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05/10/2023

Dr Svitlana Saburova
Conder Surgery
3/3 Sidney Nolan Street
CONDER ACT 2906

**RE: Mr Romen Savesk
6/114 Barr Smith Avenue**

**BONYTHON ACT 2905
DOB: 06/01/87**

Dear Svitlana,

PROBLEMS

Probable neurological side effects from COVID vaccine with functional overlay
Pericarditis following COVID vaccine
Chronic fatigue syndrome in 2006 (recovered)

MEDICATIONS

THC/CBD 1.2 mL nocte
Colchicine OD
Modafinil 100 mg OD to be considered

I reviewed Romen for the constellation of neurological symptoms which could be related to Covid vaccination(s).

Romen received two doses of Pfizer COVID vaccinations in 2021. The first dose was administered in September. He reported impaired balance, bilateral high-frequency tinnitus, frequent headaches associated with photophobia, and insomnia. Most profound of all, he complained of brain fogging and chronic fatigue. He has had difficulty with processing information. He commented that his speech has been slowed.

Romen has also complained of sensory disturbances in his upper and lower limbs described as alterations in sensitivity and tingling. He has not reported any obvious weakness or sphincteric dysfunction.

Romen has also experienced chest pain and palpitations. He has been investigated from a cardiac point of view and a recent MRI scan of the myocardium conducted at I-MED demonstrated pericardial fluid raising the possibility of pericarditis from COVID vaccine. He has been commenced on colchicine by his cardiologist.

Romen was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome at the age of 17. He aspired to become a golfer in his youth. Due to the physical symptoms, he was unable to fulfil his ambitions. He commented on lost time and missed opportunities in his childhood/adolescence due to

sickness. He did recover from chronic fatigue syndrome for about 10 years. Prior to the COVID vaccine, he has pursued an active lifestyle.

Romen has been working for Department of Health as a public servant. He does not drink alcohol or smoke. He was born to Macedonian parents. Although he was born in Australia, he cited English as more of a second language as he acquired its use later in his formative years.

There was no family history of any neurological disease of note.

On examination, Romen was articulate and had good higher cognitive function. He was hesitant in his speech at times. He appeared photophobic. His muscle tone, power and reflexes were preserved. His vibration senses were normal.

I proceeded to a nerve conduction study which did not demonstrate any evidence of a large fibre neuropathy in his extremities.

I reviewed his MRI brain scan conducted at Qscan in 2022. This was normal. He is due to have a brain SPECT scan as well as a series of blood tests organised by another specialist. He also had qualitative EEG. I have asked him to forward these test results to me.

I have explained to Romen that his constellation of neurological symptoms could be related to an exposure such as the COVID vaccine. However, there is much to be studied in this area in terms of its association and causation. I have also broached the concept of functional neurological disorder (FND) as no obvious structural abnormalities have been identified. FND can be associated with the abnormality of the neuronal network. I have suggested that he trial Modafinil for brain fog and fatigue. The dose of Modafinil is usually between 100 and 200 mg daily. I have offered to review him in about three months' time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Zhai', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr SHAUN ZHAI

Consultant Neurologist and Neurophysiologist

Dictated and sighted by Dr Shaun Zhai- electronically signed