



## Tweets from 13th set of 100 posts in S4ME thread: Michael Sharpe skewered by @JohntheJack on Twitter





**Indigophoton**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)


Messages: 690  
Likes Received: 7,503  
Location: UK

Wessely's involvement in PACE as summarized by Keith Geraghty in response to SW and Godwin,

 **Mike Godwin** @sfmneonic 14 Jun  
Replying to @secretspartacus @RobertHMcMullen  
None of the foregoing is a defense of the PACE trial, which, based on my current understanding, seems so profoundly flawed that it cannot be trusted. Nor is it a defense of researchers who should have been more rigorous. But humility is good practice for all of us, and ...

 **Simon Wessely** @WesselyS  
You won't be surprised mike to find that I don't agree with this. As far as I can see only one person has pointed out that this might not be so simple. Here's my analysis of the strengths of the trial and why the core findings remain reliable.  
[simonwessely.com/Downloads/ment...](http://simonwessely.com/Downloads/ment...)  
7:11 AM - Jun 15, 2018  
1 Like See Simon Wessely's other Tweets

 **Dr Keith Geraghty** @keithgeraghty 17 Jun  
Replying to @WesselyS and 3 others  
this blog fails to disclose Prof Wessely's full involvement in PACE. He is named on MRC application as collaborator; 2. sat on oversight committee, 3. ran centre trial arm, 4. oversaw centre collecting data, 4. is named on PACE trial manuals as author of them, the list goes on.

 **Dr Keith Geraghty** @keithgeraghty  
also treated patients as one of the doctors in treatment CBT - he is also mentor to lead PACE author and close friends with two other PACE leads. Prof Wessely is not a neutral observer and keeps coming out to defend PACE because he pioneered the pre-PACE CBT model of PACE authors.  
10:25 AM - Jun 17, 2018  
66 Likes 22 people are talking about this

Indigophoton, Sunday at 8:56 PM Report Bookmark #1203 Like + Multiquote Reply



**Indigophoton**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)

Messages: 690  
Likes Received: 7,503  
Location: UK

dave30th said: ↑  
In any event, we know it was "fast-tracked" so it likely didn't go through anything particularly rigorous.

@Lucibee, who should know, tweeted this earlier,

**Anton Mayer** @MECFSNews 17 Jun  
Replying to @MECFSNews @Lucibee  
What happened with the (lack of proper) peer review is a mystery though.

**Lucibee** @Lucibee  
Not really. If you are pre-awarded Fast Track review, you get to choose your favoured reviewers too. Bonus!  
3:56 PM - Jun 17, 2018  
17 likes See Lucibee's other Tweets

Indigophoton, Sunday at 9:52 PM Report Bookmark #1211 Like + Multiquote Reply



**TiredSam**  
Moderator  
Staff Member

Messages: 3,525  
Likes Received: 15,772

I don't remember seeing this tweet (from Friday 15th, writing to Simon Wessely) on this thread yet:

**Mike Godwin** @sfmneonic · 15. Juni  
I hope you don't regret my interest in this (or your having awakened my interest). I understand more of the context now, including the debate's public-policy dimension. I understand your defense of the PACE trial, but it is with some relief that I learned you weren't a co-author.

1 reply 6 likes

Since then of course Mike Godwin has learnt of Simon's involvement in the trial, and has had the privilege of an exchange with one of the co-authors.

Last edited: Sunday at 10:23 PM

[Click me to go to the Help and How To: Sub Forum](#)

[Click me for the Forum Rules, Values and Etiquette](#)

TiredSam, Sunday at 10:17 PM Report Bookmark #1216 Like + Multiquote Reply



**Indigophoton**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)

Messages: 690  
Likes Received: 7,503  
Location: UK

A few more comments for those not following on twitter,



**Michael Sharpe** @profmsharpe

17 Jun

Replying to @sfmnemonic

Ok. I can see you have your views. Thanks for reading the research paper. Kind regards.



**Mike Godwin** ✓

@sfmnemonic



Sometimes a student can do all the reading and still reach different conclusions.

