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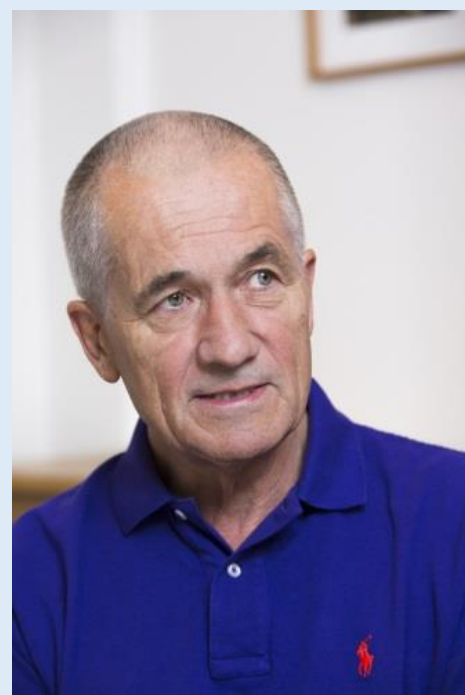


One in a series of symposia co-organised by the Population Health Sciences Institute and the Newcastle University Centre of Research Excellence in Regulatory Science

## DOES LONG TERM USE OF PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS CAUSE MORE HARM THAN GOOD?

**Prof. Peter C. Gøtzsche**

Based on his 2015 *BMJ* paper with the above title, Prof. Gøtzsche will explain why the answer to this question is a clear “yes.” Unfortunately, organised denial of unwelcome but unequivocal facts characterises psychiatry, biological psychiatry in particular. Most recently, the official denial that depression pills cause dependence as benzodiazepines do could no longer be sustained. In every country where this relationship has been examined, disability pensions went up when usage of psychiatric drugs went up. These pills do not help people lead normal lives but prevent it. They should be used as little as possible, only short-term, and only with the patient’s fully informed acceptance.



Prof. Peter Gøtzsche co-founded the Cochrane Collaboration, established the Nordic Cochrane Centre in 1993 and the Institute for Scientific Freedom in 2019. He has published more than 75 papers in ‘the big five’ (*BMJ*, *Lancet*, *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine* and *New England Journal of Medicine*) and is an outspoken critic of the pharmaceutical industry. **A documentary film about his work, *Diagnosing Psychiatry*, appeared in 2017 and will be screened after his presentation, followed by a Q&A with film-maker Anahi Testa Pedersen (11:30 – 13:30).**

**Wednesday, 22 January 2020, 09:30 – 11:00, King George VI Lecture Theatre 5 (building 19 on campus map)**

This is one in a series; watch for details on future events. For further information and to be placed on a distribution list, please contact [Dominic.Lamb@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Dominic.Lamb@newcastle.ac.uk).