

The British Association of Clinicians in ME/CFS is delighted to announce an award of £10,000 from the **National Lottery Awards for All Community Fund**. This funding will be used to invest in a new BACME website to help our community thrive.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) is a complex multi-system condition which has a significant impact on every aspect of life for the people who develop it and their families. ME/CFS is a condition which is defined by a specific pattern of symptoms which arise due to dysregulated responses in multiple different dynamic body systems including the Immune System, the Nervous System and Endocrine (hormone) systems. There are many different factors that contribute to the cause of the illness and different problems can also affect how the illness changes over time. The dynamic nature of the illness makes it a difficult condition to research using conventional scientific methods and people with ME/CFS require comprehensive support to enable them to learn how to manage their illness.

BACME is a charitable organisation currently supporting around 200 clinical professionals who are involved in the delivery of care to people with ME/CFS and primary fatigue conditions. With the Covid-19 pandemic, this support now extends to professionals providing care to people with Post Covid-19 Syndrome (also known as Long Covid) where fatigue can be a significant factor.

BACME champions clinically effective practice in the field of fatigue management and advocates for equity of access and excellence in the provision of services. BACME provides education and training and opportunities to share good practice. It also advocates for and promotes relevant research and disseminates published research to our members.

BACME also provides information for the public about fatigue conditions, including self-management strategies and when and where to get help.

A new updated website will help BACME meet the needs of our growing membership by keeping up to date with developments in online communications and the delivery of educational events. We will be able to further develop the information available to the public along with improving access to information and education for our members. The new website will also help raise awareness of ME/CFS and primary fatigue conditions, providing access to information, help and support for the 250,000 people in the UK who suffer with the condition and those who care for them both personally and professionally.

BACME chair Anna Gregorowski said;

“The Lottery Community Fund award is tremendous news for BACME. We are very proud of this achievement. A new website will help to raise our profile as a professional organisation and, in so doing, further support clinicians working in this field to improve care for children, young people and adults living with ME/CFS and other fatigue conditions”