10:16 PM - Jun 17, 2018

♥ 19 👤 See Mike Godwin's other Tweets



**Judy Hamilton** @secretspartacus

17 Jun

Replying to @sfmnemonic and 2 others

Mike, you don't know how heartening it is for patients to see you responding in a measured way & understanding our attempts to explain the harm being done & our frustration after decades of being dismissed by the majority of the medical & scientific professions. Thank you.



**Mike Godwin** ✓

@sfmnemonic



You're welcome. But of course I should say yet again that I have no special authority in this stuff. I have a decent science and research background, but I'm mainly just a lawyer who's also a voracious reader.

10:20 PM - Jun 17, 2018

♥ 14 👤 See Mike Godwin's other Tweets



**Brent Merritt** @brentmerritt

17 Jun

Replying to @sfmnemonic @profmsharpe

Absolutely. I personally doubt that these researchers consciously have malicious intent. But for patients, being disbelieved and belittled on top of fighting a debilitating illness with few answers and no treatment is an indescribably painful experience.



**Mike Godwin** ✓

@sfmnemonic



Of course it is.

10:14 PM - Jun 17, 2018

♥ 14 👤 See Mike Godwin's other Tweets



Indigophoton, Sunday at 10:55 PM Report Bookmark

#1228 Like + Multiquote Reply



**Kalliope**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)  
Messages: 594  
Likes Received: 7,251  
Location: Norway

I am late to the party, but amen! to this:



**Ollie Cornes** @ollie72  
17 Jun  
Replying to @ollie72 and 3 others  
I lost count years ago of the number of people living with M.E. I have talked to who, after graded exercise therapy, became significantly sicker and more disabled and often permanently. The PACE study authors claim GET is "safe". The disparity raises serious questions.



**Mike Godwin** @sfmnemonic  
10:43 PM - Jun 17, 2018  
This was one element that struck me--that GET was supposedly "safe." Even if only marginally effective, its being "safe" meant it was worth trying. But there seems to be a lot of testimonial evidence that it's not safe, at least for some significant subset of patients.  
129 likes 38 people are talking about this

Kalliope, Sunday at 11:08 PM Report Bookmark

#1229 Like + Multiquote Reply



**Robert 1973**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)  
Messages: 131  
Likes Received: 1,959  
Location: UK

This was a post three days ago, before I prodded Godwin to reply to Sharpe's tweet...



**Mike Godwin** @sfmnemonic  
14 Jun  
Replying to @RobertHMcMullen and 2 others  
I hope I'm helping you now. @WesselyS hailed me into this discussion, and so I presume he's reading it. He may be interested in my take on all this stuff.



**Robert McMullen** @RobertHMcMullen  
Yes, indeed. Thank you, Mike.

In case Simon has missed some of the threads he isn't tagged in, here is the one where you suggest that the trial he describes as "a thing of beauty" appears to be "so profoundly flawed that it cannot be trusted": [twitter.com/sfmnemonic/sta...](https://twitter.com/sfmnemonic/status/1000000000000000000)



**Mike Godwin** @sfmnemonic  
Replying to @secretspartacus @RobertHMcMullen  
None of the foregoing is a defense of the PACE trial, which, based on my current understanding, seems so profoundly flawed that it cannot be trusted. Nor is it a defense of researchers who should have been more rigorous. But humility is good practice for all of us, and ...

4:06 PM - Jun 14, 2018

12 likes See Robert McMullen's other Tweets


**Robert McMullen** @RobertHMcMullen 14 Jun  
 Replying to @RobertHMcMullen and 4 others  
 And here is the one where you suggest that he should apologise to patients: [twitter.com/sfmnemonic/sta...](https://twitter.com/sfmnemonic/status/1007111111)

**Mike Godwin** ✓ @sfmnemonic  
 I'm pretty sure Simon has seen everything I posted. But the "let's you and him fight" approach doesn't work so well on us old guys.  
 4:23 PM - Jun 14, 2018  
 3 likes See Mike Godwin's other Tweets

Wessely is too savvy to get into a public fight with an old friend who happens to think his beloved trial is a pile of crap. The probability that Sharpe would provoke a skirmish was always much higher. I'm so pleased he didn't let us down.

