

## LETTERS

## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

## College of Medicine is Prince's Foundation reincarnated

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There is no doubt that the College of Medicine is simply a reincarnation of the late unlamented Prince's Foundation.<sup>1</sup> Like its antecedent, its aim is to promote bad science and ineffective treatments by using words like "integrated," which sound good but have many meanings. In this case it means integrating things that don't work with things that do.

It has been done quite cleverly—by recruiting people like Graeme Catto and Ian Kennedy they have given themselves a veneer of respectability that the Prince's Foundation lacked. Both I and Simon Singh have talked to Catto about the problem. It is obvious that he means well, but, in my view, he has been taken in by the word play around "integrated." I think he believes that he can turn the college into something more respectable. I wish him luck, but you only have to look at their activities so far to realise that he hasn't had much success yet.

A comment signed by Catto, Kennedy, and Aidan Halligan should perhaps be taken seriously—it might be if it were not also signed by George Lewith (who prescribes homoeopathy despite having written papers that conclude it doesn't work), Christine Glover (a homoeopathic pharmacist), and David Peters (whose clinic has used dowsing as an aid to diagnosis and treatment).<sup>2</sup>

I am sure that Catto, Kennedy, and Halligan are sincere, but you do get judged by the company you keep.

Competing interests: None declared.

1 Cassidy J. The College of Medicine. *BMJ* 2011;342:d3712. (15 June.)

2 Lewith GT, Catto G, Dixon M, Glover C, Halligan A, Kennedy I, et al. College of Medicine replies to its critics. *BMJ* 2011;343:d4364.

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