

RobertSawyer@aol.com

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> The statement we wrote to our UK supporters and parents appears below.

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> In view of your previous financial support for medical research co-ordinated
> through this charity, I write to inform you of a development which will
> undoubtedly appear in the press over the next few days.

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> For some time, the future of the research at the Royal Free has been under
> threat. However, I am pleased to tell you that I have reached an agreement
> with the Royal Free and University College Medical School, whereby members of
> my team, and the research they are conducting, are protected for the future
> as long as sufficient funds are forthcoming to maintain their salaries.

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> In return, I will no longer be employed at the Royal Free, but will
> co-ordinate a broadening of the research effort in order to resolve these
> issues as swiftly as possible.. However, the Medical School will permit me to
> continue close collaboration with my colleagues in Paediatric
> Gastroenterology and elsewhere, including full access to all patient records
> and data, both present and future. This has not been an easy decision, but
> has been taken in order to safeguard the future of this work.

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> One great benefit of this arrangement is that I shall no longer have to spend
> a considerable amount of time in distracting political negotiations with the
> Medical School and will be able to devote 100% of my effort to the research.
> I anticipate being offered a research position in another institution once
> news of this arrangement becomes published, and will inform you of any offers
> received and accepted in due course.

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> Until then, please rest assured that the work is continuing apace and that
> the only material change is that the Medical School will no longer have my
> name on their establishment or pay my salary.

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> Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I
> suggest that the offices of Visceral, the medical research foundation that
> administers, co-ordinates and seeks funding for the projects underway in six
> medical schools in Europe and the United States, is the best location at
> which to contact me. Although I am physically in Visceral's offices for only
> a few days a month, Robert Sawyer or Nikki Carter should be able to find me
> without too much difficulty.

> Once again, many thanks for your support.

> Yours sincerely

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> Andrew Wakefield FRCS FRCPATH
> Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Study Group
> Trustee, Visceral