

# **ME/CFS**

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

# A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

THAT MOST PEOPLE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT... This could happen to anyone at anytime

And... No diagnostic test No effective treatment No cure

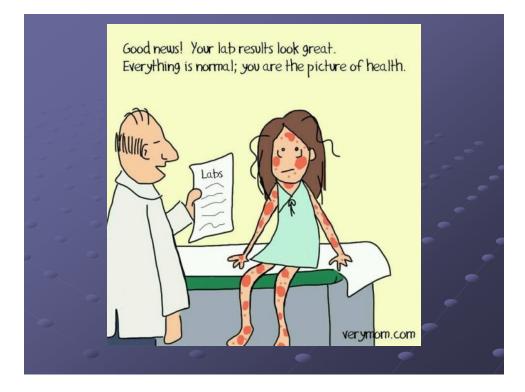
## Whitney: Casualty of ME/CFS <u>A View of ME/CFS</u>

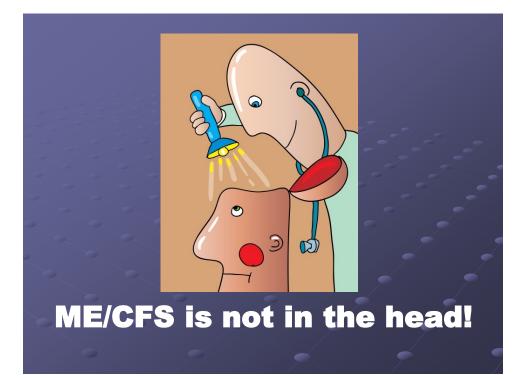


From an active award-winning photographer...to sick with ME/CFS...bedridden...in a dark room

#### **Major Symptoms: Institute of Medicine (2015)**

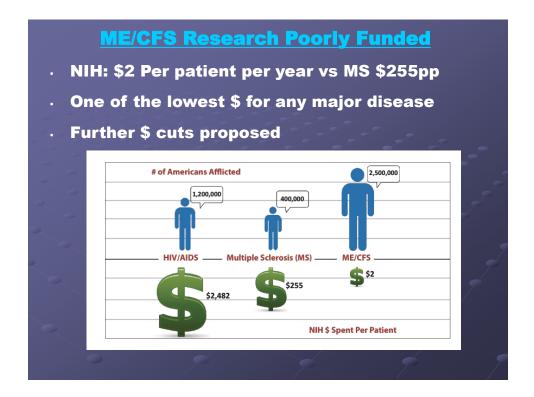
- Profound fatigue & inability to carry out normal daily activities
- Worsening of symptoms after physical, cognitive or emotional effort
- Unrefreshing sleep
- Cognitive impairment
- Symptoms worsen when a person stands upright





## **Skyrocketing Numbers**

- Up to 2.5 million USA, 8-20 million worldwide
- . > 80%: Unable to work or attend school
- > 25%: Entirely bed or house bound
- . > 90%: Not correctly diagnosed
- Huge overlap with Fibromyalgia, Autism,
  Chronic Lyme, Gulf War Illness







## **OMF Goals**

Find a diagnostic tool, effective treatments, prevention strategies and ultimately a cure Share & Educate

### **A Unique OPEN Model & Approach**

Prestigious Scientific Advisory Board:

> Director: Ronald W. Davis, PhD:

» Director, Stanford Genome Technology Center.

 "One of Today's Greatest Inventors" (Atlantic Magazine, 2013)

>World-renowned researchers including:

**\* 3 Nobel Laureates** 

• 6 National Academy of Sciences' Members



### **Accomplishments Since Starting OMF (2012)**

- > \$6.2 million: Raised for Research
- Multiple Research Projects in Progress
- Physician/School Education Project (2017)
- . Guidestar: Platinum status (2016)
- Great Nonprofit Designation: Top-rated charity (2015 & 2016)
- End ME/CFS Worldwide Tour 2017









### **OMF End ME/CFS Project**

- Severely ill Big Data Study
- Metabolomics Validation & Genomics Study
- SGTC Inexpensive Disruptive Technologies
- Status & Preliminary Findings

### Severely ill ME/CFS Big Data Study Status

- Goal: Identify molecular signals & defects
- Methods: Profiling of DNA, RNA, proteins, metabolites & microbiome
- Results: No clear signals yet, testing still in progress. Evidence of reduced metabolism observed
- What's next: Continue analysis; share results openly as resource for research & clinical communities

## Metabolomics Validation & Genomics Study Robert Naviaux, MD PhD:

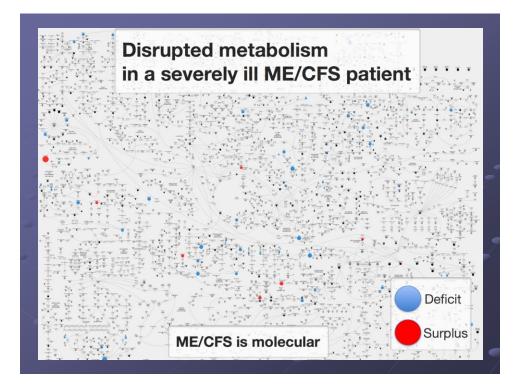
"Our findings are consistent with the notion that ME/CFS is a coordinated hypometabolomic state (reduction in several key metabolites)."

