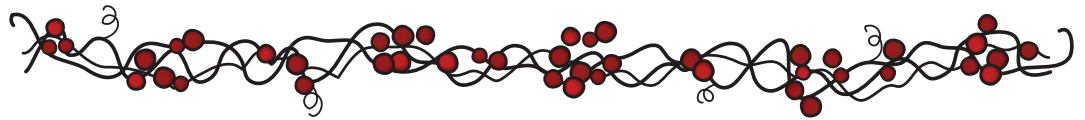


Update

by Carmel Wakefield



“ Whatever the verdict in this case, there will be no winners: not a single one. If Andy and his colleagues are treated fairly and justly, they will be fully exonerated. ”

It will be Christmas Day in four days. I'm finally settling down to write Christmas cards and "round robins" and I was just told of the tragic death of a young man, Harry Horne Roberts – one of the earliest patients seen by John Walker Smith and colleagues at the Royal Free Hospital after he regressed into autism with bowel disease after an MMR vaccination. His parents, like so many of you, fought long and hard for justice. I know that you will all join with us in sending them our sympathy at such a terrible loss.

Seldom a week goes by that I am not contacted by the parent of an autistic child with kind comments or good wishes and I would very much like to reciprocate all of those, especially at this time of year when our thoughts turn to our families and we hope for a truly blessed Christmas and New Year. I also thought that this would be a good time to update readers of the "File" on the Wakefield's and their progress

To get us in the mood for Christmas we have just been told that the longest GMC hearing in history is grinding towards a

decision on the facts – the GMC's complaint against my husband Andy Wakefield and his two colleagues Professors Walker Smith and Murch. The sixth anniversary of the complaint being made by the freelance reporter, Brian Deer, will be in February; the GMC hearing itself has lasted over 2 and a half years. At the time of writing, the date for a verdict to be "handed down" has been set for January 29th 2010 but that date has shifted three times in less than 10 days.

It is very sad on so many levels. Obviously on a highly personal level, we have had to live with the shadow of the sword for a ridiculously long time but it goes much further than that. Think of the financial cost of this travesty of an inquiry: three barristers for the GMC, two barristers for each of the three defendants, at least one solicitor per defendant and a couple for the GMC for good measure. Add to the mix the cost of the panel's remittance and their expenses – six lots of them – and of course the GMC administrative staff assigned to this case, both in Manchester and London; heat, light – the show goes on and on and

multiplying that, brings a mind boggling total in the millions of Great British Pounds. It may console you to know that the dosh is out of the pockets of doctors, rather than yourselves, which in this context, would make it totally unbearable. Nonetheless it is hard earned money, which has been poured straight down the drain. Money, which if used for research might have delivered critical results that could already be impacting on your children's lives. What a waste of time, emotion, effort and money.

Whatever the verdict in this case, there will be no winners: not a single one.

If Andy and his colleagues are treated fairly and justly, they will be fully exonerated. That will not give them back the years spent dealing with this horror and the impact of the stress and strain – really it will just put them back to “square one” – good hard working professionals with rather more narrowing of their coronary arteries than they might have had, if they had been left simply to care for patients, do their research and get on with their lives.

Conversely, if the political lobbyist's and pharmaceutical company's wills are powerful enough that they get what they want – i.e. major sanctions against the three doctors – they may think that they have won. The truth is that they won't have won, even if that happens. You will not be taken in. The international autism communities will not be taken in. We all know exactly what has happened here: three doctors have been set up as “scapegoats” and why? Because they had the audacity to listen to parents who said their children had suffered an adverse effect from a vaccination. Because they carefully assessed, and investigated those children and found a treatable bowel disease. Because they published their findings in a scientific journal and had the temerity to suggest more investigations were needed.

This whole inquisition against the ‘Royal Free Three’ has a clear imperative and one that should strike a chill into the heart of every parent and professional in the world; the message is terrifyingly clear. If you dare to speak out against a pharmaceutical product, we will hunt you down and stop you. This inquiry is intended to ensure that this generation and future generations of doctors and scientists remain with their toes firmly on the “party line” mindful of who underwrites their scientific establishments, provides grants and funds research – you guessed it Big Pharma.

Many people ask me if I hate the reporter who started this iniquity: Brian Deer.

Obviously in terms of leading a quieter life, I would have preferred that Andy was not the subject of Brian's interests but, in a rather bizarre way, Brian has done us all a favour. The process of going through the GMC inquiry has allowed masses of information to come to light. All of this information will be made publically available when the hearing is over: and it tells the whole story. Like it or not, fair finding or not, the verdict is going to throw a great big spotlight back on the issue of vaccine damage. This is an area that, I am sorry to say, has been suppressed and subverted in the British press of late so the hot light of public interest in this case will be helpful to our joint cause – to ask hard questions about vaccine safety and the arbitrary introduction of combinations of live viruses and vaccination programmes.

When America sneezes, Britain catches a cold. You may not know it in the UK but America is sneezing hard at the moment – Vaccine Courts over here are compensating victims of vaccination and have been for some years, but now it is becoming more and more public. There is a huge problem with autism over here and that, combined with a public who demand to be heard, will mean that change occurs, so please don't lose hope.

This has not turned out quite as I expected for my Christmas/New Year greeting to you all but I feel better for it! It is because of Andy's loyalty to all of you and your children that he spoke out. He will not stop speaking out. We need to all speak out to anyone and everyone who will listen – whether they want to hear us or not. Andy will not be backing down regardless of the GMC verdict. His work, uncovering what has happened to children damaged by vaccines will not stop. Your support, kind wishes and prayers mean a great deal to us. Truth and justice will win the day. I am just very sad that Harry Horne-Roberts will not have lived to see that day.

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“ From all the Wakefield family in Austin, Texas, we send Season's Greetings for Christmas and every good wish for 2010. ”

