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LETTERS

LONG TERM USE OF PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS

Author's reply to Tovey and colleagues

Peter C Gøtzsche *professor*

Nordic Cochrane Centre, Rigshospitalet, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

David Tovey is not a psychiatrist, but Cochrane's deputy chief executive and editor in chief.[1 2] Unsurprisingly, journalists and others have interpreted the Cochrane editors' denigration of my research as a thinly disguised attempt at protecting psychiatry's guild interests, and some even suspect that they also tried to protect the drug industry (Anahi T Pedersen, personal communication). The editors rushed and published their rapid response the same day that my paper came out—a day before the Maudsley debate—and their attack on the messenger was abused by psychiatrist Allan Young—who failed to declare his conflicts of interest in a bizarre way at the Maudsley debate.[3] The editors wrote that my recommendations are based on inappropriate interpretation of the research, which they cannot know, because they haven't read my upcoming book that contains all the evidence.[4] They also believe that researchers should not recommend a course of action. However, when doctors see colossal harm, they have a duty to inform the public about it. Psychiatric drugs kill more than half a million people every year in the Western world, and if we used only 2% of the drugs that we currently use, we would have healthier and longer lived populations and would spare tens of millions of people from becoming mentally crippled.[4]

My interpretation of the science is shared by patients who disagree strongly with the psychiatrists about psychiatric drugs, which they dislike intensely and generally say don't work when asked their opinion in clinical trials and surveys.[4-6] People believe that antidepressants, antipsychotics, electroshock, and admission to a psychiatric ward are more often harmful than beneficial.[7]

We need a revolution in psychiatry and widespread withdrawal clinics because many patients have become dependent on psychiatric drugs, including antidepressants, and need help to stop taking them slowly and safely.[4]

Competing interests: None declared.

Full response at: www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h2435/rr-4.

1 Tovey D, Churchill R, Adams CE, et al. Recommendations in debate on psychiatric drugs are insufficiently justified. *BMJ* 2015;350:h2952.
2 Gøtzsche PC, Young AH, Crace J. Does long term use of psychiatric drugs cause more harm than good? *BMJ* 2015;350:h2435. (12 May.)
3 Gøtzsche PC. Bizarre events related to the Maudsley debate: "This house believes that the long term use of psychiatric medications is causing more harm than good." *Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime* 2015www.deadlymedicines.dk/the-maudsley-debate/.
4 Gøtzsche PC. Deadly psychiatry and organised denial. People's Press, 2015.
5 Hetrick SE, McKenzie JE, Cox GR, et al. Newer generation antidepressants for depressive disorders in children and adolescents. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2012;11:CD004851.
6 Kessing L, Hansen HV, Demyttenaere K, et al. Depressive and bipolar disorders: patients' attitudes and beliefs towards depression and antidepressants. *Psychol Med* 2005;35:1205-13.
7 Jorm AF, Korten AE, Jacomb PA, et al. "Mental health literacy": a survey of the public's ability to recognise mental disorders and their beliefs about the effectiveness of treatment. *Med J Aust* 1997;166:182-6.

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We need a revolution in psychiatry and widespread withdrawal clinics because many patients have become dependent on psychiatric drugs, including antidepressants, and need help to stop taking them slowly and safely.[3]

Competing interests: None declared.

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5 Kessing L, Hansen HV, Demyttenaere K, et al. Depressive and bipolar disorders: patients' attitudes and beliefs towards depression and antidepressants. *Psychol Med* 2005;35:1205-13.
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CORRECTIONS

Correction to "Author's reply to Tovey and colleagues"

This Letter by Peter C Gøtzsche (*BMJ* 2015;350:h2955, doi:10.1136/bmj.h2955), published in the print issue of 6 June 2015, has been edited for editorial and legal reasons.

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2015;350:h3138

Cochrane

Professor Peter Gøtzsche,
Director, Nordic Cochrane Centre
Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, 7811
2100 Copenhagen
Denmark

9th June 2015

Dear Peter,

We are writing in response to your 'Author's reply' in the print version of *the bmj* (have criticised Cochrane's Editor in Chief and three senior Co-ordinating Editors. transparent use of the reported interpretation of others – that in their response t long term use of psychiatric drugs cause more harm than good?' they acted 'in a protecting psychiatry's guild interests' and 'that they also tried to protect the dru wrong and potentially damaging to them and to Cochrane as an organization.

Cochrane has a long tradition of vigorous, open scientific debate that we continu but in our view in this piece you have gone beyond legitimate debate and descen unpleasant attack that is contrary to Cochrane's values of respect and collaborat all communications between Cochrane collaborators should be courteous, propo especially when debates are held in public fora. This reply from you to a letter in therefore calling on you publicly to withdraw these statements and to apologize Geraldine. An apology would also indicate that you wrote the letter in haste and may do to Cochrane.

