

From: Anke Bauer [dr-anke-bauer@web.de]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2008 8:12 PM
To: MCS
Subject: MCS additional information

Dear MCS-Research-Team

With great interest we have studied your "working draft report on MCS". You apply for additional information on MCS which might not reach you via the usual routes. We are from a (small) clinic in the north of Germany that has specialized in psychosomatic and environmental medicine (EM), with facilities for outpatients, inpatients and rehabilitation. About one half of our EM-patients have MCS.

In 2001 we installed a patient documentation system with follow-up at the clinic for EM- and MCS-patients. This was supported for 24 months by governmental agencies. Since then we continue on our own and have published several results.

Because we do not have financial support of our scientific program this is of course understaffed and we mostly have published in German Journals, which accept papers on environmental medicine (not many). Furthermore we have presented papers on German conferences on epidemiology. Two trials to publish in US-American papers were not successful, maybe we lack in scientific sophistication or the language is at fault.

You may use the papers as you like. If you need additional information please write to the email below. The papers <2006 include data on 6 and 12 months follow up. The paper >=2006 include data on 24 months follow-up.

This and other papers/results/research reports are presented on our homepage :
<http://www.fklnf.de/umweltmedizin/fachinformationen-und-service/publikationslistdownloads.html>

We send you some of our published papers that have an abstract in English (usually at page 2 or 3) as well as our unpublished manuscript which is in English and represents results of our research report 2003 (which is in German, with English abstract).

Our concept of MCS is (to put it in a nutshell) a bio-psycho-social one. Our results support, that risk factors from the area of "chemical exposure" together with somatic and psychiatric "susceptibility" increase the risk for MCS (i.e. pesticide exposure + allergies + stress). Therapy therefore has to be multidimensional.

In Germany the scientific situation regarding MCS is very difficult (and controversial), as the "official" opinion" very strongly supports "somatization disorders" as cause for MCS, but as any other kind of environmental disease as sick building syndrome or symptoms following organic solvent or mold exposure is "officially" included in this we do not find that the "official opinion" really does justice to the problem.

Because of this we do not get financial support for our "independent" study, but only studies supporting the "official opinion" are now supported.

Yours sincerely
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