Robert 1973, Monday at 2:03 AM Report Bookmark #1232 Like + Multiquote Reply

Page 63 of 75 < Prev 1 61 62 63 64 65 75 Next > Go to First Unread Unwatch Thread Ignore Thread



**TiredSam**  
 Moderator  
 Staff Member

Messages: 3,525  
 Likes Received: 15,772

Robert 1973 said: ↑  
 This was a post three days ago, before I prodded Godwin to reply to Sharpe's tweet...

Here's the tweet about apologising referred to above:

**Mike Godwin** ✓ @sfmnemonic [Folgen](#)

Antwort an @NeunistivaJane @secretspartacus @RobertHMcMullen

I know that critics and patients have been treated unjustly. It would be nice if the counter-critics recognized that and apologized for it. But my own experience has been that it's best not to wait for anyone's apology while you're working to fix things.

05:01 - 14. Juni 2018

[Click me to go to the Help and How To: Sub Forum](#)

[Click me for the Forum Rules, Values and Etiquette](#)

TiredSam, Monday at 7:31 AM Report Bookmark #1241 Unlike + Multiquote Reply




**Joh**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)  
Messages: 550  
Likes Received: 3,971  
Location: Germany


Milo said: ↑  
May i ask how Mike Godwin got involved in a twitter PACE debate?

Someone mentioned 'the banality of evil' and Wessely tagged Mike Godwin (Godwin's law).

 **Lucibee** @\_Lucibee 7 Jun  
Replying to @wilshica  
Looks like you've unlocked an achievement there...  
(but I screenshotted the tweet) [pic.twitter.com/VAKZkFjoUg](https://pic.twitter.com/VAKZkFjoUg)

 **Claudia Gillberg** @DrCSGillberg  
What a gem. His tweets lay bare the irrational and unethical mindset behind PACE. A glimpse of 'the banality of evil', considering the many horrendous consequences of that trial.  
10:16 AM - Jun 8, 2018  
97 likes 26 people are talking about this


 **Simon Wessely** @WesselyS 9 Jun  
Replying to @DrCSGillberg and 3 others  
Putting to one side a further example of my school friend @sfmneemonic famous Law, what have been the 'horrendous' consequences of the trial, since its publication in 2011? I don't think it changed clinical practice in the UK, but perhaps it did elsewhere?


 **Mike Godwin** @sfmneemonic  
Now you've got me interested. Where can I find the paper in question and links to any dispute about it?  
4:23 PM - Jun 12, 2018  
73 likes 25 people are talking about this



**Simone**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)  
Messages: 103  
Likes Received: 1,030  
Location: Australia

@Mike Godwin sums it up nicely.

 **Carolyn Wilshire** @wilshica · 6h  
Replying to @sfmneemonic and @profmsharpe  
Don't take it too badly that you were asked to read the paper. I led the reanalysis of the primary PACE data published in BMC Psychology, and have read every one of the papers in painstaking detail. But I also got told to "read the paper(s)" every time I challenged the trial.  
1 reply 2 retweets 21 likes

 **Mike Godwin** @sfmneemonic · 5h  
My guess is that because the PACE trial researchers saw confirmation of their views in the data, they are inclined to conclude that those who don't find confirmation in the data must not really have read the original papers.  
2 replies 1 retweet 9 likes

Simone, Monday at 9:18 AM Report Bookmark

#1244 Like + Multiquote Reply



**Woolie**  
Committee member

Messages: 1,701  
Likes Received: 10,354



**Mike Godwin** @sfmneonic

14 Jun

Replying to @RobertHMcMullen and 2 others  
I hope I'm helping you now. @WesselyS hailed me into this discussion, and so I presume he's reading it. He may be interested in my take on all this stuff.



**Robert McMullen**  
@RobertHMcMullen



Yes, indeed. Thank you, Mike.