We are also extremely disappointed that despite your agreement with us in Pana (following our letter to you of 14th March 2014) that you would in all future exter completely transparent about when you are presenting your personal opinions (v or not) and when you are speaking on behalf of Cochrane, you failed repeatedly t debate in London on 13th May; in your subsequent BMJ article mentioned above; your Author's reply. You breached not only your promise to us but also Cochrane Policy[2] that was adopted by the Steering Group in Athens in early May: a policy y mid-year business meetings.

We must therefore ask you to no longer use your title of 'Director, Nordic Cochra writing and speaking on projects that are not Cochrane reviews or methodology. use your alternate title of 'Professor of Clinical Research Design and Analysis, Un

We also expect you to honour Cochrane's Spokesperson's Policy at all times in fu about how to interpret the policy at any time we ask you to contact Mark Wilson of Communications & External Affairs.

---

1 http://www.deadlymedicines.dk/the-maudsley-debate

2 http://community.cochrane.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Spokesperson%20policy%20for%20consultation

As you know, Cochrane does not yet have well defined mechanisms of mutual re accountability to guide us in managing problems and disputes within the organiz addressed later this year in the review of the structure and function of Centres, B currently taking place. However, Cochrane's Steering Group has the clear author and values of Cochrane and to act where – in its view – an individual or entity is b disrepute. Should you fail to respond to the requests we have made in this letter consider actions that could result in the de-registration of the Nordic Cochrane C criteria for de-registration[3]).

Peter, we are not denigrating your research, nor are we stifling academic debate outside world. However, on this occasion we are united in our view that your hav have descended into an unwarranted and unfair criticism of your colleagues. Clea research available to you that you intend to publish later this year, and we would with the Co-eds of the Cochrane mental health groups and try and discuss your f judge the merits of the evidence you have, as it is not available to us, but we thin assessment of your new information would be a good start. We hope and expect the ways we have set out in this letter will ensure we can all contribute positively analyse and debate the evidence on the benefits and harms of psychiatric drugs, decision-making and patient care. We agree with you, patients need to know. Bu descending into criticising one another and causing more confusion and more da enterprise.

Yours sincerely,

Cindy Farquhar
Co-Chair, Cochrane Steering Group

Lisa Bero
Co-Chair, Cochrane Steering Gro

Mark Wilson
CEO

3 Cochrane Organisational Policy Manual, Appendix 1, Paragraph 7.2

Meeting 7 July in London about the Maudsley debate

Mark Wilson, Davis Tovey and Peter Gøtzsche

The Maudsley debate

Peter described the background to the incident from his perspective. He thought the statement about David and the Co-Eds was only on the *BMJ* website for a few days, as *BMJ* Editor Fiona Godlee deleted it, but did not appreciate that it was published in the print version of the BMJ on 6 June, although this was indicated in the letter he had received from Mark and the Co-Chairs. Mark also pointed out that the statement had been removed because David considered it defamatory and had written to Fiona to ask whether she thought it was, too. Peter agreed to write an apology to David, Rachel, Geraldine and Clive and withdraw his statement in a submission to the rapid response section of the *BMJ*. Peter expressed his concern about the potential damage to his reputation that would result from an apology. Mark and David reassured him that the apology could stick firmly to the association of the four editors with the pharmaceutical industry and "psychiatry guild". Peter was not expected to amend his interpretation of the evidence. David agreed that he would not seek to capitalise inappropriately on the apology and to be discrete in relation to it.

Peter asked David to explain why he had submitted and published the rapid response in advance of the Maudsley debate. David explained that he had recognised the risk that the response would be used by Peter's opponents, but that in his view it had been more important to clarify for the readers of the *BMJ* and debate audience that Peter was not speaking on behalf of Cochrane.

Action: Peter will send a draft to Mark and David for comments.

The Spokesperson policy & use of Director of Nordic Cochrane Centre title

Peter pointed out that the Spokesperson policy is not crystal clear about what should be done and what not, which he agreed would also be difficult to formulate as there are so many grey zones; and that the policy did allow for cultural variations. Mark recognised this, but in this case the letter in March 2014 from the Co-Chairs, himself and David had given clear instructions to Peter on this issue for the future. Peter had agreed to make clear his views were personal, and he believed it was clear that when he contributed to a debate, the views were his own. Peter also pointed out that the policy says that: "How to make clear that you are speaking in a personal capacity is a matter of local custom and culture and this policy asks that you make an honest attempt to do so," and that, in the Nordic Countries, people don't write something like, "These are my personal views," which we would regard as odd. Peter furthermore pointed out that the policy also says: "If you have multiple affiliations or positions, it is better not to use your Cochrane affiliation if this may cause confusion" and "That doesn't mean you need to "hide" your position or affiliation with Cochrane. On the contrary, we should be transparent about associations with Cochrane." Peter explained that if he wrote in his papers that he was professor at the University of Copenhagen, he would actually hide his position and background in Cochrane.

