

**March 29, 2014**

**IACFS/ME San Francisco Conference the Biggest in Years!**

Dear Members and Colleagues,

The big news is the success of our international conference in San Francisco, March 20-23. We recorded just under 400 attendees, the best showing for IACFS/ME in the last 15 years. Certainly the attractive venue was a big plus. Also, Jose Montoya's CFS/ME research meeting at Stanford University Medical Center the day prior to the conference helped to boost our numbers (and vice versa). Also we had a very strong speaker schedule, including virologist Ian Lipkin, best-selling author Abraham Verghese (professor of medicine at Stanford), and Noel Rose, pioneering immunologist from Johns Hopkins University. Much thanks to Jose and to board member Lily Chu for putting together the collaboration with Stanford.

Dan Peterson, as banquet keynote, delivered an entertaining and informative history of the IACFS/ME. He also led an unusual and well-attended immunology workshop with 13 speakers. Other first time workshops included management of the severely ill patient (Chuck Lapp), pediatric CFS/ME (Katherine Rowe), and orthostatic intolerance (Peter Rowe). In the research sessions, we saw more challenge studies in CFS/ME (exercise, cognitive challenge) that are intended to provoke biological abnormalities. Also notable were studies conducted in the patient's home environment (e.g., cytokines related to daily fatigue ratings). I view these as positive developments as they reflect new thinking in the field about how to identify abnormalities.

Our esteemed IACFS/ME awardees included Madison Sunnquist (Junior Investigator Award), Peter Rowe (Research Excellence Award), Pia and Richard Simpson (Special Services Award), Katherine Rowe, (Clinician's Award) and Nancy Klimas, the Gov. Rudy Perpich awardee for distinguished accomplishment in the field of CFS/ME.

We now have two new IACFS/ME board members: immunologist Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik, PhD (Melbourne, Australia) and geriatrician Julia Newton, MD, PhD (Newcastle, UK).

I'm also encouraged by the number of individuals who expressed interest in volunteering or being on the IACFS/ME board. Areas where we need help are fundraising, membership, and conference planning. Please feel free to contact me ([fred.friedberg@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:fred.friedberg@stonybrookmedicine.edu)) if you'd like to help in one or more of these areas.

Regarding our next conference site, there are several important elements that go into picking a location: The appeal of the city as a major travel destination; the amount of funding available for a particular location; and the willingness of our membership and interested colleagues to travel to the conference site. Given these considerations, if you have a proposal for our next conference site, please feel free to contact me and we can discuss it.

Thank you again for your support!

With best regards,

Fred

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