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Intolerable Hypocrisy

By Lara
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I am writing again on the subject of the The One Click Group (TOCG) NICE CFS/ME Guidelines Judicial Review and the appalling behaviour of other individuals and groups in relation to this action.

In particular, Prof Malcolm Hooper's recent internet statements are, to say the least, somewhat baffling. The number of factual errors and unsubstantiated points in these statements is so vast, it would require enormous time and effort to go through them point-by-point. What struck me, however, was the general level of hypocrisy.



Professor Malcolm Hooper – Shameful

In his statement published on 5th August, Prof Hooper portrays TOCG's use of words such as 'fraudulent', 'dishonest', 'telling lies' or 'corrupt' to describe the psychiatric lobby and its sympathisers as in some way antagonistic and inappropriate. But many advocates use powerful language to put their points across, after all, the abuse and neglect of millions of people is something worth a little emphasis.

In a 2003 article published in the Guardian newspaper, Prof Hooper stated in relation to treatment of British Gulf War Veterans: "*I came up against corrupt politics, bad medicine and science prostituted in the service of the military.*" These are strong words indeed and I fail to see how they are any less powerful than any of the aforementioned at times appropriately coined in TOCG publications?

Furthermore, is it shameful to be angry when the apparent champions of the ME/CFS community suddenly reveal sympathies for psychiatric approaches? Take for instance the Countess of Mar, who after having represented hope to many in the ME/CFS community for so long, announced in 2008 that she was "*greatly saddened that there is so much hostility to the NICE Guidelines and, specifically, to CBT/GET.*" Could anything be worse? Yet Hooper criticises TOCG and its Director, Jane Bryant for expressing strong opposition to the Countess of Mar's stance. I cannot imagine that many ME/CFS sufferers did not utter a few colourful words of their own upon reading Mar's statement, and that is hardly surprising or worthy of disdain.

Take another example of Dr Ian Gibson, of the now infamous ME/CFS 'Gibson Enquiry' in which he dismissed a link between ME/CFS and vaccines, then later went on record to promote a new vaccine e.g. Gardasil for a patient population as young as

12 years old on which it had not even been tested. Come 2009, he then had to resign after an expenses scandal. But even this is out shadowed by the announcement of a new psychiatric 'CFS/ME service' in Norfolk, the very heartland of this apparent ME/CFS hero. But what does he care? After all, he did describe his former constituents as 'inbred'. Nonetheless, it is Prof Hooper's view that *'The Gibson Report will give great encouragement to the ME community'* and it *'should be warmly welcomed'*.

It looked to me at the time when Hooper produced his Gibson Enquiry statement that he and others were trying their best to spin their way out of an almighty cock up. Reading his recent statements about the NICE CFS/ME JR gives me a horrible sense of déjà vu. However this time, the spin is that more venomous and in proportion with the scale of the mistakes. After all, the Fraser/Short JR action, which should have been the one golden opportunity to have the plight of ME/CFS sufferers heard in court truly descended into chaos. The Hooper spin, though is to make excuses for this and to try to distract from it by portraying TOCG's behaviour negatively, even though they behaved impeccably throughout the process. Coverage of OneClick's witness Malcolm Kendrick's testimony was described later as 'the highlight of the event'. But not by Hooper, who instead attacks Kendrick as just a GP and therefore not an expert.

How then can we take it seriously, when a torrent of toxic abuse is slung at TOCG? This group works tirelessly and professionally and without compromise or recompense to oppose the constant betrayals and shameful treatment of ME/CFS sufferers. It is simply an enormous pity that other so-called pressure groups and activists would continue to try to undermine One Click's work and to overshadow its achievements by continuing to place incorrect and defamatory statements in the public domain.

I for one know who I will continue to look to for effective opposition and promotion of ME/CFS-labelled patients' rights. Sadly, it will not be Prof Hooper, whose advocacy at one time seemed so promising, but now appears to be spending his time trying to defend the indefensible while making shockingly inaccurate statements about TOCG in relation to the NICE CFS/ME JR. There are so many other statements made by Prof Hooper that immediately dissolve on scrutiny, if one has the time and inclination, and I'm lead to wonder if he can really continue to trade off his grandiose academic title in order to have this kind of nonsense taken seriously?

I would imagine that anyone who read the objective facts of the events that took place during the NICE CFS/ME JR could only agree.

Regards

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<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2003/feb/04/iraq8>

Related Links:

* [The Antics Of Professor Malcolm Hooper](#)

The Gibson Report

* [How The Judicial Review Of The CFS/ME NICE Guidelines Was Lost](#)

Jane Bryant, The One Click Group

* [Heartfelt Thanks To TOCG For The NICE CFS/ME JR Review](#)

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* [RE: How The Judicial Review Of The CFS/ME NICE Guidelines Was Lost](#)

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