Peter, Mark and David agreed that this problem must not happen again, so Peter asked for advice in relation to his co-authorship of scientific papers like his recent review of suicidality in 70 antidepressant trials based on clinical study reports from drug agencies. Mark advised that Peter could, when presenting scholarly methods research papers, use his 'Director, Nordic Cochrane Centre' title (as in this example); but because of the continued controversy in relation to his views on this particular issue, when he writes or speaks about psychiatric drugs in other ways or in other fora he should use his University of Copenhagen title.

They agreed that on other issues and cases that might cause confusion about whether his views are official Cochrane views, Peter's use of the 'Director, Nordic Cochrane Centre' affiliation would still be OK *if* there is a clear disclaimer about these being his own personal views.

They agreed that in interviews with the media it is safest to say that he is professor at the University of Copenhagen.

In addition, Peter agreed that he will consult with Julie Wood if he is in doubt about what to do in future in relation to public statements and when and where he should or could use his 'Director, Nordic Cochrane Centre' title.

Peter's forthcoming psychiatry book

Peter reported that the proofs are completed for his forthcoming book on psychiatry, but following this meeting he will look at the section again about the events in Denmark in 2014. Mark was interested in seeing this section and cautioned not to accuse the Cochrane leadership of any wrongdoing. All participants agreed that they did not want to reignite the dispute in September 2015, when the book would be published; with Mark stressing that would have consequences. It therefore made sense for the Cochrane leadership to be appraised of what the book said in relation to them so that all parties were well prepared for any media or public reaction. Peter said that he believed he had described the events fairly and in a factual fashion; the text puts the blame for the unfortunate events on the Danish psychiatrists and the journalists.

Peter confirmed that there is nothing in the book about him being the director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre, merely a note stating that he opened the centre in 1993 in a small section "About the author". He would make sure that there will be no description of him being the director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre on the cover of the book; and was confident that no one will be in any doubt that this book is written in a personal capacity.

Peter also agreed that he would not market, promote and try to sell his new book at the forthcoming Cochrane Colloquium in Vienna as he had done for his last book at the Colloquium in Quebec in 2013. He had already decided not to repeat that exercise. Mark pointed out that it had caused disquiet amongst some collaborators and some members of the Cochrane Steering Group, but also acknowledged that Peter had promoted the book from an idealistic perspective because he feels it is important for Cochrane collaborators to know about the issues it raises.

Action: Peter will look at the section of his new book relating to the Cochrane leadership and determine whether amendments should be made and also consider sharing this with Mark and David.

Informing each other

Peter pointed out that the public display of internal disagreement could have been avoided if he had been contacted, both in 2014 and in relation to David's rapid response in *BMJ*. David said that he had acted in good faith. However, he did not inform Peter of his submission and publication before the 13th May, the day of the Maudsley debate, although Peter had sent his BMJ paper and press release to David four days earlier. All participants agreed with Peter's suggestion that we inform each other in good time in future (ahead of submission) to avoid such public antagonism.

1 August 2015

Tara Hicks

From: Mark Wilson <MWilson@cochrane.org>
Sent: 04 August 2015 13:42
To: "Peter C. Gøtzsche"
Cc: David Tovey
Subject: RE: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday
Attachments: Meeting Minutes - Wilson Tovey and Gøtzsche - July 7 2015 - Final.docx

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your e-mail. I've accepted all of your proposed final adjustments to the Minutes of our meeting on 7th July even though both David and I stand by our shared recollection of what was said in the final draft I sent to you on 9th July, in the interests of closing this off. The attached therefore stands as the agreed Minutes of record. With the apology and withdrawal statement published in the BMJ, which I have forwarded to the Cochrane editors involved, and the agreements on future actions we made in our meeting as requested in the letter from Lisa, Cindy and myself of 9th June this brings this last dispute to an end and I now consider the matter closed. I will inform the Co-Chairs accordingly.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark G. Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

Cochrane

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Cochrane, St Albans House, 57-59 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, UK

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From: "Peter C. Gøtzsche" [mailto:pcg@cochrane.dk]
Sent: 01 August 2015 08:59
To: Mark Wilson <MWilson@cochrane.org>
Cc: David Tovey <DTovey@cochrane.org>
Subject: RE: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday

Dear both

see my reply below. I have had holidays, therefore the delay in replying. I will also take some days off next week.
See separate email about my apology in BMJ, which is published.

bw

Peter

At 19:09 09-07-2015, Mark Wilson wrote:

