

MEMO

To: Members of the Seroxat & SSRI User Group (SUG)

From: David Fryer,

Date:

Dear SUG Members,

I am writing to express my support for your efforts to draw attention to the many problems and risks associated with attempts to treat distress caused by social factors with pharmaceutical solutions.

I have for many years studied the psychological impact of unemployment on psychological and community well being and the evidence is very clear that unemployment massively increases the risk of diagnosis with anxiety, depression and other symptoms of psychological ill health.

Moreover, unemployment is only one of very many documented social causes of such symptoms.

Prescribing medication in these circumstances does nothing to address the causes of the difficulties and deflects attention from effective preventative intervention.

Moreover all medications have main and side effects some of which can make things worse or create problems in themselves.

I believe that your efforts to ensure that the wider effects of Seroxat are scrutinised, for example, by calling for thorough investigation of drug trial data, are very important contributions to public mental health.

Good luck in your efforts

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