

IACFS/ME Biennial Conference

Call for Abstracts/ Workshop Proposals

12th International IACFS/ME Research and Clinical Conference: Emerging Science and Clinical Care

October 27-30, 2016

The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort, **Fort Lauderdale, Florida USA**

***Featuring Keynote speaker: Walter Koroshetz, MD
Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke***

Abstracts and Workshop Proposals Welcome

Submit Your Abstract by June 30, 2016. Full instructions below.

The *International Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis* (IACFS/ME) – an organization of researchers, clinicians and other interested professionals— invites abstracts and workshop proposals for possible presentation at our 2016 biennial meeting in sunny Fort Lauderdale—known for its beaches, ocean front promenade, arts, culture and events!

Abstracts will be accepted through **Thursday, June 30, 2016, at 11:59 pm Eastern Daylight Time.**

Our conference focuses on all biomedical and behavioral aspects of chronic fatigue syndrome/ myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME), common co-morbidities of CFS/ME (e.g. fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, sleep apnea, orthostatic intolerance) as well as fatigue in medical conditions (e.g., cancer, lupus, multiple sclerosis, pain conditions, and circulatory diseases) and life circumstances (e.g. aging, poor sleep, exercise, competitive sports, occupations). Oral and poster sessions will address advances in pathophysiology, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and public health. We also anticipate sessions covering medical education, career development, and public health policy.

Attendees to IACFS/ME conferences are primarily biomedical and behavioral professionals, including clinicians, researchers, and educators. It is anticipated that this event will be accredited for continuing medical education for Category 1 CME (physicians), and CNE for nurses. The conference is accredited for Continuing Education by the Foundation for Care Management (FCM).

Walter Koroshetz, MD to deliver Keynote address

Dr. Koroshetz is Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Before joining NINDS, Dr. Koroshetz served as vice chair of the neurology service and director of stroke and neurointensive care services at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). He was a professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and led neurology resident training at MGH between 1990 and 2007. He also co-directed the HMS Neurobiology of Disease Course. A major focus of his clinical research career was to develop measures in patients that reflect the underlying biology of their conditions.

As NINDS director, Dr. Koroshetz is leading a multi-institute effort to advance ME/CFS research at NIH. This includes launching a research protocol at the NIH Clinical Center to intensively study individuals with ME/CFS and re-invigorating the efforts of the Trans-NIH ME/CFS Research Working Group. The working group, consisting of representatives from 23 NIH institutes, will help support extramural ME/CFS research and is now chaired by Dr. Koroshetz and Dr. Vicky Whittemore, the NIH representative to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee.

Abstracts (oral or poster presentation):

Opening date: March 1, 2016

Closing date: June 30, 2016

Abstracts must be strictly non-commercial and related to the areas mentioned above. Please indicate whether your submission should be considered for an (a) oral presentation; (b) poster presentation; or (c) either oral presentation or poster. We encourage choice (c) as this provides the most flexibility.

Abstract format: One page maximum in length (single spaced, 12- point Times Roman font, one inch margins; 350 word limit), listing all authors with presenting author first in bold. Bold these headings in the text: Background, Objectives, Methods, Results and Conclusion.

Include at the bottom of page the following (not counted towards the 350 word limit):

1. Presenting author's full name, degree, academic or other position, and full mailing address with city, state or province, zip or postal code, country, and e-mail address;.
2. How your work was funded;
3. Any potential conflicts of interest.

Workshop Proposals (3 hour sessions)

Opening date: March 1, 2016

Closing date: June 30, 2016

Our workshops are scheduled on the first day of the conference and are split into two tracks, one for professionals and the other for the general public (patients, families, caregivers, and others). The latter track is a new part of our patient conference which is usually attended by approximately 200 patients and their supporters. Public workshops differ from professional workshops in that: 1) they are not CME-accredited and 2) the level of presentation is adjusted to fit a lay audience.

Please follow the guidelines below.