> Dear Peter,
>
> I'm very sorry but your amendments to the draft submission mean that the text is not an apology and not a withdrawal of the statement that you made in the BMJ – something that was requested from you in the letter of 9th June from the Co-Chairs and me; and which you agreed to make during our meeting with David on Tuesday. You did agree to apologize and withdraw the statement during the meeting. Initially you were concerned about how you could do that without committing 'reputational suicide' and then later in the meeting, when you saw the print version of your comments and we stressed to you that the apology and statement of withdrawal was only required in relation to the comments you made about David and the Co-Eds protecting guild interests and the drug industry, you accepted that you would do so. You say in your comment on the Minute of the meeting that you will not withdraw the statement because it is factual. We have not asked you to withdraw the statement because it is not factual (that Mr Anahi T Pedersen made such an accusation in personal correspondence to you). We have asked you to withdraw the statement because you should not have chosen to report and repeat the contention in your published article in the BMJ.
>
> The version of the submission that I attach is therefore the minimum form of wording that is acceptable. I urge you to accept it.
>
> I have discussed the changes to the Minutes that you have proposed with David. I have accepted those additional statements that you want to include describing your interpretation of the policy and as many other corrections as I can. I cannot accept changes that are not correct in relation to factual statements and agreements made during the meeting. Namely:
>
> * David did not say that he 'wanted to influence the Maudsley debates, as [they] … are very important'. He did say what was originally written. If you want us to add that he said that he was aware his Rapid Response *may* be referred to in the debate that would be an accurate record of what he said.
> * We made the distinction in our meeting between when you were publishing scholarly methods papers on the issue of psychiatric drugs, that you could use your Director, Nordic Cochrane Centre' title (as in the example you raised on your recent paper); but because of the continued controversy in relation to your views on this particular issue, when you write or speak about it in other ways you would use your University of Copenhagen title. If in any doubt, as we agreed, you are welcome to approach Julie Wood for advice. I refer you, further, to the clarification contained in the letter of 9th June, that 'when you are writing and speaking on projects that are not Cochrane reviews or methodology … we ask that you use your alternate title of 'Professor of Clinical Research Design and Analysis, University of Copenhagen'.

I shall do my best but you also know that this can be very difficult to achieve in practice. People come to me because they know about my work, which has been done in my capacity as director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre.

> * I *did* say that there would be serious consequences if another dispute arose between you and the senior Cochrane leadership on the same problem when your book is published in September. In case you did not hear that I can confirm that would be the case.

You did NOT say this Mark. I distinctly remember what you said and wrote it down immediately after our

meeting on my way to the airport. You said it would have consequences, not serious consequences. But that's not important, as I know what you mean. You even said that if you broke the rules yourself, you could be fired, so no doubt about what you meant.

* I deleted the last sentence relating to your lack of awareness of there being disquiet amongst the CSG and Cochrane collaborators because you did not mention that in the meeting.

OK

* I deleted your insert about the timing of David's notification to you about his Rapid Response being the day after its submission because although you claimed that in the meeting, David doubted it in the meeting and having checked it subsequently, has told me that he sent both the submission and the email to you on the same day, 13th May (see below).

David's rapid response was dated the 12th May on the BMJ website (I have a copy of it that shows this), so it is clear that he submitted it on that date. He did not inform me about it in advance or contacted me for clarifications, although I sent my BMJ paper to him alreay on the 9th May. The minutes as currently written are therefore misleading as they say:
"David said that he had acted in good faith, informing Peter of the submission and its impending publication." I have corrected the minutes on this essential point.

Your change in relation to our agreement that there is no mention on the cover of your book of being Director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre is fine - but we would expect you to make clear to your publishers in whatever language the book is published in of the affiliation you want to be highlighted.

I now think we have to draw this matter to a close, something I thought we had done on Tuesday. We have been as accommodating as possible to you, Peter, and I hope, therefore, you will submit the draft Rapid Response text attached as soon as possible and accept the Minutes of the meeting we had on Tuesday.

The minutes say:
"Action: Peter will send a draft to Mark and David to agree wording."

I never agreed to this at the meeting. I know this with 100% certainty, as I had prepared very carefully for the meeting. What I said at the meeting was that I would discuss with you how the apology should be written and that I would therefore send a draft for comments. An apology is a personal thing and I am the only author. It therefore must come from me, in my own words. If I had submitted verbatim what Mark had sent to me, it would be a kind of ghost authorship. Nonetheless, what I published in BMJ is very close to the final text Mark sent to me and I therefore believe we can close the case now.

My apology is here:

http://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h2435/rr-14

It was submitted on 12 July; I don't know why it took so long before BMJ published it.

I attach the minutes with a couple of minor changes as per the above.

bw

Peter

Yours sincerely,

Mark

Mark G. Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

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Cochrane, St Albans House, 57-59 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, UK

Re: Does long term use of psychiatric drugs cause more harm than good?

We are a group of Cochrane editors who are responsible for the Cochrane Reviews that relate to mental health. Like Peter Gøtzsche we are writing in our personal capacity. Cochrane does not, and should not, have an agreed policy on the prescribing of psychotropic medicines.

13 May 2015

David I Tovey
Editor in Chief, Coch
Dr Rachel Churchill,
Adams, Professor Ge
Cochrane Editorial U
57-59 Haymarket, L
UK

-----Original Message-----
From: "Peter C. Gøtzsche" [mailto:pcg@cochrane.dk]
Sent: 09 July 2015 12:14
To: Mark Wilson
Cc: David Tovey
Subject: Re: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday

Dear Mark and David,

as I said, I am very grateful for the meeting we had. There are some inaccuracies in the minutes that I have corrected and you also left out something I had written in my minutes, which are very important for me to have in the minutes, so I have reinserted those.

