

NATIONAL POST

FREE 30-day no obligation subscription to National Post.

Doctor, 61, accused of sexual assault

Twitter | Facebook | LinkedIn | Digg | Reddit | Buzz | Email

Megan O'Toole and Alex Wright, National Post · Thursday, Mar. 11, 2010

A 61-year-old doctor has been accused of sexually assaulting three patients while they were under anesthetic.

George Doodnaught of Toronto has worked as an anesthesiologist at North York General Hospital for almost three decades. Police allege that three women ranging in age from mid-thirties to late eighties reported being sexually assaulted by the doctor between August, 2007, and last month.

"Three separate female victims report being sexually assaulted by the doctor while under anesthetic during a surgical procedure," Detective Constable Julie Stehlik told a press conference yesterday.

The women "have the ability to recall sexual acts occurring to them during surgical procedures," she said.

Authorities launched an investigation into Dr. Doodnaught last month after an alleged assault. Since then the police learned of the two additional alleged victims. The doctor has been charged with three counts of sexual assault.

He has been granted bail with conditions until his next court appearance.

Police say there may be more victims, and urged potential witnesses to come forward with information. Dr. Doodnaught has also worked at a number of other facilities in the Greater Toronto Area.

At a press conference at North York General yesterday afternoon, officials gave few details about the circumstances leading to the allegations, but confirmed Dr. Doodnaught's privileges at the hospital had been terminated.

TOOLS

Change text size

Print

RELATED TOPICS

[Bonnie Adamson](#)

[Darcy Merkur](#)

[Crime](#)

[Crime and Law](#)

[Crime Stoppers International](#)

SEARCH

News | Stock Quote
[Search Input Field]

BLOGS »

Posted
Queen Elizabeth in Waterloo
Mon, Jul. 5, 2010 - 11:50 ET by Peter Kuitenbrouwer

Posted Toronto
Controversial Muslim speaker cancels talk
Mon, Jul. 5, 2010 - 11:02 ET by National Post Staff

Afterword
Not just idyll chatter; Toronto poet seeks to teach strangers the value of verse
Mon, Jul. 5, 2010 - 11:00 ET by Special to the National Post

Posted
Telescope unveils 'treasure chest' image of the universe

"We're shocked and devastated that this may have happened at North York General Hospital," president and CEO Bonnie Adamson said. "We pride ourselves on the excellent care and service we provide, and these allegations again are focused on one physician."

Dr. Doodnaught was "a very busy physician," she said, and officials are working to pinpoint specifically how many procedures he performed. David White, vice-president of medical and academic affairs, noted patients coming out of anesthesia can have a variety of experiences, and memories may come back over time.

Darcy Merkur, a lawyer with Toronto law firm Thomson Rogers, has been retained by one of the alleged victims to advise her of her rights.

"We're in the process of giving her that advice," he said. "We anticipate being instructed to issue a lawsuit in due course."

The firm has been receiving calls from concerned people who think they may have been treated by Dr. Doodnaught. While none of the callers so far allege to be victims of sexual assault, Mr. Merkur said it is still early.

"We're fielding a lot of those calls right now," he said. "We're expecting to be fielding a lot more, and we're looking at the possibilities of a class action in the event that a lot of people come forward."

Police urge anyone with information to contact them at 416-808-4040, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS or www.222tips.com. North York General Hospital has provided a line for patient inquiries at 416-756-6271.

[Get the National Post newspaper delivered to your home](#)

GLOBAL NEWS »



Global National: July 4

The Sunday, July 4, 2010 edition of Global National with Robin Gill



[View all videos](#)



MOST POPULAR »

1. "Queers Against Israeli Apartheid" declare Canada to be an apartheid state, too
2. Rex Murphy: Stephen Harper's sunshine moment
3. India seeks \$143M over immigrant ship Canada rejected in 1914
4. Turkey threatens to cut ties with Israel
5. American soldier a different kind of war refugee
6. Conrad Black: The case against a national securities regulator
7. French 'burka ban' goes before

COLUMNISTS »

Bruce Arthur



Free agency gone mad

Scott Stinson



A whole new level of freedom

Shinan Govani



The charms race

Robert Fulford



Death of a senator

ADS BY GOOGLE »

Introducing Windows® 7
Discover All the Things You Can Do
with Windows 7. Learn More.
Microsoft.com/Windows

undefinedundefinedundefined

National Post Family of Websites

[NATIONAL POST](#) [FINANCIAL POST](#) [FULL COMMENT](#) [POSTED](#)
[POSTED TORONTO](#) [POSTED SPORTS](#) [THE AMPERSAND](#) [THE AFTERWORD](#)

Syndication

[Podcasts](#)
 [All Feeds](#)

Our Newspaper Partners

[Victoria Times Colonist](#)
[The Province \(Vancouver\)](#)
[Vancouver Sun](#)
[Edmonton Journal](#)
[Calgary Herald](#)
[Regina Leader-Post](#)
[Saskatoon StarPhoenix](#)
[Windsor Star](#)
[Ottawa Citizen](#)
[The Gazette \(Montreal\)](#)

[Privacy](#) | [Terms](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Copyright and permissions](#) | [Today's paper](#) | [Digital paper](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [News Feeds](#) | [Subscription services](#) | [Site map](#)

© 2010 National Post Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.