



**Dear reader,**

After a year's enforced break, we are grateful to resume publication of the ME Global Chronicle. We have also been forced by circumstances to find a new format. Hence, this issue will only be a table of contents & colophon with links to the individual articles which are published on the site of the Dutch info-channel [ME Centraal](#). This will be the format moving forward. We are grateful to ME Centraal for their willingness to host the contents of the magazine.

After the first paragraph of each article, you'll see 'lees verder ->', which means 'read on', to read the rest of the article. The website allows for translation into multiple languages which we hope will allow for more worldwide access to ME news from around the globe. We thank Eddy Keuninckx for the beautiful lay-out he produced since the start of the magazine in 2014. Unfortunately, his health has deteriorated in such a way, that he's not able to continue. By the way, all earlier issues can be downloaded [here](#).

We are now living fully in the Covid era. Because of the enormous sums of money that are being allocated for research into Covid all over the world, there is a great temptation to want to hitch a ride with the hope for answers for myalgic encephalomyelitis. At the same time, a part of the ME population that have no connection to the issues seen in Covid or Long Covid are likely to fall by the wayside.

There is another factor at play in the "relaxation" of the [International Consensus Criteria for ME](#).

ME advocates who have been fighting for decades for the rights of ME patients around the world are forced, by age, worsening of their disease or other reasons, to take a step back. The same is true for researchers and clinicians. The IOM criteria, which does not recognize ME as a distinct disease, was born out of a need to capture a wide range of patient groups who have been historically neglected. But for many newly emerged patient advocates, as well as more fatigue-oriented old ones this approach continues to neglect ME patients. This conciliatory approach of using a broad-vague criteria shows that consistently adhering to the most accurate diagnostic and research criteria is apparently still seen as a bridge too far. The goal of making sure all patients receive the care needed requires a full understanding of the reality of myalgic encephalomyelitis and a thorough screening to ensure all are properly diagnosed which is to make sure no one is left behind.

Since often the ME-ICC patients are affected by what happens in the broader field, we include articles from that broader field in this magazine. That doesn't mean that we agree with this broadening of criteria capturing multiple patient groups under one umbrella label to replace an ME diagnosis. The global ME community is harmed by an overly broad understanding of lumping together multiple patient groups. Therefore, the starting point of the ME Global Chronicle is and will remain the International Consensus Criteria/International Consensus Primer (ICC/ICP).

Nevertheless, there have been significant breakthroughs in 2021 including the publication of the updated NICE guideline, the Dutch parliament's award of €28.5 million for a 10-year, biomedical research agenda, and the most successful petition ever in Germany.

It is incredible and heart-warming how many high-quality articles we received as contributions for this issue. As well as the enthusiasm that we decided to resume its production. Hopefully you can taste that while reading the articles of your choice.

We thank all the authors, but also everyone who has contributed in even the slightest way to the realization of this issue – which is a worldwide collective project and wish you a peaceful Christmas time and a promising 2022 - with breakthroughs on multiple fronts.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a most promising New Year,

The editors

**Colleen Steckel, Eddy Keuninckx & Rob Wijbenga**

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Deadline of the next issue is February 28, 2022

All earlier issues can be read here.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheMEGlobalChronicle>

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