I have written the letter to the BMJ according to Nordic traditions and have therefore made some changes to your proposed text. See my reasons in the comments I inserted into the minutes.

I have discussed the possibility of sending you the text about the 2014 events in my new book to you with my advisors and my publisher and they have advised me not to do this. It has been the plan all along to present the book as a whole to people, and not in bits. I have changed a few things in the text and as I say in the minutes, and also said in London, I believe I describe the events fairly and in a factual fashion; the text puts the blame for the unfortunate events on the Danish psychiatrists and the journalists.

best wishes

Peter

At 23:32 08-07-2015, Mark Wilson wrote:
>Dear Peter,
>
>Many thanks for coming to London yesterday. Both David and I thought it
>was a good meeting. I had also made a Minute note of the meeting and
>therefore combined your version with my own, which was a more complete
>record of our conversation and agreements reached. Please find this
>attached. David agrees that this is a faithful report of the meeting.
>However, let me know if you believe there are any factual inaccuracies
>as to what was said or what was agreed.
>
>I have also amended your draft submission to the BMJ Rapid Response
>section. Unfortunately, your original text did not apologise for the
>statement made nor withdraw it; so I attach a text that makes that
>clear, whilst including your continued belief that you will be
>vindicated on the science. I hope you will accept this, Peter, as a
>compromise text that we can all accept and move on.
>
>Thank you for considering and then making changes to the text of your
>book following our discussions. I appreciate this. I can confirm that
>if you choose to send the updated text from your book relating to the
>events of March 2014 it will be handled confidentially and not shared
>with anyone outside of the senior leadership of Cochrane (the
>Co-Chairs, David and
>myself) without your prior permission. I can't guarantee any reaction,
>Peter - positive or negative - before we see it, however. If that means
>you decide not to send it to us ahead of publication we will have to
>assess our reaction to it at that point.
>
>I'm grateful for your quick response, Peter, so that we can tie this up
>before Friday night when we both leave for holiday. That's why I have
>responded immediately and I hope that with agreement on these documents
>we can put these incidents behind us.
>
>Yours sincerely,
>
>Mark
>
>Mark G. Wilson
>Chief Executive Officer
>
>
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>
>
>On 08/07/2015 10:18, ""Peter C. Gøtzsche"" <pcg@cochrane.dk> wrote:
>
> >Dear Mark and David,
> >
> >I am very grateful that we could meet. It helped me understand better
> >your positions and circumstances and I also hope you understand me a
> >little better. I have holidays on Friday for four weeks and I have
> >therefore worked quickly.
> >
> >I attach a short summary of the meeting, hoping I understood you
> >correctly.
> >
> >Further, a draft text for a rapid response in relation to the June 6
> >issue about Maudsley.
> >
> >Finally, Mark was very interested in seeing the text in my upcoming
> >book about the events in 2014 related to the letter from the Danish
> >Psychiatric Association. These events are very important for my
> >storytelling in the book. It is now very late in the production of
> >the book, but I have made some changes after our meeting yesterday
> >where I have taken care that the word count is the same for the
> >original text and the new text to avoid trouble with my publisher.
> >
> >I have had many thoughts about Mark's wish to see the text. I am very
> >secretive when I write books, for obvious reasons, as I often attack
> >the status quo, which is rarely popular in healthcare, but I might
> >send to you, confidentially, the section of the book about the 2014
> >events. But I would then need your confirmation beforehand that this
> >section would be strictly confidential, and that you cannot show this
> >to others without my permission, or say anything about it, orally or
> >in writing, before the book has been published.
> >Given the letter I received from Mark and the two co-chairs of the
> >Steering Group on 9 June about the possibility of closing my centre,
> >if I failed to respond to the requests made in the letter, I also
> >need an assurance that there will not be any such ultimatums, e.g.
> >about changing certain parts of the texts as a condition for not
> >contemplating to close my centre, if I send you this section.
> >
> >The book is my own of course, but I am happy to cooperate on this
> >particular section. I am convinced you won't find any problems with
> >what I have written, as I put the blame for the unfortunate events on
> >the Danish psychiatrists and the journalists. Please also note that I
> >have my own style when I write books, like everyone else has, which
> >Richard Smith described thus in the first paragraph in his foreword
> >to my 2013 crime book:
> >
> >There must be plenty of people who shudder when they hear that Peter
> >Gøtzsche will be speaking at a meeting or see his name on the
> >contents list of a journal.

