

Dear Ms Chapman

Thank you for all the documents that you have been sending me indicating that you have been warning about BDD BDS and BSS for many years. It is sad that, with the exception of the cognoscenti, this hasn't, until very recently, come into the public domain. Whilst I readily acknowledge, as I have done on the Forward-ME website, the excellent work that you have done on the subject, I find it very hard to accept that you have a monopoly of knowledge of these classifications as you seem to infer both in the material that you have sent to me and to that appearing on the Science4ME website. Neither do you have a monopoly or a veto on the advice that is given to Forward-ME.

Had it not been for Diane O'Leary's research, I believe that it is very unlikely that we would have known about the proposals until it was too late. You cast aspersions on Diane's right to write about ME and the ICD; you cast aspersions on her integrity and knowledge of the subject; you infer that she is using Forward-ME to promote her own interests, and you have quoted what she has written about BSS out of context. When Diane states that "... *In the interests of ME patients to encourage the WHO to adopt **just the basic criteria as they are currently in place***", you fail to acknowledge that in the third paragraph of the Info Sheet she states "*The basic form of BSS changes very little from the current diagnostic construct, **but the WHO plans to recommend some additional criteria which will make it extremely difficult for ME patients around the world to get medical care and support.***"

I know that you are totally against any of these constructs being applied to ME patients at all but, as Diane explains, and as we already know from the introduction of IAPT in the UK, that, until we get a lot more biomedical evidence for ME, we are not going to be able to turn back the clock.

There should be room for views of all sorts to be discussed and, from those discussions, a consensus arrived at. By attempting to close down discussion on the ethics of diagnosis and treatment of patients with ME I believe you are doing the "cause" a disservice.

I have tried to promote your interests with the WHO by allowing you to use Forward-ME as a vehicle for correspondence. I regret that, in future, this facility will no longer be available to you.

Yours sincerely

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Chairman, Forward-ME