In case Simon has missed some of the threads he isn't tagged in, here is the one where you suggest that the trial he describes as "a thing of beauty" appears to be "so profoundly flawed that it cannot be trusted": [twitter.com/sfmneonic/sta...](https://twitter.com/sfmneonic/status/1000000000000000000)

**Mike Godwin** @sfmneonic

Replying to @secretspartacus @RobertHMcMullen

None of the foregoing is a defense of the PACE trial, which, based on my current understanding, seems so profoundly flawed that it cannot be trusted. Nor is it a defense of researchers who should have been more rigorous. But humility is good practice for all of us, and ...

4:06 PM - Jun 14, 2018

12 See Robert McMullen's other Tweets

I rolled about the floor laughing at this one (the tweet at the top). Sweet man, he truly believes Wessely is interested hearing views on this issue that conflict with his own! Absolutely priceless!

Woolie, Monday at 10:15 AM Report Bookmark

#1249 Unlike + Multiquote Reply



**Lucibee**  
Senior Member (Voting Rights)

Messages: 264  
Likes Received: 2,745  
Location: Mid-Wales



**justME** @FeelingSeidy

18 Jun

Replying to @WesselyS and 6 others  
Would be so grateful if you would clarify publicly CBT alone is not enough. I was refused PIP for #ME because the Medical professional said since I'd had treatment I should be 'cured'. The Judge decided I was choosing to be housebound. Too much misinformation in public domain



**Simon Wessely**  
@WesselyS



It's in the public domain that CBT didn't get people back to work. It's one of the PACE papers! Not sure which but it will be on the website.

2:52 PM - Jun 18, 2018

2 See Simon Wessely's other Tweets

Lucibee, Monday at 3:00 PM Report Bookmark

#1285 Like + Multiquote Reply



**Sarah**  
Established  
Member (Voting  
Rights)

Messages: 60  
Likes Received: 471



**Dr Keith Geraghty** @keithgeraghty

17 Jun

Replying to @WesselyS and 3 others

this blog fails to disclose Prof Wessely's full involvement in PACE. He is named on MRC application as collaborator; 2. sat on oversight committee, 3. ran centre trial arm, 4. oversaw centre collecting data, 4. is named on PACE trial manuals as author of them, the list goes on.



**Judy Hamilton**

@secretspartacus



Not actually an "Author", but did advise about design and execution and led the treatment manuals design, as well as being one of the treatment Centre leaders.

1:12 PM - Jun 18, 2018

♥ 3 👤 See Judy Hamilton's other Tweets



**Judy Hamilton** @secretspartacus

18 Jun

Replying to @keithgeraghty and 3 others

Not actually an "Author", but did advise about design and execution and led the treatment manuals design, as well as being one of the treatment Centre leaders.



**Simon Wessely**

@WesselyS



Wrong. Read the piece. Tells you what I did. If I had done what you said I would have been an author .

1:26 PM - Jun 18, 2018

♥ 👤 See Simon Wessely's other Tweets







**Simon Wessely** @WesselyS

18 Jun

Replying to @secretspartacus and 3 others

Wrong. Read the piece. Tells you what I did. If I had done what you said I would have been an author .



**Judy Hamilton**

@secretspartacus



I did read the piece. I then read the Protocol for the PACE Trial. Your blog says you just recruited some patients. The Protocol says differently. [pic.twitter.com/C2bzNTEHo7](https://pic.twitter.com/C2bzNTEHo7)

1:35 PM - Jun 18, 2018

"I was not on the ship, neither as passenger or crew. I helped recruit some patients to the study from our clinic, as did many doctors, but that was as far as it went"

The Protocol for the PACE Trial says:

"The authors thank Professors Tom Meade, Anthony Pinching and Simon Wessely for advice about design and execution.."