> >He is like the young boy who not only could see that the emperor had
> >no clothes but also said so. Most of us either cannot see that the
> >emperor is naked or will not announce it when we see his nakedness,
> >which is why we badly need people like Peter. He is not a compromiser
> >or a dissembler, and he has a taste for strong, blunt language and
> >colourful metaphors. Some, perhaps many, people might be put off
> >reading this book by Peter's insistence on comparing the
> >pharmaceutical industry to the mob, but those who turn away from the
> >book will miss an important opportunity to understand something
> >important about the world and to be shocked.
> >
> >I believe it has value for large organisations, also Cochrane, to
> >have people like me inside.
> >Allow me to show to you what a former co-chair, Adrian Grant, wrote
> >about me in 2008 to the then CEO Nick Royle after I had commented on
> >an email Nick had sent to me:
> >
> >"I advise you to think hard about how you should reply to this. You
> >did finish your email to Peter with an unfortunate sentence and I can
> >understand why Peter considers this discourteous.
> >In many ways, Peter is the 'conscience' of the Collaboration. We may
> >find him irritating at times, but we should never ever be dismissive
> >of him."
> >
> >bw
> >
> >Peter
>
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Tara Hicks

From: Mark Wilson <MWilson@cochrane.org>
Sent: 16 July 2015 09:34
To: "Peter C. Gøtzsche"
Cc: David Tovey
Subject: Re: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday

Importance: High

Dear Peter,

I sent you a text today following our text exchange of Monday. You said that you had posted your Rapid Response on Sunday but as of this morning (Thursday) it has still not appeared. Please can you send me the text you sent to the BMJ and details of when and how you posted it. I am assuming it is as I sent it to you last week with the only change the one we agreed (the dropping of the last sentence) on Friday, as you have not mentioned any other changes.

You will need urgently to follow up with the BMJ about ensuring they post it on the site. Please let me know if you would like us to pursue them on this as well.

I will also assume that the Minutes I sent to you last Thursday are acceptable to you if I have not heard back from you by the end of the week Sunday 19th July). This is important because I need to confirm to the Co-Chairs that the requirements set out in our letter of June 9th have, or will be, actioned.

Thank you, Peter, for dealing with this. I want us to be able to tie this up immediately so that we can both enjoy our holidays.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark G. Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

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From: Mark Wilson <mwilson@cochrane.org>
Date: Saturday, 11 July 2015 00:27
To: "\"Peter C. Gøtzsche\"" <pcg@cochrane.dk>
Subject: Re: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday

Dear Peter,

I'm conscious you said today was your last day of work before a four week vacation.

Can you therefore let me know whether you have, or intend to, post the Rapid Response text as agreed this afternoon on the BMJ website; and confirm the Minutes of our meeting on Tuesday. I have to inform the Co-Chairs of the situation and any next steps required before I go on my annual leave.

Many thanks, Peter.

Best wishes,

Mark

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From: "Mark G. Wilson" <mwilson@cochrane.org>
Date: Friday, 10 July 2015 15:47
To: "\"Peter C. Gøtzsche\"" <pcg@cochrane.dk>
Subject: Re: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday

Peter,

No problem with dropping that last sentence.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark G. Wilson
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From: "Peter C. Gøtzsche" <pcg@cochrane.dk>
Date: Friday, 10 July 2015 13:53
To: "Mark G. Wilson" <mwilson@cochrane.org>
Subject: RE: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday

Dear Mark,

I tried to call you just now. The last sentence in the letter:

Cochrane promotes vigorous debate on health evidence but expects that debate should be courteous, proportionate and respectful.

seems to me to fit not so well with the rest, as I have already apologized and withdrawn my statement, which is what you asked me to do. Furthermore, some people will know that this has not been written by me, as this is not how I write. I would be really pleased if you could accept that I drop that one?

bw

Peter

At 19:09 09-07-2015, you wrote:

> Dear Peter,
>
> I'm very sorry but your amendments to the draft submission mean that the text is not an apology and not a withdrawal of the statement that you made in the BMJ – something that was requested from you in the letter of 9th June from the Co-Chairs and me; and which you agreed to make during our meeting with David on Tuesday. You did agree to apologize and withdraw the statement during the meeting. Initially you were concerned about how you could do that without committing 'reputational suicide' and then later in the meeting, when you saw the print version of your comments and we stressed to you that the apology and statement of withdrawal was only required in relation to the comments you made about David and the Co-Eds protecting guild interests and the drug industry, you accepted that you would do so. You say in your comment on the Minute of the meeting that you will not withdraw the statement because it is factual. We have not asked you to withdraw the statement because it is not factual (that Mr Anahi T Pedersen made such an accusation in personal correspondence to you). We have asked you to withdraw the statement because you should not have chosen to report and repeat the contention in your published article in the BMJ.
>
> The version of the submission that I attach is therefore the minimum form of wording that is acceptable. I urge you to accept it.
>
> I have discussed the changes to the Minutes that you have proposed with David. I have accepted those additional statements that you want to include describing your interpretation of the policy and as many other corrections as I can. I cannot accept changes that are not correct in relation to factual statements and agreements made during the meeting. Namely:
>
> * David did not say that he 'wanted to influence the Maudsley debates, as [they] ... are very important'. He did say what was originally written. If you want us to add that he said that he was aware his Rapid Response *may* be referred to in the debate that would be an accurate record of what he said.
> * We made the distinction in our meeting between when you were publishing scholarly methods papers on the issue of psychiatric drugs, that you could use your Director, Nordic Cochrane Centre' title (as in the example you raised on your recent paper); but because of the continued controversy in relation to your views on this particular issue, when you write or speak about it in other ways you would use your University of Copenhagen title. If in any doubt, as we agreed, you are welcome to approach Julie Wood for advice. I refer you, further, to the clarification contained in the letter of 9th June, that 'when you are writing and speaking on projects that are not Cochrane reviews or methodology ... we ask that you use your alternate title of 'Professor of Clinical Research Design and Analysis, University of Copenhagen'.
> * I *did* say that there would be serious consequences if another dispute arose between you and the senior Cochrane leadership on the same problem when your book is published in September. In case you did not hear that I can confirm that would be the case.
> * I deleted the last sentence relating to your lack of awareness of there being disquiet amongst the CSG and Cochrane collaborators because you did not mention that in the meeting.
> * I deleted your insert about the timing of David's notification to you about his Rapid Response being the day after its submission because although you claimed that in the meeting, David doubted it in the meeting and having checked it subsequently, has told me that he sent both the submission and the email to you on the same day, 13th May (see below).
>
> Your change in relation to our agreement that there is no mention on the cover of your book of being Director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre is fine - but we would expect you to make clear to your publishers in whatever language the book is published in of the affiliation you want to be highlighted.

