Minister

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I moved to Switzerland ten years ago to raise my family and further develop my medical and scientific projects. I made this choice based on values that I praise most, namely Swiss neutrality, stability, freedom, direct democracy, multiculturalism, high quality of life and, most importantly, the high worldwide rankings of «Science made in Switzerland».

Despite not yet being a Swiss national, I nevertheless have contributed as Scientist and Physician to the improvement of Health and Science in this country and abroad. Working on Swiss territory, I published original papers in peer-reviewed, Swiss and international scientific journals; took active part in important social movements like supporting the Swiss «Konzern-Verantwortungs-Initiative»; defending a scientific, evidence-based, medical, ethical and humane approach to the Corona crisis. My two younger daughters were born in Switzerland, and in many ways I contribute to the country's Economy and Culture.

My General Practitioner office in Zurich is one of the most sought after of its kind. Since its inauguration five years ago, we jumped from 500- to more than 2'000 loyal patients. In addition, there are currently 400 people on our waiting list who would like to become our patients. In addition to many Swiss citizens, many of these patients belong to the local Luso-Brazilian community as well as other diverse ethnocultural and national origins.

Despite being an experienced, prize-awarded scientist and physician with international experience in Brazil, Germany, USA and Japan, holder of two doctor titles, two speciality titles, first author of more than 30 original scientific contributions published in peer-reviewed, indexed international scientific journals, I have been the target of a handfull of officials at the Office of Public Health of Zurich. Since 2021, these officials run a Kafkian process, a futile «fishing expedition» against me. According to a decision by the Public Health Office of the Canton of Zurich dated October 18, 2024, I am no longer allowed to independently treat patients in Zurich. On that date, my professional license was revoked by this Office, with the false assumption that at the end of 2021 I had "issued three medical face mask and vaccination exemption medical certificates

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as courtesy” and since then I had allegedly “not helped clarify the matter with the Health Department”.

The health authority takes the view that I committed a particularly serious breach of medical duty of care by allegedly issuing the said «courtesy certificates». As a scientist, I don't accept things without evidence. After I was able to clearly prove to the Office of Public Health that I only issued all three certificates after careful individual examinations and based on objectively verifiable, reasonable reasons to protect my patients, there is no slightest reason for such a drastic measure as to immediately withdraw my license to practice my profession.

My patients and colleagues are shocked and outraged by this grotesque decision; one of my colleagues said the following:

"It's not as if we don't already had enough to do with patient, personnel, tariff and livelihood issues. In my opinion, this process shows also that the problem of the shortage of doctors has still not been recognized, an appreciation for our work is lacking, and the omnipresent bashing of doctors has dangerously shifted the threshold of irritation even among health authorities." - Dr. med. S. K., e-Mail dated November 30, 2024

My lawyer, Mr. Philipp Kruse, who has defended some colleagues against similar decisions by Swiss Offices of Public Health, has never seen such a senseless, brutal decision on record in Zurich. The license revocation now applies with immediate effect and for an indefinite period of time, which creates direct- and collateral losses and damages in the millions range.

Of course, we do not agree with this decision and are defending ourselves against it in court. Our lawyer believes our chances of success are intact. However, as with all legal proceedings in the area of the Corona crisis, special effort must be expected due to the strong politicization of the issue and the *Dunning-Kruger effect* within some Swiss governmental offices. The Dunning-Kruger effect is a cognitive bias in which people with limited competence in a particular domain overestimate their abilities.

With their actions, the Zurich Health Directorate leads my practice to bankruptcy. My employed medical colleagues who billed under my concordat number had to resign. Another six assistants risk losing their jobs. I develop alternative solutions for the possible scenarios. My goal is to defend the privileges of patients and employees. We feel honored by the generous support we got from our patients. In addition to the patient donations, we received donations from a Swiss foundation and the largest Swiss Thermal Bath and Rehabilitation Clinics. This support has enabled us to fund much-needed legal fees. That's why I am convinced that the Ocarana Praxis is an asset that needs to be developed independently in the form of a patients- and caregivers association for Primary Healthcare.