"All members of the trial management group (see below) participated in the design of the study. The treatment leaders (see below) led the treatment manuals' design"

Centre leaders

Dr D [Wilks](#)

Professor S Wessely

Etc

27 See Judy Hamilton's other Tweets



**Judy Hamilton** @secretspartacus

18 Jun

Replying to @WesselyS and 3 others

I did read the piece. I then read the Protocol for the PACE Trial. Your blog says you just recruited some patients. The Protocol says differently. [pic.twitter.com/C2bzNTEHo7](https://pic.twitter.com/C2bzNTEHo7)



**Simon Wessely**

@WesselyS



Hmmm. Fair point. But I am pretty sure I wasn't a centre leader. That was someone else. If I had been I would have been author as it's a responsible position.

2:50 PM - Jun 18, 2018

See Simon Wessely's other Tweets





**Indigophoton**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)

Messages: 690  
Likes Received: 7,503  
Location: UK



**Mike Godwin** @sfmnemonic

17 Jun

Replying to @profmsharpe @davidtuller1

For what it's worth, nobody has paid me for my opinions as offered here. My predisposition is to uncouple judgments about personalities from judgments about methodologies and data.



**michael sharpe**

@profmsharpe



Apologies. I wasn't suggesting you were. But sadly David Tuller is paid to trash this research. Ask him.

7:17 PM - Jun 17, 2018



See michael sharpe's other Tweets



**Richard Cann** @RichardCann76

17 Jun

Replying to @profmsharpe and 2 others

Strictly speaking Michael, haven't you profited from your supposed 'expertise' in the area of CFS/ME and the treatments (CBT and GET) that you have pushed and tortured the PACE trial data to support?



**michael sharpe**

@profmsharpe



Actually no. What profit did you have in mind? Certainly a lot of hassle for defending the findings.

11:30 AM - Jun 18, 2018



See michael sharpe's other Tweets





**Nasim Marie Jafry** @velogubbed

17 Jun

Replying to @profmsharpe and 2 others

May I venture to say that David Tuller isn't paid to trash research, Micheal - rather he is paid to represent a very ill population, a population that you and your colleagues have been trashing and gaslighting for years. I thank Mike for listening - and making up his own mind.



**michael sharpe**

@profmsharpe



I find this comment both odd and sad. The PACE trial clinicians combined spent many years providing clinics for patients with CFS - often in the face of scepticism from colleagues. They then spent years of hard slog running a clinical trial of treatments to improve treatment.

12:24 PM - Jun 18, 2018

♥ 3 See michael sharpe's other Tweets



**Nasim Marie Jafry** @velogubbed

18 Jun

Replying to @profmsharpe and 2 others

I've spent 35 years of 'hard slog' living with a hellish postviral illness called myalgic encephalomyelitis - an illness which Simon W effectively tried to disappear in early 90s. All of you have happily conflated ME w unexplained chronic fatigue. I find that odd & sad, Michael.



**Nasim Marie Jafry**

@velogubbed



Furthermore, MS - You may like to speak to @emshoscot - young woman in Edinburgh now using wheelchair because of therapies pushed by Lothian ME clinic where ME is treated inappropriately thx to UK-wide conflation w fatigue. She recently addressed @scotparl re harms of GET & CBT.

12:57 PM - Jun 18, 2018

♥ 9 See Nasim Marie Jafry's other Tweets





**Esther12**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)

Messages: 1,615  
Likes Received: 12,822

Lucibee said: ↑



**justME** @FeelingSeidy

18 Jun

Replying to @WesselyS and 6 others

Would be so grateful if you would clarify publicly CBT alone is not enough. I was refused PIP for #ME because the Medical professional said since I'd had treatment I should be 'cured'. The Judge decided I was choosing to be housebound. Too much

[Click to expand...](#)

But no explanation for his claim about the need for 'additional occupational support' here:



**Cosmicella** @Sue\_W\_

10 Jun

Replying to @WesselyS and 5 others

The DWP's safety from forking out money to the undeserving think-they're-ill-but-they're-not scroungers?