I now think we have to draw this matter to a close, something I thought we had done on Tuesday. We have been as accommodating as possible to you, Peter, and I hope, therefore, you will submit the draft Rapid Response text attached as soon as possible and accept the Minutes of the meeting we had on Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

Mark

Mark G. Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

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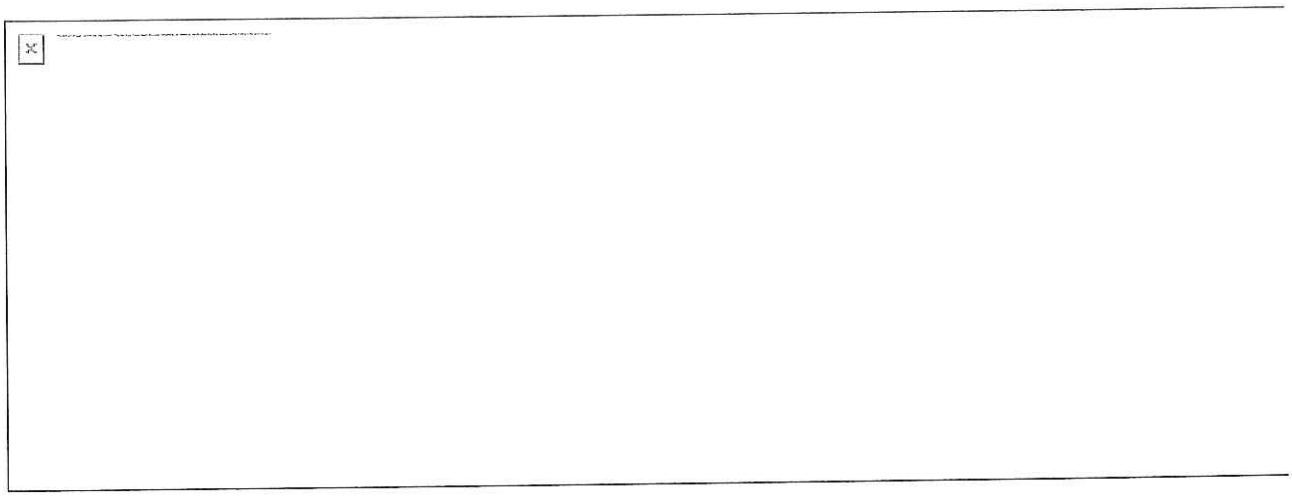

-----Original Message-----
From: "Peter C. Gøtzsche" [mailto:pcg@cochrane.dk]
Sent: 09 July 2015 12:14
To: Mark Wilson
Cc: David Tovey
Subject: Re: our meeting about Maudsley yesterday

Dear Mark and David,

as I said, I am very grateful for the meeting we had. There are some inaccuracies in the minutes that I have corrected and you also left out something I had written in my minutes, which are very important for me to have in the minutes, so I have reinserted those.

I have written the letter to the BMJ according to Nordic traditions and have therefore made some changes to your proposed text. See my reasons in the comments I inserted into the minutes.

