



## PRESS RELEASE

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**September 5, 2017**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **FND Hope UK: Petitions the Government and NHS** *Fighting for Recognition, Treatment, Hope*

Seizures, migraines and tremors; the inability to talk, paralysis and stroke-like symptoms; are some of the realities FND (Functional Neurological Disorder) patients face daily.

FND is a condition in which patients experience a broad range of neurological symptoms such as movement disorders and sensory issues. Essentially, there is a problem with the functioning of the nervous system sending and/or receiving signals from the body rather than structural disease.

Up to 1/3 of all neurological outpatient visits are diagnosed with FND and is as common as Multiple Sclerosis. FND has historically failed to gain the interest of researchers and clinicians despite its prevalence. The symptoms cause impairment to the quality of life similar to the neurological conditions of Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's.

FND Hope UK knows all too well the high costs of little or no treatment. The direct costs to the NHS for Medically Unexplained Symptoms which include FND, are thought to be approximately £3.1b. Another £18b is estimated to be lost due to indirect costs of all MUS, not to mention additional social costs as well.[1]

Health professionals commonly fail to recognise and treat this condition, leaving sufferers without the necessary support to live as healthy and independent life as possible. There is increasing evidence that treatment can be effective for some patients.

FND Hope UK, Patients, their families, and medical professionals would like to petition the government to:

- Raise the awareness and understanding of FND
- Provide recognition of FND in medical assessments such as PIP/ESA
- Provide immediate integrated multidisciplinary services for FND within NHS England and Wales



<sup>1</sup> Graham A., Functional Neurological Symptoms in North East Neurology Services: A HealthCare Needs Assessment, Public Health England North East Centre. 2016.

<https://fndhope.org/get-involved/fnd-news/>

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FND Hope UK is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation #1173607. FND Hope works with the medical community through a collaborative approach. They are changing how the world understands and defines functional symptoms. Their mission is to promote awareness, support affected individuals, and advance research. In doing this, they hope to empower patients to better health.

## Quotes:

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*“Medical professionals often have little understanding of the disorder and do not understand that this is a common, severe disorder that is not under the patient’s control,”* says **Dr. Tim Nicholson of the Institute of Psychiatry Psychology & Neuroscience in London.**

**Dawn Golder, Executive Director FND Hope UK,** says, *“Raising awareness is extremely important to improving research opportunities which lead to more treatment options.*

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## **Dr. Tim Nicholson of the Institute of Psychiatry Psychology & Neuroscience, London**

*“It is fantastic that FND Hope is doing such great work raising awareness of FND - this is such a common and highly disabling disorder at the complex interface neurology and psychiatry. It has received very little research attention and we know little about how and why it occurs and how best to treat it. Thankfully, there are now increasing numbers of clinicians and researchers taking an interest in the disorder and progress is starting to be made.*

*However, there is very little coverage of this disorder in the media and the public knows little about it. High quality expert services that are available to all are urgently needed to improve outcomes. It is also critical that awareness and education be increased in medical professionals, who often have little understanding of the disorder and do not understand that this is a common, severe disorder that is not under the patient’s control. Awareness initiatives such as this an important step to achieving these changes and improving the lives of those with FND.*