

Dr Mark Attalla  
26 Eildon CCT,  
South Morang,  
Vic 3752

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008

Dr. Daniel Fleming  
President  
Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery  
PO Box 36, Parramatta  
NSW 2150

Dear Daniel,

I am sending this letter to report an episode of blatant discrimination against me based on my position as a surgical registrar with the ACCS. As the College is aware, prior to emigrating to Australia and passing the AMC's qualifying examination for overseas trained doctors, I was a specialist surgeon in trauma/ head and neck surgery. I have chosen to obtain further training in cosmetic surgery and applied for the ACCS program as it is the only cosmetic surgery specific training currently available in Australia.

I was accredited as a surgical assistant at St. John Monash Private Hospital in Melbourne. This allowed me to assist my College trainer Dr Paul Rosenberg. Without any previous discussion or warning, I have received a letter from the hospital immediately withdrawing my accreditation. There had been no incident to cause this action and no reason has been provided. I am now unable to continue my training with Dr Rosenberg.

I understand Dr Rosenberg has been told by the hospital that my accreditation has been removed after advice from the hospital's Medical Advisory Committee. This committee's surgical members are all members of RACS. As RACS has stated publically its opposition to the College and its training (See Private Hospital magazine October 2006, p. 24), I believe the hospital has been led to this decision by doctors who have a vested political and commercial interest in preventing ACCS registrars, or indeed anyone else outside of their own College, from receiving training in cosmetic surgery.

The letter has a very bad impact on me personally. I will now have to state on future hospital applications that I have had hospital privileges withdrawn in the past which will place me at a disadvantage compared with my colleagues. That this has occurred because one group of doctors are seeking to have a monopoly is unjust and in complete contradiction of the Australian reputation for a "fair go".

I know the College is applying to the AMC for cosmetic surgery and medicine to be a recognized specialty and I ask that you include this letter with the application so the

AMC can be aware of the way in which the lack of recognition is used by some doctors to stifle the training of their competitors.

How this benefits patients beggars belief.

Thank you

Yours truly,

Dr Mark Attalla