I have discussed the possibility of sending you the text about the 2014 events in my new book to you with my advisors and my publisher and they have advised me not to do this. It has been the plan all along to present the book as a whole to people, and not in bits. I have changed a few things in the text and as I say in the minutes, and also said in London, I believe I describe the events fairly and in a factual fashion; the text puts the blame for the unfortunate events on the Danish psychiatrists and the journalists.

best wishes

Peter

At 23:32 08-07-2015, Mark Wilson wrote:

>Dear Peter,
>
>Many thanks for coming to London yesterday. Both David and I thought it
>was a good meeting. I had also made a Minute note of the meeting and
>therefore combined your version with my own, which was a more complete
>record of our conversation and agreements reached. Please find this
>attached. David agrees that this is a faithful report of the meeting.
>However, let me know if you believe there are any factual inaccuracies
>as to what was said or what was agreed.
>
>I have also amended your draft submission to the BMJ Rapid Response
>section. Unfortunately, your original text did not apologise for the
>statement made nor withdraw it; so I attach a text that makes that
>clear, whilst including your continued belief that you will be
>vindicated on the science. I hope you will accept this, Peter, as a
>compromise text that we can all accept and move on.
>
>Thank you for considering and then making changes to the text of your
>book following our discussions. I appreciate this. I can confirm that
>if you choose to send the updated text from your book relating to the
>events of March 2014 it will be handled confidentially and not shared
>with anyone outside of the senior leadership of Cochrane (the
>Co-Chairs, David and
>myself) without your prior permission. I can't guarantee any reaction,
>Peter - positive or negative - before we see it, however. If that means
>you decide not to send it to us ahead of publication we will have to
>assess our reaction to it at that point.
>
>I'm grateful for your quick response, Peter, so that we can tie this up
>before Friday night when we both leave for holiday. That's why I have
>responded immediately and I hope that with agreement on these documents
>we can put these incidents behind us.
>
>Yours sincerely,
>
>Mark
>
>Mark G. Wilson
>Chief Executive Officer
>
>
>
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>Cochrane, St Albans House, 57-59 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, UK
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>
>
>On 08/07/2015 10:18, ""Peter C. Gøtzsche"" <pcg@cochrane.dk> wrote:
>
> >Dear Mark and David,
> >
> >I am very grateful that we could meet. It helped me understand better
> >your positions and circumstances and I also hope you understand me a
> >little better. I have holidays on Friday for four weeks and I have
> >therefore worked quickly.
> >
> >I attach a short summary of the meeting, hoping I understood you
> >correctly.

> >
> >Further, a draft text for a rapid response in relation to the June 6
> >issue about Maudsley.
> >
> >Finally, Mark was very interested in seeing the text in my upcoming
> >book about the events in 2014 related to the letter from the Danish
> >Psychiatric Association. These events are very important for my
> >storytelling in the book. It is now very late in the production of
> >the book, but I have made some changes after our meeting yesterday
> >where I have taken care that the word count is the same for the
> >original text and the new text to avoid trouble with my publisher.
> >
> >I have had many thoughts about Mark's wish to see the text. I am very
> >secretive when I write books, for obvious reasons, as I often attack
> >the status quo, which is rarely popular in healthcare, but I might
> >send to you, confidentially, the section of the book about the 2014
> >events. But I would then need your confirmation beforehand that this
> >section would be strictly confidential, and that you cannot show this
> >to others without my permission, or say anything about it, orally or
> >in writing, before the book has been published.
> >Given the letter I received from Mark and the two co-chairs of the
> >Steering Group on 9 June about the possibility of closing my centre,
> >if I failed to respond to the requests made in the letter, I also
> >need an assurance that there will not be any such ultimatums, e.g.
> >about changing certain parts of the texts as a condition for not
> >contemplating to close my centre, if I send you this section.
> >
> >The book is my own of course, but I am happy to cooperate on this
> >particular section. I am convinced you won't find any problems with
> >what I have written, as I put the blame for the unfortunate events on
> >the Danish psychiatrists and the journalists. Please also note that I
> >have my own style when I write books, like everyone else has, which
> >Richard Smith described thus in the first paragraph in his foreword
> >to my 2013 crime book:
> >
> >There must be plenty of people who shudder when they hear that Peter
> >Gøtzsche will be speaking at a meeting or see his name on the
> >contents list of a journal.
> >He is like the young boy who not only could see that the emperor had
> >no clothes but also said so. Most of us either cannot see that the
> >emperor is naked or will not announce it when we see his nakedness,
> >which is why we badly need people like Peter. He is not a compromiser
> >or a dissembler, and he has a taste for strong, blunt language and
> >colourful metaphors. Some, perhaps many, people might be put off
> >reading this book by Peter[1]s insistence on comparing the
> >pharmaceutical industry to the mob, but those who turn away from the
> >book will miss an important opportunity to understand something
> >important about the world and to be shocked.
> >
> >I believe it has value for large organisations, also Cochrane, to
> >have people like me inside.
> >Allow me to show to you what a former co-chair, Adrian Grant, wrote
> >about me in 2008 to the then CEO Nick Royle after I had commented on
> >an email Nick had sent to me:
> >
> >"I advise you to think hard about how you should reply to this. You
> >did finish your email to Peter with an unfortunate sentence and I can
> >understand why Peter considers this discourteous.
> >In many ways, Peter is the 'conscience' of the Collaboration. We may
> >find him irritating at times, but we should never ever be dismissive
> >of him."
> >

> >bw
> >
> >Peter
>
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