Drs. Littlejohn and Guymmer reply

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*The Journal of Rheumatology* is a monthly international serial edited by Earl D. Silverman featuring research articles on clinical subjects from scientists working in rheumatology and related fields.
We agree that in civilian life there is an increased propensity to develop central sensitization and subsequent chronic pain disorders in certain people and in certain circumstances. This is particularly so when there is interaction between medical and legal issues, such as may occur in motor vehicle accidents. We reiterate that accurate diagnosis of the clinical phenotype of FM in this context is important; abandonment of the term whiplash and whiplash-associated disorder is important and appropriate management of the pain condition as a central pain condition rather than a peripheral pain condition will produce the best outcomes for each individual.

All clinicians who see people with these problems are trying to find the best way forward for their patients. The clinical features in these patients are identifiable as a discrete syndrome. We do not feel that the label “fibromyalgia” belongs to a lobby group, but rather describes a well-defined condition that we need to appropriately identify, understand, and manage. There is a large body of knowledge and a high level of understanding of FM that needs to be applied to all patients, including those where the condition occurs in the nexus of medicine and the law.

REFERENCES