**Simon Wessely**

@WesselyS



Cant answer for DWP. Wasn't there. But It has a legitimate interest in helping people get back to employment given that the opposite is usually bad for health. Sadly PACE didn't help that. Since then we have learned u need additional occupational support for that. Not just CBT

10:49 AM - Jun 10, 2018

♥ 3 👤 See Simon Wessely's other Tweets

Also, there's been a failure to update this document since PACE showed CBT and GET failed to improve employment levels, so there's still a promotion of the notion that CBT/GET do aid return to work: "Occupational Aspects of the Management of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: a National Guideline"?

[https://www.nhshealthatwork.co.uk/images/library/files/Clinical\\_excellence/CFS\\_full\\_guideline.pdf](https://www.nhshealthatwork.co.uk/images/library/files/Clinical_excellence/CFS_full_guideline.pdf)

Last edited: Monday at 3:47 PM

Esther12, Monday at 3:32 PM [Report](#) [Bookmark](#)

#1292 [Like](#) [+ Multiquote](#) [Reply](#)



**Lucibee**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)  
Messages: 264  
Likes Received: 2,745  
Location: Mid-Wales

Where exactly does he stand on this?

I'm getting a very confusing picture here:

### Sickness benefits

Problems have arisen regarding the status of chronic fatigue syndrome as grounds for a variety of Department of Health and Social Security payments.<sup>27</sup> Although the diagnosis is recognized by the DHSS for attendance allowances and disability payments, not all individual inspectors appear to interpret the situation similarly, once again reflecting current confusion over case definition. At present individual cases should be treated on their merits, but it is reasonable to expect a patient to cooperate with treatment before being labelled as chronically disabled. The advice contained in the current factsheet of the ME Association, which tells sufferers that if they cannot walk more than 50 yards they should apply for a wheelchair, a mobility allowance and an invalid's parking permit may not be of long-term benefit to all patients.



**Dr Keith Geraghty**  
@keithgeraghty



Wessely 1989: astonishing remarks about pts having to cooperate with treatment, the treatment he made up as needed for CFS. Ethical lines?

5:15 PM - Jul 10, 2017 - East, England

♥ 27 💬 21 people are talking about this

Then in 2015:

**Linking benefits to treatment is unethical, and probably illegal**

<https://www.theguardian.com/comment...-people-mental-health-problems-work-treatment>

How very Vicar of Bray!

Last edited: Monday at 3:49 PM

Lucibee, Monday at 3:35 PM Report Bookmark

#1293 Unlike + Multiquote Reply



**Indigophoton**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)

Messages: 690  
Likes Received: 7,503  
Location: UK



**davidtuller** @davidtuller1

17 Jun

Replying to @profmsharpe

@sfmnemonic As I have documented, the PACE PIs read the draft commentary written by their Dutch colleagues BEFORE PUBLICATION. If Professor Sharpe doesn't remember that, he can refresh his memory here: [virology.ws/2015/11/04/tri...](http://virology.ws/2015/11/04/tri...)



**michael sharpe**  
@profmsharpe



The standard procedure for Lancet commentaries is that you are allowed to see it and offer comments or suggestions- not to influence or change it.

Ask them if you don't believe me.

8:35 AM - Jun 18, 2018

♥ 1 👤 See michael sharpe's other Tweets



**michael sharpe** @profmsharpe

18 Jun

Replying to @davidtuller1 @sfmnemonic

The standard procedure for Lancet commentaries is that you are allowed to see it and offer comments or suggestions- not to influence or change it.

Ask them if you don't believe me.



**davidtuller**  
@davidtuller1



Nice try, Michael--but that argument won't wash. Then why didn't you suggest to your Dutch friends that to claim PACE participants "recovered" based on a "strict criterion" was not true and should be removed from the commentary? Surely they would have listened.

3:44 PM - Jun 18, 2018

♥ 12 👤 See davidtuller's other Tweets





**Robert 1973**  
Senior Member  
(Voting Rights)

Messages: 131  
Likes Received: 1,959  
Location: UK



**Simon Wessely** @WesselyS

18 Jun

Replying to @secretspartacus and 3 others

Hmmm. Fair point. But I am pretty sure I wasn't a centre leader. That was someone else. If I had been I would have been author as it's a responsible position.



