

Professor Pariante,
Institute of Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
London SE5 8AF.

3rd June 2013

Dear Professor Pariante,

Re: Inaugural annual lecture of new centre for Affective Disorders at Institute of Psychiatry, 17th June 2013

As a group of psychiatrists who are concerned about the relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and the profession, we would like to ask you to withdraw your invitation to Charles Nemeroff to give the inaugural lecture for the Centre for Affective Disorders at the Institute of Psychiatry.

As you will know, Senator Charles Grassley's investigation found that when Nemeroff was a professor at Emory University, he received over \$2.8 million in personal income from drug companies and he failed to report most of this to the University in contravention of federal research rules. Nemeroff was revealed to have lied to the University by providing assurance that his earnings from GlaxoSmithKline would not exceed \$10,000 a year, as was required because he was running a trial funded by the company, while the investigation found that he had received in excess of \$1 million from GlaxoSmithKline between 2000 and 2006. Moreover, this was only the largest and most public incident involving Nemeroff, who had previously been accused of failing to disclose financial conflicts of interest in published articles and to the University.

Nemeroff' case is frequently cited as one of the starkest examples of the financial corruption of medicine through its overly cosy relationship with the pharmaceutical industry. Many medical institutions including the British Medical Journal, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Royal College of Psychiatrists have recently recognised that this relationship is unhealthy and is bringing the profession into disrepute and have campaigned for the profession to 'clean up its act.'

We find it surprising therefore that the Institute of Psychiatry has seen fit to invite Nemeroff to deliver this important lecture. We believe this conveys the message that flouting rules on conflicts of

interest is unimportant and that receiving millions of dollars from drug companies is unproblematic. Inviting Nemeroff to deliver a high profile lecture will not help to rehabilitate psychiatry's tarnished image as a profession that is in big pharma's pocket, and therefore we ask you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Moncrieff, Pat Bracken, Duncan Double, Suman Fernando, Rhodri Huws, Hugh Middleton, Derek Summerfield, Philip Thomas and Sami Timimi of the Critical Psychiatry Network.

Cc Professor Shitij Kapur, Dean, Institute of Psychiatry