

**Institute of
Psychiatry**



at The Maudsley

*Section of
Perinatal
Psychiatry*



*Stress,
Psychiatry &
Immunology
Laboratory*

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7th June 2013

Dear Joanna,

Re: Professor Nemeroff's Lecture at the Institute of Psychiatry, 17th June 2013

Thank you for your letter of 3rd June regarding Professor Nemeroff's forthcoming lecture at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.

The lecture is on 'The Neurobiology of Childhood Abuse: Treatment Implications' and is a purely academic event, advertised to local academics and mental health professionals, and not open to the public. Professor Nemeroff has been invited due to his world-leading expertise in this research field, specifically in the neuroscience underpinning the relationship between experiences of early abuse and the subsequent development of affective disorders. This is an area where his academic impact, in terms of publications in prestigious journals, invited lectures at conferences and academic events worldwide, and recognition by professional societies, is irrefutable.

We are aware of concerns expressed regarding Professor Nemeroff, such as those reported in the BMJ, and we take the issue of declaring financial conflicts of interest extremely seriously. In preparation for this lecture, we have been informed by Professor Nemeroff that he will not be presenting any research that was funded by commercial companies or affected by commercial implications. Obviously, he will be declaring any relevant conflicts of interest prior to his lecture.

As an Institution, we take very seriously the necessity to uphold the responsibility of academic freedom without external influence. I am pleased to say the Institute has a globally respected history of hosting talks and debates between people with strongly held views spanning the breadth of mental health issues. As usual, we will welcome feedback from the audience after the lecture. Moreover, we will be very happy to welcome you or any of your colleagues to the lecture.

Finally, I would like to clarify a potential misunderstanding: this event is not the 'Inauguration' of the new Centre for Affective Disorders. The Centre, which has been established with the recent arrival of Professor Allan Young at the Institute of Psychiatry, will have a separate and yet to be organized inauguration. Professor Nemeroff's lecture is simply the first of a series of academic events and lectures that the Centre will host over

the coming months. Indeed, we welcome any suggestions for further speakers in this series.

We hope that this letter allays your concerns. Allan and I would be delighted to discuss this in person.

With our best regards



Professor Carmine M. Pariante
Professor of Biological Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London



Professor Allan Young
Director of the Centre for Affective Disorders, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London