**Robert McMullen**

@RobertHMcMullen



I'm very confused about this, Simon. I've just checked the protocol and it very clearly states that you were one of the 8 centre leaders and co-leaders:

[bmcneurol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.11...](http://bmcneurol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.11...)

Is the published protocol is wrong?

[pic.twitter.com/O2hWJqRdA1](https://pic.twitter.com/O2hWJqRdA1)

3:46 PM - Jun 18, 2018

#### **Trial Management Group (TMG)**

The Trial Management Group (TMG) will be responsible for the day-to-day running and management of the trial. It is composed of:

- The three principal investigators

1. Professor PD White, Professor of Psychological Medicine, Centre for Psychiatry, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, Bart's and the London, Queen Mary School of Medicine and Dentistry, Department of Psychological Medicine, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, EC1A 7BE.

2. Professor MC Sharpe, Professor of Psychological Medicine and Symptoms Research, School of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, Symptoms Research Group, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh, EH10 5HF.

3. Professor T Chalder, Professor of Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy Academic Department of Psychological Medicine, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine, Weston Education Centre, Cutcombe Road, London SE5 9RJ

- All centre leaders and co-leaders

1. Dr D Wilks

2. Professor S Wessely

Is the published protocol is wrong?

[pic.twitter.com/O2hWJqRdA1](https://pic.twitter.com/O2hWJqRdA1)

3:46 PM - Jun 18, 2018

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3. Professor T Chalder, Professor of Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy Academic Department of Psychological Medicine, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine, Weston Education Centre, Cutcombe Road, London SE5 9RJ

• All centre leaders and co-leaders

1. Dr D Wilks

2. Professor S Wessely

3. Dr M Murphy

4. Dr B J Angus

5. Professor T Peto

6. Dr E Feldman

7. Dr G Murphy

8. Hazel O'Dowd

👍 34 💬 15 people are talking about this



**Simon Wessely** @WesselyS

18 Jun

Replying to @RobertHMcMullen and 3 others

Just checked back with MS. He thinks I was when first version written but I handed over before they started. I certainly did help recruit patients at the King's site and I remember talking to the team on recruitment/consent



**Lucibee**  
@\_Lucibee



You're also listed in the main paper (2011) as a centre leader and SMC doctor. Do @thelancet need to make a correction?

4:23 PM - Jun 18, 2018

👍 31 👤 See Lucibee's other Tweets







Lucibee @Lucibee

18 Jun

Replying to @WesselyS and 4 others

You're also listed in the main paper (2011) as a centre leader and SMC doctor. Do @thelancet need to make a correction?



Robert McMullen

@RobertHMcMullen



Oh yes, here it is: [thelancet.com/journals/lance...](http://thelancet.com/journals/lance...)

So you are listed as a centre leader on the 2007 protocol and on the 2011 Lancet paper but you were not a centre leader? Can you confirm who replaced you as centre leader, and on what date and where this information is recorded?

[pic.twitter.com/Uy4B0z5roL](https://pic.twitter.com/Uy4B0z5roL)

4:44 PM - Jun 18, 2018

was not designed to compare SMC with usual medical care. Although more than 3000 patients attending clinics had to be screened to identify the 641 recruited, the commonest reason for exclusion at screening was not having chronic fatigue syndrome. We chose conventional criteria for defining clinically useful differences between treatments, although other thresholds could have been chosen.<sup>13</sup> SMC was not as closely monitored or supervised as the other therapies, and participants receiving SMC alone had more sessions than did those in the therapy groups; this is unlikely to have affected comparisons between the groups. Masking of participants or clinicians to treatment allocation was not possible, and research assessors were also not masked. Primary outcomes were subjective and rated by participants. While this avoided investigator bias, it could be subject to other biases. Although participant-rated outcome measures could have been affected by expectations of treatment, which were highest for APT and GET, CBT was one of the two most effective treatments despite lower expectations.

