PANDEMICS - DATA & ANALYTICS

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To: Adrian Gore

Discovery Limited

Sable Park, Bridgeways, Century City

Cape Town, 7446

Email: [redacted]

And To: Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Email: [redacted] ; [redacted]

And To: Minister of Health

Email: [redacted]

Dear Adrian,

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO COVID-19 VACCINES

1 At the outset, we wish to place on record that PANDA supports the use of safe and efficacious vaccines as part of a focused protection approach. Transparency of all efficacy and safety data for vaccines is crucial for informed consent. This is particularly important as increasingly younger people, whose risks from COVID-19 are lower, qualify for vaccination in South Africa.

2 We also note that in terms of Regulation 14 of the regulations published under the Disaster Management Act relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 in South Africa, any person who publishes any statement, through any medium, with the intention to deceive any other person about COVID-19 or any measure taken by the government to address COVID-19 commits an offence.

3 It has come to our attention that Discovery has published information relating to the COVID-19 Vaccines on your website, including at the following URL: https://www.discovery.co.za/corporate/covid-19-vaccine-faq. The information that you have published is inaccurate in the following respects:

3.1 You say that, "All vaccines have undergone rigorous clinical trials globally before they have been approved for use." Discovery thereby implies that the clinical trials of the Vaccines are complete. This is inaccurate. Discovery also states that the vaccines have been approved which is false. The vaccines have been authorised for "emergency use" only. They are not approved by the FDA or SAHPRA. The Emergency Use Listing ("**EUL**") of the World Health Organisation has important differences from an ordinary drug approval and the absence of any clarification in this regard creates the impression that the vaccines are no different to any other fully approved drug. This amounts to a significant lack of disclosure on Discovery's part. The issue is exacerbated by the verbiage around the SAHPRA listing, which fails to note that the vaccines have been registered under Section 21 only, which is a temporary, 6-month emergency listing.

3.2 Discovery's lists of side effects:

3.2.1 fails to distinguish between the various vaccines which have different side effects; and

3.2.2 is incomplete. It omits all of the serious side effects including allergic reactions, blood clotting, heart inflammation, myocarditis and pericarditis. It also omits many short-term known side effects like shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, abdominal pains, inability to operate machines, facial drooping, swelling of lips, face and tongue and hives. These are side effects that, for example the National Health Service in the UK, brings to the attention of people being vaccinated.[1]

3.3 Discovery fails to list any category of person (such as people who suffer allergic reactions, people with a fever, bleeding problems or blood disorders, weakened immune systems etc) who should not be vaccinated, despite the fact that many of the vaccine manufacturers specifically recommend that certain categories of person should not take the vaccine.

3.4 Discovery fails to note that the vaccines are not recommended for children.

3.5 Most concerning is Discovery's statement that, "No deaths related to vaccines have been reported." Discovery does not qualify this statement by mentioning who has received no reports of deaths, but the implication of such a broad statement is that no one has been reported to have died following the taking of a vaccine. This is patently false and misleading. Thousands of deaths following vaccination have been reported globally. These deaths have been reported into the United States Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (over 12,000 deaths), the United Kingdom Yellow Card system (over 1,400 deaths) and Eudravigilance (over 5,200 deaths). These systems have been shown to capture around 1% of total serious events and around 10% of deaths.

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[1] https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/safety-and-side-effects/

3.6 The United States CDC Adverse Event Reporting System was established in 1990 to track all adverse events relating to all vaccines regardless of the physician's opinion about causality. This data reveals that:

3.6.1 In 31 years, around 21,200 deaths have been reported following vaccine administration. Of these, more than 12,300 deaths were reported following COVID-19 vaccines administered in the last 6 months.

3.6.2 More than 46,000 hospitalisations following the administration of a COVID vaccine have been reported, representing more than one quarter of all vaccine-related hospitalisations reported over the last 31 years;

3.6.3 A total of over 545,000 adverse events following COVID vaccines have been reported in the US alone including over 2,000 cases of anaphylaxis, over 2,000 cases of Bell's Palsy, nearly 1,000 miscarriages, over 3,300 heart attacks and more than 2,000 cases of myocarditis/pericarditis.

4 Certain countries, including Norway, have investigated vaccine adverse event reports and confirmed that some deaths have been caused by the vaccines. Whilst it is acknowledged that some of the deaths referred to above, when investigated fully, may turn out not to have been caused by the vaccines, the massive increase in adverse events being reported into these systems compared to the reporting over the last 31 years must be taken into account when making statements about adverse events. It appears that Discovery may have been unaware of the adverse events reported globally but the statement that no deaths have been reported is patently inaccurate.

5 It seems to us that in order to comply with the law, your website should, as a minimum, link to the manufacturers' lists of contra-indications and side effects, alternatively list these comprehensively.

6 We would like to request that you make the necessary changes to the information on your website to ensure that the public is presented with accurate information that permits them to make an informed decision on vaccine risks. PANDA holds a responsibility to provide the public with accurate information and intends to fulfil its promise. Should no changes be made to the website by close of business on 18 August 2021, PANDA intends to take further steps, commencing with publishing this letter on its website.

Yours sincerely,

PANDA