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16 August 2021


### MISINFORMATION ON VACCINATION

The South African Thoracic Society (SATS) hereby voice our collective disappointment with the views expressed by **Dr Susan Vosloo**, as well as the highly irresponsible sharing of her recording on social media. Although they enjoy the right to free speech, healthcare professionals should not utilise social or formal media to spread such blatant misinformation, particularly if it can lead to (preventable) suffering and death.

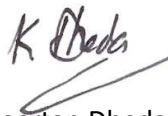
The growing evidence base for the various SARS-CoV-2 vaccines points towards a high degree of efficacy at preventing severe disease and death. Evidence has also shown that the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are safer than the majority of commonly used over the counter or prescribed medications (including the oral contraceptive pill which has a higher risk of clotting side effects in young women than COVID-19 vaccines). The potential short-term side-effects (fever, pain and even very rarely clotting disorders) pale into insignificance when compared to the harm caused by the actual disease and the economic hardship it has brought to many.

As a society we have been on the forefront of sharing scientifically accurate information and correcting misinformation. We are also primarily clinicians, and we have seen first-hand the impact of COVID-19 on our health care system, and the excess death and long-term disability it has caused.

It is our view that widespread vaccination is indeed a critically important way forward to protect those at risk and society in general, and we would strongly encourage every adult resident of South Africa to be vaccinated.



Prof Coenie Koegelenberg (SATS President)



Prof Keertan Dheda (SATS Past President )



Prof Richard van Zyl-Smit (SATS Vice-President)