

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **HPCSA PRACTITIONER ERASED FROM THE REGISTER**

**21 July 2020**

**For immediate release**

**Pretoria** - The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) continues to uphold its mandate of protecting the public and guiding the professions. On Saturday, 18 July 2020, the HPCSA Professional Conduct Committee erased Dr Luke Gordon off the register of practitioners in terms of Section 42 (1) (c) of the Act. Dr Gordon is a registered plastic and reconstruction surgeon who was charged before the Professional Conduct Committee on several charges relating to negligent performance of cosmetic procedures in respect of fourteen (14) patients.

The hearing involved fourteen (14) factual witnesses and six (6) expert witnesses who testified against Dr Gordon. The HPCSA filed fifty (50) pages of the heads of argument in respect of its principal submissions, excluding several heads of arguments that were filed for various interlocutory applications in casu.

The Committee found Dr Gordon (respondent) guilty of unprofessional conduct on nine (9) counts and not guilty in respect of five (5) counts. The Committee delivered the penalty against the respondent and found that aggravating circumstances far outweigh the mitigating factors.

Healthcare practitioners who are regulated by Council are guided by the ethical guidelines that indicate how practitioners should conduct themselves when handling patients. The HPCSA's fundamental objective is to always maintain the standard of the profession. The public must be assured that those who treat them are not only knowledgeable and skilled professionals, they also understand and adhere to the standards of conduct expected of them.

**END**

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## **About the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)**

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) also known as Council is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974. The HPCSA is committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. The mission of the HPCSA is quality and equitable healthcare for all.

The HPCSA is mandated to regulate the health professions in the country in aspects pertaining to education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

In order to safeguard the public and guiding the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

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