

## THE RISE AND RISE OF A FACTITIOUS 'DISORDERED – DISEASE' - Fii

**A Child's Health and their continuing Inequalities cannot be improved if those who deliver integrated services do not understand the legal definition of Health.**

**Where is Excalibur?**

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"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.  
It's more prudent to head off a disaster beforehand than  
to deal with it after it occurs."

– 'De Legibus' (c. 1240)

"Meet the malady on its way." ~ Persius (A.D.c 58)

Here we are again, reviewing the review of the review, most notably reviewing those who are continually left in such dire inequality, so dire, that they end up being denied an education, denied proper health advances, removed from their families and or worse still end up dying. These children are often those with [SEND]. Let me remind the reader, we are in the United Kingdom, the 5<sup>th</sup> most powerful and financially stable nation on earth, its 2021, not 1485 CE when Sir Thomas Malory's iconic work *Le Morte D'Arthur* published.

When will medical, clinical, health, educational and social care professionals take stock of their own failings, to leave behind mythology? There seems to be 'this' continuing 'blame' culture, which is now a behaviour set in stone.

As Professor Sir Michael Marmot prepares to receive his honours, and so rightly at that, it appears that all his research, hundreds of thousands of hours, is being wasted by some of the above-mentioned professionals. His quest to improve the lives of children has fallen on the ears of the new apparent 'disorder-disease' called Fii [Fabricating and Inducing Illness] (aka – Munchausen's).

Children and their families must be at the centre of their own decisions, especially when managing their own Health, Education and Social Care, as stated by Professor Haslam, Chair of NICE.

What is Fii... and who coined this term? However, more importantly, I ask, why is Fii rising at alarming rates ...?

NHS: *"Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It happens when a parent or carer exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child. FII used to be known as "Munchausen's syndrome by proxy" (not to be confused with Munchausen's syndrome, where a person pretends to be ill or causes illness or injury to themselves)."*<sup>1</sup>

BMJ: *"It is 40 years since the seminal description of 'Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy' (MSbP) by UK Paediatrician Professor Sir Roy Meadow.<sup>1</sup> There have been a number of developments since, which include terminology, definition, prevalence and management. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) adopted the term 'Fabricated or Induced Illness by Carers' (FII) in 2002 and updated their guidance in 2009. The most recent version of the RCPCH Child Protection Companion*

*extended Fii to embrace perplexing presentations with suggestions for management."* <sup>2</sup>

Who: Mr (Dr) Meadows, has 'worked' alongside Dr Danya Glaser, who is an 'honorary' psychiatrist, [not an actual psychiatrist, at GOSH (Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children)] and a visiting professor at UCL, she is also known as an 'expert' in Fii.<sup>3</sup> She helped developed 'guidelines'...but guidelines for a 'disorder' that does not even exist!

However, Fii is nothing more than a theory born from Meadows and Glaser, it is not recognised as anything other than a theory, there is no scientific rigour or analysis, Fii is not even listed in the ICD [International Classification of Diseases] or DSM. [The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders].

ICD is produced by a global health agency with a constitutional public health mission, while the DSM is produced by a single national professional association. <sup>4</sup>

Yet, with all these known facts, Fii, is now the go to 'tool' used by some of the above-mentioned professionals to challenge the support SEND children and Young People so desperately need, most notably the very integrated support services and provisions they need, to remove themselves from the inequality they are repeatedly subjected to.

The horror's I witness every week, where some of these professionals apply this opinionated theory upon 'mothers' whose children present with complex health matters, is abhorrently distressing and traumatising.

These professionals are not trained in complex health presentations, neither are social workers, yet these very social workers, rely on these medial and clinical specialists who do not understand emerging scientific health evidence, rare diseases, and or medical complexities, and so, they 'report' these opinions by these wrongful professional to remove children from loving home and thus deny them their life-giving support, whilst simultaneously leaving entire families mentally and emotionally damaged and traumatised for the rest of their lives.

The public purse is paying for these 'opinions', yet they have no idea that their cash is being shredded into trauma. Family Court matter after Family Court and Tribunal Matter, millions of pounds of public resources is wasted on defending wrongfully accused mothers, who have done nothing wrong, except for asking that their children are supported, in that they are able to support themselves move out of the cycle of inequality.

Why is Fii allowed a status of 'noble knighthood' when it is not even scientifically recognised? Why is one honorary Doctor's thoughts allowed to destroy families at the taxpayers' expense?

As Dr Glaser says: ""Everybody needs to put their head above the parapet," <sup>5</sup> – I agree, all those mothers who have been falsely accused and or had their children removed and or who continue to live with the damages of Fii – must now put their head about the parapet, by stating – that the Fii tool, must now be discarded, in favour of acclaiming factual and scientific complex health presentations, above the 'we have a limited budget' spiel.

If Fii is so rare, why is it 'found' in most mothers who request support for this SEND Children? Where is Excalibur? In this instance, Excalibur are the mothers, now sitting with

lifelong trauma, it is time for them to be heard, from their lakes, their drowning bodies must rise.

Q: JW - *As a Public Health Fellow and PhD student - within the field of SEND/Early Years/ Rare Disease, and Education, I asked the panel: "Why are some of these abovementioned Professionals not including The Rare Disease Framework 2021 - (Previously known as the Rare Disease Strategy) – into the early intervention pathway, to prevent inequality?*

A: IG - *"Thank you for raising this point. Rare diseases are important, of course, and you're right to remind us of this. We do tend to focus on things that affect large numbers of people, with the intention of improving outcomes at scale. But that should not be at the exclusion of rare diseases. Thank you again for raising this point."* [Dr Ingrid Wolfe - Director, Institute for Women and Children's Health - Clinical Senior Lecturer. Consultant Paediatric Population Health - Health Partnership in Lambeth and Southwark - Kings College London.]

Perhaps just perhaps, the science is subtly swapped, in favour of what is not being said: i.e., 'the budget too small to improve inequality!'

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#### REFERENCES:

<sup>1</sup> *Overview - Fabricated or induced illness (2021)*. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/fabricated-or-induced-illness/overview/> (Accessed: 15 December 2021).

<sup>2</sup> DAVIS, P., MURTAGH, U. and GLASER, D., 2019. 40 years of fabricated or induced illness (FII): where next for paediatricians? Paper 1: epidemiology and definition of FII. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 104(2), pp. 110.

<sup>3</sup> Danya Glaser - *Danya Glaser (2018)*. Available at: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychoanalysis/people/danya-glaser> (Accessed: 15 December 2021).

<sup>4</sup> *ICD vs. DSM (2021)*. Available at: <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2009/10/icd-dsm> (Accessed: 15 December 2021).

<sup>5</sup> *BBC NEWS | Health | Paediatricians bemoan 'vilification' (2021)*. Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7303038.stm> (Accessed: 15 December 2021).