Findings from the PACE trial suggest that individually delivered CBT and GET, when added to SMC, are more effective and as safe as APT added to SMC or SMC alone. Patients attending secondary care with chronic fatigue syndrome should be offered individual CBT or GET, alongside SMC.

**PACE trial group**  
Trial Steering Committee (independent members)—Janet Durbashire (Chair), Jenny Butler, Patrick Doherty, Stella Lee, M. Iltis, and

and Simon Wessely. The centres were at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Western General Hospital, Edinburgh; King's College Hospital, London; John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford; Royal Free Hospital, London and the Frenchay Hospital, Bristol (all UK).

**Conflicts of interest**

PDW has done voluntary and paid consultancy work for the UK Departments of Health and Work and Pensions and Swiss Re (a reinsurance company). DAC has received royalties from Wiley. JB was on the guideline development group of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for chronic fatigue syndrome and myalgic encephalomyelitis and has undertaken paid work for the insurance industry. GM has received royalties from Raritan. TC has done consultancy work for insurance companies and has received royalties from Sheldon Press and CosantoMe and Robinson. MB has received royalties from Constable and Robinson. MS has done voluntary and paid consultancy work for government and for legal and insurance companies, and has received royalties from Oxford University Press. AJJ, BA, HEB, IVC, JCB, KAG, LP, MM, PM, HO, RW, and DW declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

**Acknowledgments**

The PACE trial was funded by the UK Medical Research Council (MR/C020949), the Department of Health for England, the UK Department for Work and Pensions, and the Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government Health Directorate, the Department of Health and the Chief Scientist Office provided excess treatment and service support costs for the trial therapists and dieters. We thank the participants who took part in the PACE trial, staff from all the centres (including all PACE research nurses or assistants: Susan Brigg, Mattie Gills, Sally Grogan, Sarah Horne, Chris James, Jule Richards, Joanna Stone, and Vicky Tighill; data managers Victoria Bates, Ann M Dwyer, Emma Hartley, Kate Laversley, Sandy Smith, and Olga Zolotareva; therapists: Mary Barker, Jim Roberts, Laura Butler, Nathan Butler, Richard John Chipprodd, Ruth Goodfellow, Vincent Deary, Caroline J Hoading, Lindsay Home, Vicky Johnson, Sally Ludlam, Ioraine Maher-Edwards, Louise Mason, Christina Michalidou, Tracy Millin-Clay, Karen Stone, C M Simpson,

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#### Contributors

The principal investigators (PDW, TC, and MS) designed the study and obtained funding. Design of the trial was further developed by the trial management group, trial steering committee, data monitoring and ethics committee, and the patients' organisation, Action for ME. The trial management group, chaired by PDW, included all the authors of this report and Chris Clark, Eleanor Feldman, Tim Peto, and Sir Peter Spencer. The analysis strategy group, chaired by MS, consisted of HLB, TC, JCD, KAG, ALJ, LP, PDW, and RW. The statistical analysis plan was written by the analysis strategy group and approved by the trial steering committee and data monitoring and ethics committee before the analysis was started. The trial analysis team, chaired by ALJ, consisted of HLB, TC, KAG, MS, PDW, and RW. ALJ, LP, and RW were trial statisticians who participated in the design of the study, with RW being the lead writer of the analysis plan. KAG did the main statistical analysis. TC designed and undertook the analysis of therapy differentiation, integrity, and alliance. The writing and publication oversight committee, chaired by MS, consisted of HLB, TC, KAG, ALJ, PM, LP, PDW, and RW. The trial managers were JCD initially, then HLB. The treatment leaders were JB, MB, DIC, IVC, and GM (JB and IVC in sequence for one treatment group), who designed the treatment manuals in collaboration with the principal investigators and trained and supervised the trial therapists and doctors. The centre leaders were BA, TC, Eleanor Feldman, GM, MM, HO, Tim Peto, MS, PDW, DR,

and Simon Wessely. The centres were at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Western General Hospital, Edinburgh; King's College Hospital, London; John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford; Royal Free Hospital, London and the Fenchay Hospital, Bristol (all UK).

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#### Acknowledgments

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