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Star Letters Editor:

The recent deaths of two patients at Toronto's notorious Centre for Addictions and Mental Health – a 74-year-old in the geriatric ward and a 53-year-old patient in the forensic unit – were preventable ("Outbreak at CAMH now at 5 confirmed cases," 10/20/20).

So far, there have been 29 COVID-infected patients at CAMH. COVID exacerbates the suffering of elderly and/or otherwise vulnerable CAMH patients who are already locked up, forcibly drugged, traumatized, and, too often, languishing in solitary confinement ("seclusion") or being subjected to electroshock "therapy."

I have no doubt that many COVID deaths at CAMH and in other psychiatric facilities have been covered up. All psychiatric patients, as well as seniors and people with disabilities in long-term care homes, are at great risk of getting COVID. I agree with lawyer Anita Szigeti, who insists that CAMH staff should be, but are obviously not, informing all patients about COVID and making self-protective measures available.

Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dube should investigate CAMH after he completes his investigation into long-term care homes (warehouses), where approximately 2,000 citizens – over 80 percent of whom were seniors – have tragically died from COVID. CAMH is a snakepit, funded by government and Big Pharma, which should be shut down and replaced with non-medical 24/7 walk-in crisis centres and safe affordable housing.

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