

Comment on the statement by Sir Peter Spencer of Action for ME

Margaret Williams 19th April 2011

Attention has been drawn on Co-Cure to the comments of Sir Peter Spencer, CEO of the charity Action for ME, about the PACE Trial (Co-Cure NOT: AfME Policy group strategy in response to PACE; 19th April 2011).

In Action for ME's Policy group strategy in response to the PACE Trial (5th March 2011), Sir Peter Spencer stated: *"The PACE trial would have gone ahead in any event, with or without Action for M.E's participation"*.

This may not be true.

The PACE Trial Identifier states: *"Mr Chris Clark, CEO of AfME, will be a member of the TMC (Trial Management Committee) and help with external relations"*. (Mr Clark left AfME in 2006 and was replaced by Sir Peter Spencer). The Identifier also states: *"Compliance with both the treatments and the study will be maximised by the collaboration and support of AfME"*.

In section 6 ("Application History") the PACE Trial Identifier states at 6.1: *"A similar application of a much smaller two arm trial (FATIMA; Grant number G9825745) was submitted in full to the MRC in 1999, rated Alpha B, **but not funded**."*

*"The outline proposal of this study (G010039) was approved for a full proposal in October 2001. **The major innovations in this application include close collaboration with Action for ME**"*.

This statement by Professor Peter White indicates that the PACE Trial might not have been funded without the "collaboration" of Action for ME.