

Robert Malone Targets Physician Who Alerted Medical Board to Misinformation | The Scientist Magazine

By Catherine Offord

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A physician who alerted the Maryland state medical board about controversial scientist Robert Malone's alleged promotion of COVID-19 misinformation has been harassed online, faced a retaliatory complaint to his own medical board, and received complaints to his institution after Malone publicly disclosed his identity.

The medical board in Maryland, meanwhile, has opted to take no disciplinary action against Malone.

Michael Patmas, a licensed physician and medical director of utilization management and referral relationships at Maui Health in Hawaii, filed a complaint with the Maryland Board of Physicians late last year after Malone, who holds an active medical license in Maryland and has been widely criticized for spreading misinformation about the pandemic, visited Maui and spoke at rallies opposing vaccine mandates.

In an interview with *The Scientist*, Patmas says that he was concerned by these events and perceived a subsequent increase in vaccine hesitancy in the local community. He adds that he felt a moral duty to notify the board because he thought Malone's conduct in Maui and more generally violated guidance issued last summer by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), a nationwide nonprofit that supports state boards on licensing and regulation, about generating and spreading COVID-19 misinformation. Patmas notes that he acted in a personal capacity, not as a representative of his employer.

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