

Dear Mrs Whittemore,

When your email of the 23rd April arrived I was just leaving for the airport. I had been booked to take a holiday in Rome with my mother, but volcanic ash prohibited that and we holidayed on the English coast instead.

I was appalled and saddened to read of your daughter's medical history and can well appreciate why you are doing so much to further research into this disease. It must be truly heart-breaking to witness a child being robbed of her youth.

You should know that I am neither a clinician nor someone who has a research programme on CFS/ME. I run a retrovirology laboratory and we became interested in XMRV after the second major paper on its association with prostate cancer. We agreed to test CFS samples from a colleague because we were, at that time, the only laboratory with the means to do so.

As I explained previously, the controversy surrounding CFS and XMRV requires to be solved by national virology reference laboratories, such as the CDC and HPA.

We have published our findings. Others have published similar findings to our own. We have no further involvement in the study of CFS.

It only remains for me to wish you well in your endeavours.

With kindest regards,

Myra McClure

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