

Will 'long COVID' become a neglected disease, sabotaging the lives of millions of victims?

[A small number](#) of [fully vaccinated people](#) have become long-haulers after breakthrough infections, although no one knows how common such cases are, because they aren't being tracked.

Mysteries abound; meanwhile, millions of long-haulers are sick.

Long-haulers were the ones who described, defined, and drew [attention to their condition](#).... Now many feel that their expertise is being ignored and their hard-won knowledge is being excluded from investigations into their own illness. The message seems to be: *Thanks for everything; academia can take it from here.*

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The risk is that long COVID becomes yet another neglected disease whereby [some uncounted number of people](#) become debilitatingly sick every year and fruitlessly bang for help on the door of an unconcerned medical establishment.

But a better future is also possible, in which long-haulers—vocal, united, and numerous—finally galvanize research into the long-term consequences of viral infections; in which such research proceeds quickly as patient experts become partners; in which the world gets ways of preventing and treating long COVID, ME/CFS, and other marginalized conditions; and in which the ents' interminable meeting ends in action and victory.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.**](#)