

LEONARD JASON IS PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO



**PROFESSOR LEONARD JASON**

The world's foremost psychologist expert on ME. Backed for 15 years by NIH, America's premier medical research funding body.



MALCOLM HOOPER IS EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

**PROFESSOR MALCOLM HOOPER**

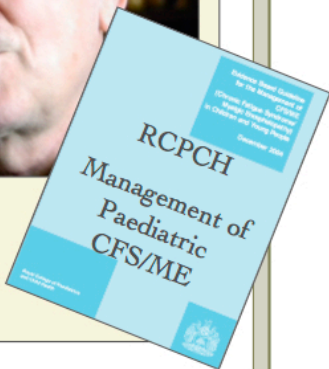
Uncompromising advocate for ME patients and veterans with Gulf War Syndrome.



DR NIGEL SPEIGHT HAS BEEN A CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN IN DURHAM FOR OVER 25 YEARS

**DR NIGEL SPEIGHT**

One of the authors of the College of Paediatrics 2004 Guidance on CFS/ME.



**DR NIGEL SPEIGHT**

"These are true horror stories where the families have been abused by the professionals and by the court process. And none of them have ever had any restitution, apology or damages."

"If this condition hadn't been hijacked by psychiatry for 30-40 years we would have found the cause for it by now."

"Children get a one way ticket to psychiatry. Professionals turn against the family and come up with really nasty explanations, such as Munchausens".

**PROFESSOR MALCOLM HOOPER**

"The present attempt to treat ME as a mental and behavioural disorder has completely failed."

**PROFESSOR LEONARD JASON**

"You have people being considered malingers when they have a significant debilitating illness. It's not a psychological illness - it's a medical illness."

"Many individuals have given up. Their governments and their healthcare systems have abandoned them. They are stigmatised and alienated."

"There's so much stigma against this illness. We have to change this."

**DON'T INTRODUCE PSYCHIATRIC MISMANAGEMENT OF ME INTO NORTHERN IRELAND.**



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**SHOWING**

**Voices from the Shadows**

**LONG GALLERY STORMONT 18 FEB 2013**

**PLANNING SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR ME PATIENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**



In March 2012 the Health and Social Care Board met with patient charities to plan specialist services for ME in Northern Ireland. For these services to succeed as they ought to, it is vital that Health Trusts get the care formula right.

**GETTING THE FORMULA RIGHT**



## MENTAL OR PHYSICAL?

In August 2007 official NHS guidance issued by NICE ruled that the cause of CFS/ME is as yet "unknown".

**Diagnosis & management of chronic fatigue syndrome /myalgic encephalomyelitis in adults & children**

"Currently, the aetiology of CFS/ME remains unknown, although several factors have been suggested, including immunological, genetic, viral, neuroendocrine and psychological." - NICE.

NCCPC The National Collaborating Centre for Primary Care  
 RCGP Royal College of General Practitioners

While formulating policy in 2006, the authors of the NICE Guideline for CFS/ME carefully distanced themselves from psychogenic models of the illness.

"Specifically, the GDG does not state that ME/CFS is a behavioural disorder, a psychiatric illness, a somatic/functional disorder, an illness belief, depression or anxiety disorder." - NICE.

### PSYCHIATRIC DOMINANCE

However in practice in much of the NHS, the psychiatric model of CFS/ME predominates.

According to recent teaching material from the RCGP:

"Up to 28% of GP's in one study did not recognize CFS/ME as a valid clinical entity, and subsequent qualitative studies of GP's beliefs surrounding the illness have confirmed skepticism and negativity surrounding the disease. Many GPs still believe CFS/ME to be a somatic presentation of a mental disorder."

The psychiatric lobby is very powerful, and NICE guidance is often ignored. Increasingly, ME patients who seek help from the NHS find themselves being forced into psychiatric care.

Voices from the Shadows

Many find that psychiatric management is inappropriate and damaging. The experience of some patients is described in this "Voices" documentary.

# Psychiatric Mismanagement Damages ME Patients

## NAOMI



Naomi and her mother Elizabeth describe how she as a child encountered abusive attitudes among NHS hospital staff.

Any input from psychiatrists was very, very destructive - Kaye Gilderdale



## SOPHIA



The police, Social Services, and a psychiatrist broke down the door and removed Sophia Mirza from her flat to a locked psychiatric ward. Within two weeks a Review Tribunal ruled she should never have been sectioned. She was released immediately, but never recovered from this ordeal. Her severe ME got steadily worse, and she died aged 32. Her mother, a trained nurse and midwife, sought redress from the General Medical Council, but was rebuffed.

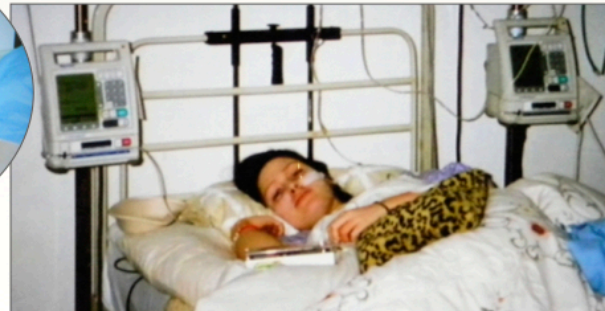
## LINDA

It was 16 years before Greg Crowhurst was able to obtain adequate NHS support for his severely affected wife Linda. Initially her GP dismissed her as "depressed" and struck her off his list.



## LYNN

After a 17-year ordeal with severe ME, Lynn Gilderdale ended it all with a morphine overdose, aged 31. Her mother Kaye was charged with murder, but thankfully acquitted.



Lynn's devoted mother Kaye was charged with murder.

## CHILD "B"

In hospital Child "B" was involuntarily subjected to Graded Exercise Therapy, under threat of Child Protection proceedings. She deteriorated badly, with serious weight loss. Her parents obtained a second medical opinion, and she was allowed home. Eventually she was removed from the At Risk Register. Her weight is now stable, but at 15 she is still bed-bound and helpless.

