



Charity Nr: 1114035

# ***INVEST in ME***

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To: Dr Richard Horton  
Editor The Lancet

12 February 2016

## **To The Editor of the Lancet – The PACE Trial**

Dear Dr Horton,

We wrote to you in November 2015 regarding the PACE Trial (1).

We know that your office received our letter as we received a reply from your Executive Assistant on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 stating -

*“Dr Horton is currently travelling but will respond on his return. ”*

It is now February 2016 and no such response has been received.

And still the Lancet is silent on the farcical state of affairs concerning the PACE Trial.

We request that the Lancet either retract the Pace Trial paper or join Invest in ME and the many researchers who are calling for QMUL to release the data for independent review.

There is no reason any longer to avoid making one of those choices.

The contempt which you apparently show for our charity in not even replying to our letter is no doubt illustrative of the contempt in which you hold ME patients and their carers, family and friends.

It should be no surprise, therefore, that you represent an organisation that nowadays appears not listen to patients and seemingly has little interest in improving the lives of those patients.

So one has to wonder what is the point of the Lancet?

Does it serve any purpose?

The following is from the Lancet’s own website [2].



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“Over the past two centuries, ***The Lancet*** has sought to craft a unique **set of values among medical journals: science for health, equity, and justice; knowledge for better patient and public health outcomes; research as a tool for accountability**, monitoring and reviewing the progress made in advancing health; and medicine as an important cultural force, fostering dignity, respect, and compassion.”

The Lancet has a duty to patients.

Yet the Lancet is not serving patients at this time and we will not be alone in calling for the Lancet’s Impact Factor to be reviewed due to the failure by yourself to respond to our request or act in favour of patients and science or to view research as a tool for accountability.

We feel the Lancet’s reputation is being dragged down along with that of QMUL and will begin to command less and less respect from professionals or patients.

We ask you again to consider the consequences of maintaining support for the PACE Trial and instead act for the benefit of patients – those on the receiving end of poor research and orchestrated media attacks by ignorant or bigoted journalists.

Review or Retract! It is a simple choice.

And one which would seem a far better course of action than what ultimately lays ahead for the Lancet - a shadow of what it once purported to be.

As before, and as in previous years, we again offer you a place at Invest in ME’s annual research conference this year – IIMEC11 the 11<sup>th</sup> International ME Conference in London in June.

Invest in ME would also facilitate a meeting for you with some of the researchers who will be presenting at the conference and our 6<sup>th</sup> Biomedical Research into ME Colloquium.

We hope you or your board will find it possible to now respond to our invitation,

Yours sincerely,

The Chairman and Trustees

Invest in ME

UK Charity Nr 1114035



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### **REFERENCES**

1. Invest in ME Letter to the Editor of the Lancet <http://tinyurl.com/ocpg5fe>
2. <http://www.thelancet.com/about-us>