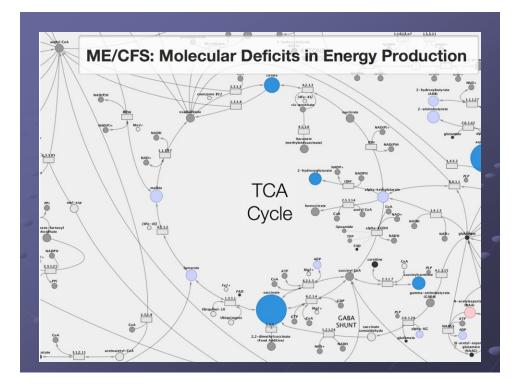
#### **Ronald W. Davis, PhD:**

"This publication is a landmark in ME/CFS research. It is the most important and ground-breaking study of ME/CFS to date."

## What is Metabolomics?

Measure & study of metabolites = small molecules (sugars, amino acids, lipids) present in cells, blood, urine & stool





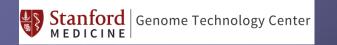
## "I believe that at the root of ME/CFS is a treatable metabolic syndrome."

Robert Naviaux, MD, PhD, March 2017

"I believe that the primary, genetic mitochondrial diseases are much harder to treat than ME/CFS will end up being. The majority of sufferers of ME/CFS probably don't have physical damage to their cells or mitochondria. Instead, their cells and mitochondria are working abnormally because they are under abnormal instructions that block the normal signals for healing. If these cell signals can be changed by new therapy, then healing and recovery might be possible."

### **Metabolomics Validation & Genomics Study**

- Goal: Verify hypometabolism & identify genetic factors (SGTC)
- Methods: Genome (DNA) sequencing & metabolomics
- **Results:** Suspicious genetic mutations identified:
  - Different symptoms in different patients may be explained by genetics
- What's next: Study function of genetic mutations & expand to additional patients



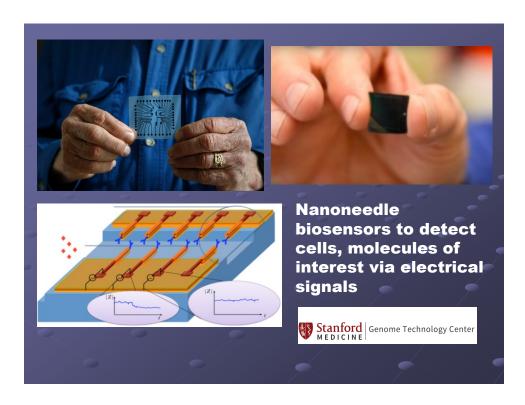
### **Inexpensive Disruptive Technologies**

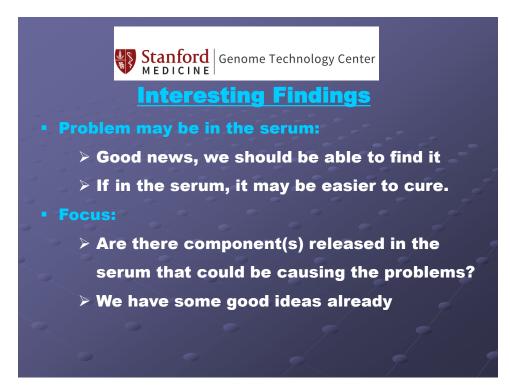
Devices in development: "lab-on-a-chip"

- Nanofabricated cubes: 2500 Electrodes measuring electrical resistance
- For diagnostic purposes: ME/CFS cells stressed with salt could not recover as well as healthy cells

Stanford Genome Technology Center

- Ability to test 100 patients at once
- 2D Printer to produce cheaply: < 1 cent</li>
- Test many potential treatments as
  - quickly as possible: FDA approved drugs





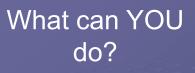
## OMF End ME/CFS Project Fascinating Preliminary Results

- ME/CFS = Molecular disease
- Problems in citric acid cycle that generates almost all energy; problems burning glucose
- May be triggered by environmental stressors
- SGTC technologies: Diagnostics & treatments
- Big Data & technology WILL unravel ME/CFS

### **Dr. Ron Davis:**

"I think we can cure this illness. We are getting close enough to understanding the mechanism."

"Treating it would be OK, but I want to cure it!" Breakthroughs have been made. Now we need to step this up to find a cure. With significant funding, we can do this.

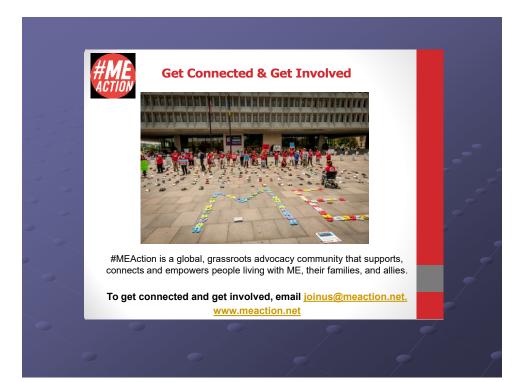


- Join a community
- Spread HOPE
- Fundraise for research
- Crowdchange
- Take care of a loved
  one
- "Like" OMF Facebook
- Sign up to the OMF
  e-newsletter
- HealthRising.org
- PhoenixRising.me

We need your help!







## It's Time to Move Forward Together



## **Join Team OMF to Find Answers!**

