

Exhibit 5

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
PITTSBURGH DIVISION

ALEXANDER RHODES)	Case No.
)	
<i>Plaintiff,</i>)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 2:19-cv-01366
)	
NICOLE PRAUSE)	
)	<i>Electronically Filed</i>
and)	
)	
LIBEROS LLC)	
)	
<i>Defendants</i>)	

DECLARATION OF JOHN ADLER, MD

My name is John Adler. I am older than 18 years of age, I am of sound mind, I have never been convicted of a felony, I am personally familiar with the facts stated herein, and I am fully capable of making this affidavit. I swear under penalty of perjury that the statements contained herein are based on my person knowledge and are true and accurate. I make this affidavit to outline and document some of the false statements and attacks Dr. Nicole Prause has made against me.

I am a neurosurgeon and am an emeritus professor of neurosurgery and radiation oncology at Stanford University. I am the author of more than 300 peer reviewed publications and book chapters, and I am a named inventor on 20 United States patents. I have served or continue to serve as an editor for 7 traditional peer reviewed medical journals. In 2009, I started the online peer reviewed medical journal known as *The Cureus Journal of Medical Science*, which is a multi-disciplinary, peer reviewed on-line medical journal. I currently serve as the CEO and editor in chief of *Cureus*. A true and accurate copy of my CV is attached and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A".

In 2015, *The Cureus Journal of Medical Science* published an article in *Cureus* that sought to review the underlying neuroanatomy and neurochemistry of addiction pathways in the brain. The title of the article is Hypersexuality Addiction and Withdrawal Phenomenology Neurogenetics and Epigenetics. An unquestioned assertion within the article is that hypersexuality represented a form of brain addiction.

After the article was published, Nicole Prause began making negative statements about the journal on social media. Primarily because of Dr. Prause's social media posts, it was decided to retract the article in question and republish an amended manuscript. However none of the modifications were material, in the eyes of the editor-in-chief, me; the errors involved matters that were somewhat tangential to the primary goal of the published article. Mark Gold, one of the most important addiction researchers in the world, was the senior author on this article. By means of her social media posts, Dr. Prause also attempted to persuade the National

Library of Medicine to de-list *Cureus*, from Pubmed indexing. Of note, her primary objection to the article involved, to my way of thinking, rather trivial matters pertaining to changes in the DSM IV and V, which as a practical matter are not grounded in neuroscience. After the article was re-reviewed by several domain experts, including the former head of the National Institute of Addition, Steve Hyman, and the Stanford Chairman of Psychiatry, an amended version of the retracted article was republished.

In the years that followed, Dr. Prause would occasionally lash out at *Cureus* on social media. On a few occasions I responded to these attacks on social media with firm and unyielding comments of my own. Then on November 9th, 2015 Dr. Prause contacted Dr. Gary Steinberg, Chair of the Stanford Department of Neurosurgery (my boss) who then referred her complaint to the Dean's office at Stanford University accusing me of:

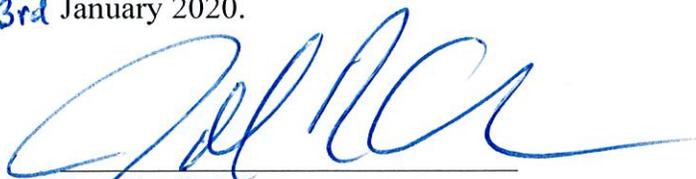
"emailing my colleagues with false information also revealing my identify as what should have been a confidential whistleblower (see below). He also directly contradicts what my research program is investigating by intentional misquote (see below).

I do not see a way around filing against his medical license for unethical practice at this point. "

and by virtue of such violating her "Title IX" civil rights. These allegations are completely false. Indeed, I have never met Dr. Prause, and I have never harassed or violated anyone's Title IX rights. In addressing Dr. Prause's allegations of scientific misconduct (in the context of serving as the Editor-in-Chief of *Cureus*), I needed to conduct my own investigation into the matter, which necessarily meant communicating via email with academic sexologists who also happened to be colleagues of Dr Prause.

As for being a "Whistleblower", Dr Prause posted a tweet on social media about this matter completely revealing her identity to the public. Moreover, in the context of vetting academic disputes as a journal editor-in-chief, I am neither procedurally, ethically nor legally bound to hide the identify of scholarly critics. In fact, my obligation is the reverse, to bring to light any and all scholarly debate. Ultimately, the false accusation made by Dr. Prause resulted in an investigation by the Stanford Dean's office. In the end, I was cleared of all wrongdoing, but it was a long and painful process.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on **Brd** January 2020.



Dr. John R Adler