As for me, a trial in Switzerland has a negative impact on my chances of continuing to work as a Physician in any country. If the Zurich court does not compensate for all the damage caused to me by the Zurich Health Directorate, I will be forced to give up my profession.

Unfortunately, on November 27th, 2024, the Zurich Health Directorate stubbornly rejected our appeal to have our license to practice the profession restored. In a letter from the Health Office of the Canton of Zurich, dated December 9, 2024, the health official accuses me of “untrustworthiness” and even “criminal energy”.

As an ethical, trustworthy, serious physician, as a qualified doctor of Medicine and Science, a specialist in General Medicine and also as a person and citizen, I will not allow myself to be attacked in this frivolous and malicious way. The Health Department official's absurd accusations were clarified from the beginning and rejected based on evidence by me and my lawyers in this Kafkaian process that has been in existence since 2021, so that no further counterarguments are required. The Health Directorate and the Health Department of the Canton of Zurich are simply building a strong wall of dangerous ignorance and denial of reality.

Much of the damage inflicted by this state of affairs on Healthcare, Science, Reputation, Democracy and Freedom is quite invisible to laymen. In quoting Aldo Leopold on ecological damages: *«People must either harden their shell and make believe that the consequences are none of their business, or they must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise»*.

This leads us to better evaluate the political- and societal meaning of the arbitrarily based, abusive, scientifically devoid, ideologically charged decision issued by the said officials of the Zurich Office of Public Health. This kind of decision not only stinks like abuse of power, it also points towards obscurantism and scientific hostility, as it exhales some worrying messages.

A worrisome consequence in this way of thinking and reasoning would be to concede a “smoke curtain” to mask practices during the corona crisis such as unnecessary laboratory tests, hasty non-evidence-based vaccinations and medications, hospital admissions without medical indication, overbilling in billions figures.

All of this began with callous, unethical, ruthless, unconstitutional government actions, in other words, actions without respect for the privileges and rights of citizens. In Schopenhauer's world, compassion was not just a virtue; it was the basis of ethics. When ethics and reason fall, Freedom and Justice fall as a consequence, and the government loses value for society:

"Your case shows me that my gut feeling was always right. On the one hand, politicians and some players in the healthcare system have inflated the Corona panic enormously and on the other hand, everyone who doesn't take part without asking is being sidelined with baseless arguments. Since 2020, I have lost trust in our system. There was so much lying and pressure and there is still no investigation into the vaccination side effects and measures. I deeply regret that it affected you as a great person and doctor." – S. K., e-mail dated December 20th, 2024

Doctors, and only doctors, are the people in our modern society who are qualified and trained to prevent and diagnose diseases and treat the sick.

“As Albert Camus wrote, the doctor's role is as a witness – to witness authentically the reality of humanity, and to speak out against the horrors of political inaction... The only

crime equaling inhumanity is the crime of indifference, silence, and forgetting.” — James Orbinski, in “An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarian Action in the Twenty-first Century”

In a well-functioning healthcare system, the vast majority of treatments should be delivered successfully and at low cost at the primary care level. However, in the 21st century, unqualified and inexperienced people of all types – including some doctors – believe that they are capable of limiting the activities and privileges of doctors. The effects of such interference go beyond damage to health and include the destabilization of the economy and society itself.

A health system that saves lives can only be built with proven competence, a strong primary health care network, continuing education at all levels and shame on one’s face.

Asked by a journalist why South Korea did not impose forced measures on the population during the Corona Pandemics, Prof. Dr. med. Kim Woo-Ju responded: *“Korea is a democratic country that holds education and science in high regard.”*

Countries that do not promote or respect education and science should not be surprised when their body and soul hurt due to the lack of Science, Freedom, Justice, Ethics and Solidarity.

As a doctor and scientist, I wish that I can practice my profession freely, with the same scientific preparation, the same enthusiasm, the same empathy and the same dedication that have always accompanied me, and that I have more time to devote myself to my family, to my foundation and to my scientific work, which have been so sacrificed by this lasting torment.