



The Richard Doll Seminars in Public Health & Epidemiology

Prof Simon Wessely

Professor of Psychological Medicine
Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London

“Time bombs & tidal waves: what have been the consequences of the wars in Iraq & Afghanistan on the health & well being of UK service personnel?”

Tuesday 6th Nov 2012
1-2 pm

Lecture Theatre, Richard Doll Bldg, Old Road Campus

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All welcome



Prof Simon Wessely MA BM BCh MSc MD FRCP FRCPsych FMedSci
King's College London

Professor Wessely first read Art at Cambridge before attending medical school at Oxford and pursuing clinical training at Newcastle and at Maudsley Hospital. He is a Fellow of the *Academy of Medical Sciences* and a Foundation Senior Investigator of the *National Institute of Health Research*. He is currently the Vice Dean for Academic Psychiatry, Head of the Dept of Psychological Medicine, and the Director of King's Centre for Military Health Research at the *Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London*.



Professor Wessely has been involved in research on various '*difficult to study*' conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder, self-harm and suicide, and chronic pain. But he has been mainly recognized for his work on **chronic fatigue syndrome**. In 1994, he established the first *NHS Chronic Fatigue Service* in 1994, and the first academic unit in this UK dedicated to researching the illness. In Oct 2012, he was awarded the *John Maddox Prize for Standing Up for Science* for his work on chronic fatigue syndrome.

Professor Wessely also examines how people and populations react to adversity and has looked at how ordinary Londoners reacted to the 2005 London bombing, the 2006 polonium poisoning incident, and the 2009 swine flu pandemic. His current research interests revolve around military health. He was first to describe the **Gulf war illness**. He leads the *Health of UK Armed Forces* cohort study and runs randomised controlled trials to find ways to support to military personnel (and their family) deployed abroad.

He has co-authored a number of books but none has yet reached any of the bestseller lists. Nevertheless, he defied expectations of friends and families by completing the **4-day 460-km Pedal to Paris** to raise money for the *Royal British Legion* on **five** occasions.