

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
(the Committee)**

Information about the complaints process and the Committee is available at:
<https://www.cpso.on.ca/Public/Services/Complaints>

**Dr. Youssef Adel Slataroff (CPSO# 87329)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the Respondent psychiatrist's conduct during a consultation about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Health professionals to whom the Complainant had disclosed her concerns also contacted the College to make a mandatory report.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that while she was a patient under the Respondent's care and during an appointment, he behaved in an inappropriate, unprofessional and sexually abusive manner in that he made inappropriate and derogatory comments regarding her sexual orientation, referring to her as a "dyke."

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A Mental Health Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of December 17, 2018. The Committee decided to require the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to sensitive communication with patients, particularly when discussing sensitive subjects such as sexuality and/or sexual practices.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

- As part of this investigation, the Committee retained an independent opinion provider (IO provider) who specializes in psychiatry. The IO provider opined that the Respondent's care of the Complainant did not meet the standard of practice and that his care displayed a lack of skill, knowledge or judgement; but that his clinical practice, behaviour, or conduct did not expose or potentially expose his patients to harm or injury.
- The Respondent submitted an opinion from another psychiatrist, who reviewed the information related to the complaint. While that reviewer did not agree with all of the opinions of the College's IO provider, he agreed with the ultimate conclusion that the Respondent encountered issues with a lack of skill and judgement in discussing sensitive topics and choosing appropriate terminology, and maintaining therapeutic boundaries.

- If the Respondent commented about the Complainant being a “dyke” and asked questions and made assumptions about masturbation and sexuality, this was awkward and inappropriate. This would be all the more regrettable in a first appointment with a patient who has PTSD. Neither reviewer believed that the Respondent’s comments were suggestive of sexual abuse.
- Noting that the Respondent was practicing under supervision and is yet to undergo a reassessment, the Committee was of the view that a caution in person would serve to underscore the degree of its concern about his insensitive communications. Further, the Committee requested that the Respondent provide a written report reflecting on his approach in this specific case, what he did wrong, and what he could improve.