

- **Organochlorines:** Another source of ME-type illnesses — rarely acknowledged.
- **Pharmaceuticals:** Certain antibiotics and vaccinations have triggered ME. Reframing ME as psychosomatic shields pharmaceutical companies from litigation.

THE MACHINERY OF SUPPRESSION

This is not just medical gaslighting — it is a machinery of intimidation and fear used against families and patients, while the science has been blocked and doctors persecuted.

- **Gag orders** on parents whose sick children were removed by the state and on families in possession of autopsy reports revealing gross pathology in their deceased ME relative.
- **Imprisonment of parents** resisting forced, harmful psychiatric treatment of their children
- **State seizure** and **forced adoption** of children with ME.
- **Wrongful psychiatric sectioning** of patients — some die as a result of the harmful treatment.
- **Many false accusations of Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII)** against caring families.
- **Surveillance** of journalists, lawyers, and advocates, harassment of patient advocates, and **threats of harm**.
- **Legal threats** against whistleblowers.
- **Deaths from starvation** after being denied feeding support under psychiatric pretexts **contrary to law** (see article 14 of the H&SC Act 2008, *Meeting Nutritional and Hydration Needs*)
- **Silencing of opposition** to protect careers and reputations while doctors who have protected patients from harm have been reported to the GMC.

ALLEGED SCIENTIFIC FRAUD

The PACE Trial

- **Mid-trial manipulation** of recovery criteria
- **Refusal** to release raw data, citing “harassment.”
- Framing advocates as **dangerous** in order to deny access to data.
- Spending vast sums to **hide the data** from scrutiny.

Millions in public research funds have been wasted, and could be viewed as misappropriated. Meanwhile, **leading scientists** have been **marginalised and scarce funding misdirected** to psychiatry, leaving patients without hope of future treatment.

THE COST OF DENIAL

- Biomedical research into ME was **blocked** for decades.
- Consequence: a post-COVID **explosion** in ME/CFS cases.
- National economies now suffer from lost productivity and **soaring disability rates**.

CONCLUSION

A RECKONING LONG OVERDUE

This is more than a scandal: **it is a continuing human rights crisis**. It is the **systematic abuse of countless patients** by institutions entrusted to protect them.

It is not caused by ignorance: it is a **deliberate public-private conspiracy against truth** — with catastrophic consequences, impacting generations.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

“THE MEDICAL SCANDAL OF THE CENTURY”

By Jenny Wilson
Associate Member of Doctors with ME

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), also referred to as ME/CFS, is a devastating, complex multisystem disease that causes widespread dysfunction across the immune, neurological, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and endocrine systems. It inflicts profound and often lifelong suffering on those it affects. ME researcher Dr. Alan Cochetto encapsulated the extent of devastation when he said, *“Every time you look at this disease, you see immense suffering. There appears to be no limit to the toll of human suffering that this disease is capable of inflicting on patients.”*

While the precise cause remains elusive, research continues to confirm and extend the robust biomedical narrative of the 1990s that established ME as a biological illness.

HISTORIC RECOGNITION

ME has been historically recognised as a serious neurological disease:

- 1962: Lord Brain’s “**Diseases of the Nervous System**” classified ME as neurological.
- 1964: ME was recognised as **an industrial disease**; a Royal Free nurse received a life-long pension — reaffirmed in 1989.
- 1969: WHO classified ME as **a neurological disease**.

- 1988: ME is the only physical disease given parliamentary recognition as serious, organic, and disabling.

A STRATEGY OF NEGLECT AND DISBELIEF

Despite compelling biological evidence, patients continue to face systemic disbelief. Over 90% of the medical profession fails to recognise ME as a serious biomedical disease (Hng et al 2018). The consequences are often devastating, with some fatal outcomes, as in the case of Maeve Boothby O'Neill, who died after vital feeding was withheld to avoid "medicalising" her condition. Despite the Section 28 - 'Prevention of Future Deaths' report - issued by Coroner Deborah Archer in 2024, others have since died as a consequence of medical neglect, abusive treatment, and have been/or are being starved to death. In addition, it is estimated that suicide rates in ME patients are as high as 12%, driven by relentless suffering and medical and social abandonment.

CORPORATE ABUSE

The situation is not merely due to medical ignorance, but to the suppression of evidence. Journalist George Monbiot echoed Carol Monaghan MP's words in parliament when he said it is "*the greatest medical scandal of the century.*" This scandal is rooted in:

- **Misogyny:** ME disproportionately affects women.
- **The "Simmelweis Reflex":** Medical Royal Colleges' refusal to accept paradigm-shifting evidence.
- **State Corporate Collusion:** Medical frameworks have been manipulated to serve economic and political goals.

Dr. Riel Strous (2007) warned psychiatry that "*clinical practice must never be co-opted by sociopolitical forces*

or financial agendas. Medical decisions must always be guided by the well-being of the patient – not political ideologies, economic incentives, or political expedience." That warning remains unheeded.

THE WESSLEY SCHOOL

In the UK, a group of mostly psychiatrists — known as the Wessely School (Hansard 1998) — redefined ME as a psychosomatic disorder in the early 1990s, ignoring the mass of existing, compelling biomedical evidence that disproved their claims. Backed by the insurance industry and government bodies like the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), they advanced the biopsychosocial (BPS) model, but with virtually no recognition of the 'bio' component.

A WAR FOR EPISTEMOLOGICAL DOMINANCE

At its core, it was a battle over who controlled 'truth' in medicine. Who would win: the patients or the private and public coffers?

The reach has been vast as influential power was misappropriated, awarded, and rewarded:

- **Health policy:** NHS guidelines denied biomedical care. NICE 2021 is ignored because of adherence to disproven dogma.
- **Disability law:** The DWP and permanent health insurers used the psychiatric re-categorisation to deny benefits.
- **Military medicine:** Gulf War Syndrome, an ME-like illness, was denied.
- **Academic funding:** Biomedical research was sidelined and denied funding.

- **Media:** Patients were and are demonised as hysterical or militant.

A Three-Pronged Scandal

1. The Psychiatrists' Hegemony

The psychosomatic model enabled psychiatry to capture diseases not yet fully explained. ME is psychiatry's hill to die on – its last bastion - and it has weaponised its control. Official acknowledgement of ME's proven pathophysiology would invalidate entire careers, textbooks, and highlight culpability for the harm inflicted.

2. State Liability

The British state has denied care, stripped benefits, starved, and imposed fatal psychiatric regimens on ME patients. If the recategorisation was intentional, it could be viewed as institutionalised mass Gross Negligence Manslaughter.

3. Military Implications

Given the known similarities between ME and Gulf War Syndrome (GWS), research threatens to expose lies told to soldiers suffering from GWS. Admitting the biomedical reality of ME would indicate that the British state knowingly *covered up harm to its own soldiers* — potentially opening a floodgate of liability and betrayal claims.

Other Cover-Ups

- **Chemical exposures:** Farmers poisoned by organophosphates developed ME-like symptoms but were vilified. Many died by suicide as a result.