Professional Workshops

Professional workshop topics should be relevant to one or more of the following areas: Clinical practice; professional development; research skills/ techniques/ grant writing. Evidence-based elements must be included in your proposal. The description should use professional language for CME accreditation. Specify the workshop level: Introductory, intermediate, or advanced.

In your proposal, please describe: (1) What you intend to do; (2) How you intend to do it; and (3) In what ways the topic relates to professional practice, science, and/or the theme of conference (Emerging Science and Clinical Care).

Public Workshops

Public workshops (includes patients, their families, and interested public) should address patient concerns such as illness self-management and self-help resources. Workshops should be in a skill-teaching or educational format, ideally conducive to demonstrative and/or interactive sessions -- such as introducing a simple restorative yoga or mindfulness meditation practice, reinforcing pacing principles, etc.

All Workshops

Workshop Format: Up to two presenters per workshop. Proposals must be non-commercial, limited to 350 words (single spaced, 12- point Times Roman font, one inch margins). Please indicate on your proposal page, what types of instruction you will use (didactic, interactive discussion, power point slides, video, role play, etc.). Also, indicate preferred size of workshop, maximum number of participants, and any other relevant information.

Include at bottom of page of your proposal the following (which will not be counted toward the 350 word limit):

1. Presenting author's full name, degree, academic or other position, and full mailing address with city, state or province, zip or postal code, country, and e-mail address.
2. If applicable, how your work was funded;
3. Any potential conflicts of interest.

Overall Educational Goals

Learning/Skills Objectives: On a separate page, submit 3 types of specific skills that will be learned by participants in your workshop using this format:

By the end of this workshop:

- A) Participants will be able to
- B) Participants will be able to
- C) Participants will be able to

Resources

At the bottom of the learning objectives page, list three significant and easily accessible resources readings on the subject of your workshop (websites, videos, articles, books or chapters in books). These should serve to provide information for further study. Use American Medical Association style to cite your references: <http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/citation/ama.html>.

Experience

Include a separate, brief credentials statement. This should clearly describe and document the specifics of your relevant experience in the subject area and in leading / presenting / facilitating workshops.

Publicity Description:

Provide a concise and engaging 50-word description of the session (subject to editing) as it would appear in the brochure if selected.

Compensation

One complementary conference registration (value: \$595-\$695) will be issued per workshop.

The Conference Planning Committee will make the final decision on workshop selection and maximum number of participants.

Standard Submission Process

Please submit abstracts or workshop proposals using the following links: [submit your abstract](#) or [submit your workshop](#) no later than June 30, 2016

The presenting author will be contacted in early July, 2016 and advised if his/ her submitted abstract(s) are accepted with the type of presentation indicated. Authors will be given the date and time of their presentation. If selected as a poster presenter, presenting author will be provided with specifications for presentation and display.

Questions regarding papers or the submission process should be directed to IACFS/ME management@iacfsme or 301-634-7010.

Presenter Forms and Materials: All CME submissions

Authors who are selected to give an oral presentation or conduct a 3 hr workshop will be required to submit a copy of their CV and all forms required for CME accreditation, including information about who supported their work financially and any potential conflicts of interest. Following submission of those materials, authors will receive an Invitation to Present.

Online resources for oral and poster presenters:

1. For examples of the breadth and quality of work we expect, please see our 2014 conference program book:
<http://iacfsme.org/PDFS/2014Syllabus25.aspx>
2. How to write a scientific abstract:
From the American College of Physicians:

https://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/education/program_directors/abstracts/prepare/re_s_abs.htm

A presentation by Karen McKee:

https://prezi.com/s_d-hce6m9fb/how-to-write-a-scientific-abstract/

3. Preparing effective research posters:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1955747/>

<http://hsp.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/ScientificPosters.pdf>

4. Tips on giving a great talk:

From Stanford's Susan McConell:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp7ld3Yb9XQ>

A collection of materials from Steven Cranmer of Harvard:

https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/~scanmer/cranmer_htgat.html