

Dear Sir, In answer to Question 3 of consultation document. Priorities for healthcare research must cover all aspects of care ie diagnosis and treatment. The medical bias and influence of drug firms on the same has greatly distorted the research carried out. A good example of this is in osteoarthritis research where drug trials predominate whilst research into physiotherapy for hips and knees most wanted by patients is not well represented.http://www.lindalliance.org/News_Events.asp The greater success in external research funding by medical-led teams tends to distort many research programmes in favour of diagnosis and drug therapy despite the morbidity of such treatments. Patients have to live with joint problems long term and many will become disabled ie unable to walk, stair climb and end up in long term care. We know exercise works but our knowledge is very limited and much more needs to be done to keep older people fit and active in the community. regards Pauline M Mills

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