Dr. Stasha Novakovic
Occupational & Environmental Medicine
Miami Veterans Association Medical Center

Dr. Stasha Novakovic is a physician licensed to practice medicine in Florida. He is triple board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Stasha Novakovic completed his undergraduate studies at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA in 2003 and his medical studies at St George's University School of Medicine, Grenada, West Indies in 2008. He was at the University of Florida for his residency and University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital for his pulmonary/critical care fellowship.

Dr. Novakovic has worked as a full time pulmonologist and intensivist at the Veterans Administration since 2014, in addition to being a critical care consultant with Baptist Health since 2016. Additionally, Dr. Novakovic has had many years of teaching experience at several hospitals across South Florida lecturing on the topics of pulmonology and critical care. He is the chair of the CPR committee at the Miami VA, which is also the position he has held at the West Palm Beach (WPB) VA since 2020. He provided instruction and oversight for the FAU internal medicine residency program at the WPB VA for eight years and now does so for the UM/Jackson internal medicine residents and pulmonary/critical care fellows at the Miami VA, in addition to the FIU internal medicine residents and medical students. Based on his analysis and interpretation of the published medical literature, it has been his responsibility to contribute to the development of standards for the practice of pulmonary medicine at both VA hospitals, for such initiatives as lung cancer screening, incidental pulmonary nodule interpretation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation protocols and pulmonary rehabilitation.

Dr. Novakovic is the co-director of the Lung Cancer Screening Program at the Miami VA and the director of the Incidental Pulmonary Nodule Program. Parallel to this, he is involved in multiple clinical trials involving the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. He is also the co-moderator of an interdepartmental Pathology conference, along with the chief of the pathology service at the Miami VA. The conference examines histologic specimens from the biopsies of pulmonary patients and serves both as a diagnostic review for the optimization of patient care and as education for the medical and pulmonary trainees. Dr. Novakovic is currently the site investigator of multiple clinical trials involving the early diagnosis and optimal treatment of lung cancer.

Dr. Novakovic has studied the medical and epidemiological literature pertaining to occupational and non-occupational asbestos exposure, asbestos-induced pleural abnormalities, asbestosis, lung cancer associated with asbestosis and pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma. Along with the most current research articles, he has also researched he evolution of medical knowledge of these asbestos-related conditions. Concurrently, Dr. Novakovic has reviewed medical records, pathologic specimens and thoracic imaging of many asbestos-exposed individuals, both living and deceased. This has contributed to his experience and knowledge regarding lung diseases caused by occupational exposures to asbestos and other industrial dusts.

Dr. Novakovic may testify, in general, concerning the effects of exposure to asbestos on persons in occupational settings, the epidemiology of asbestos-related diseases and the criteria for the diagnosis of asbestos-related conditions. Dr. Novakovic may also testify regarding the existence or non-existence of an alleged asbestos-related disease in the Plaintiff, including but not limited to, pleural changes, pleural plaques, asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma (all forms) and other cancers, based on his review of Plaintiff's medical records, relevant radiology, pathology, and pulmonary function testing as well as Plaintiff's testimony, where available, and other pertinent medical evidence and discovery materials. Dr. Novakovic may discuss the latency, risk of progression and prognosis of diseases caused by exposure to asbestos and other potential agents. Dr. Novakovic may discuss the contribution, if any, of asbestos dust to the illness of the plaintiff and he may present and explain various models of risk versus time, duration, and extent of exposure, and other related topics. He may also discuss the risk of disease or death experienced by the Plaintiff due to causes other than exposure to asbestos. Dr. Novakovic may present an analysis of Plaintiff's work environment, work history, occupational history, including but not limited to discussion of the significance, intensity, and disease-causing potential arising from exposure to this defendant's products versus other types of exposure.

Dr. Novakovic may also testify about the role that cigarette smoking plays in harming human health and how in any specific case a Plaintiff's cigarette smoking history either did or did not affect pulmonary function, heart condition, vascular condition and the development or risk of cancer. He has examined, interviewed, and treated smokers and ex-smokers continually during the more than 16 years of his training and practice and he has diagnosed and/or treated many patients for cigarette-induced diseases including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease including chronic bronchitis and emphysema, atherosclerotic coronary and peripheral vascular disease and cancer of organs other than the lung including larynx, esophagus, bladder and kidney. He has diagnosed and treated a multitude of patients with nicotine addiction.

Dr. Novakovic may also offer his opinion on other coexisting conditions and diseases of other organ systems. His testimony may include a medical analysis and explanation of malignant and non-malignant lung diseases including but not limited to those caused by tobacco abuse, other inhaled agents, occupational exposures, somatic and germ-cell (inherited) mutations and environmental exposures.

Dr. Novakovic may testify about alterations in the human genetic code, also known as DNA mutations, including germline mutations such as BAP1 and TP53 as well as somatic mutations such as KRAS, EGFR, ALK, ROS1 and cMET as they pertain to occupational and non-occupational lung diseases and related diseases including lung cancer, pleural mesothelioma and peritoneal mesothelioma.

Dr. Novakovic may discuss the various federal regulations promulgated by U.S. agencies including OSHA and the EPA. He may discuss the nature and purpose of the regulations and government risk assessments. He may also discuss current statements from government agencies concerning fiber length, fiber type and fiber dose and toxicity. Dr. Novakovic may give opinions concerning the “State of the Art” (evolution of medical and scientific knowledge) as it pertains

to what was known about different asbestos-related diseases throughout time, should same be necessary.

Dr. Novakovic may respond to the opinions or testimony of any of Plaintiff's or Co-Defendants' experts or fact witnesses. Dr. Novakovic has agreed to testify at trial and will be sufficiently familiar with the pending action to submit to a meaningful oral deposition concerning the specific testimony, including any opinion and its basis that he is expected to give at trial.

A full copy of his resume is available on request.