pain clinics within anaesthetic departments across the UK provide significant input into pain management and are often one of the 'last resorts' in the patient treatment pathway.^{2,3}

While Eccles and Davies note the presence of cognitive dysfunction in patients with chronic pain conditions, they seem to not acknowledge that chronic pain is a biopsychosocial condition and must be approached as such, as identified within the International Association for the Study of Pain revised definition of pain and the proposed *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 11th revision* (ICD-11) classification criteria.^{4,5} It is well recognised that psychological contributions to chronic pain and functional conditions are significant.^{6,7}

While I applaud the descriptions used by Eccles and Davies to describe various approaches to chronic pain patient management as embraced by different doctors (particularly that used by Dr B), it seems to me that they then proceed further along the biomedical route by exploring hypermobility syndromes, small fibre neuropathy, mast cell activation disorders and inflammatory reactivity. This approach, in my experience, further entrenches 'illness behaviour' and distress among patients with functional chronic pain conditions and fails to approach pain management through a biopsychosocial approach. This then becomes a 'barrier to progress'.⁸

The impact of psychological illness on chronic pain symptom presentation is well recognised and a holistic approach to managing these patients through illness de-escalation and promoting improved self efficacy is, in my opinion, more appropriate. ■

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Response

DOI: 10.7861/clinmed.Let.21.2.5

Editor – We thank Dr Sawyer for his interest in our paper 'The challenges of chronic pain and fatigue.' It is, of course, implicit in

much of what we say that pain and fatigue have a biopsychosocial dimension. We would not otherwise be advocating a multi-professional management strategy involving significant input from mental health professionals, the avoidance of over-investigation and medicalisation and, in our index case, referral to a dedicated pain-management service. The article contextualises the psychological factors implicated from a biological perspective. Several other manuscripts in the edition give the wider psychological framing.

Many conditions present with impairment of both physical and mental health. We feel strongly that in all cases it will be the evolution of a deeper understanding of the biology and pathophysiology of these illnesses, including myalgic encephalomyelitis / chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) and fibromyalgia, that will in time lead to the evolution of more rationally-based and effective treatment strategies. Moreover, we feel that it is all too frequently the case that labelling a condition as 'biopsychosocial' or 'psychological' leads to negative perceptions among healthcare professionals, and may unfortunately result in physicians abrogating their clinical responsibilities to affected patients, as in our exemplar, Dr A. ■

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SARS-CoV-2 infection despite vaccination: an under-reported COVID-19 cohort

DOI: 10.7861/clinmed.Let.21.2.6

Editor – West *et al* note the potential challenges presented by SARS-CoV-2 reinfections.¹ We argue that there is a far commoner, yet under-reported, cohort of importance, namely those who have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 after COVID-19 vaccination.

The development of COVID-19 vaccines within an unprecedented short timeframe, resulting in the delivery of the first approved COVID-19 vaccine at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW) on the 08 December 2020, represents a step-change in our ability to tackle the current pandemic.^{2–4} However, sensible caution is still essential.

We conducted a cross-sectional audit of all COVID-19 swab positive patients at UHCW on the weekend of the 13 February 2021 (excluding intensive care admissions). Remarkably, 27 of the 174 (16%) COVID-19 inpatients had previously received a COVID-19 vaccine. The mean age of these inpatients was 82.3 years (interquartile range (IQR) 11.75), with a mean duration between vaccination and positive COVID-19 swab of 18.19 days (IQR 13.25). Eleven patients (41%) had a positive swab within 14 days of vaccination, suggesting possible infection close to the time of vaccination.