



# Solve ME/CFS Initiative

Leveraging patient-centered  
research to cure ME/CFS

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CFIDS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Our Vision:** A world free of ME/CFS

**Our Mission:** Make ME/CFS understood, diagnosable and treatable

**Our Strategies:**  
Activate and engage our community to participate in research  
Accelerate discovery of safe and effective treatments  
Aggressively expand funding for treatment and cures

**Our Core Values:** Innovation | Collaboration | Integrity

## Fast Facts

- Since the organization was founded in 1987, the Association has invested more than \$31 million in initiatives to bring an end to the pain, disability and suffering caused by ME/CFS.
- The Solve ME/CFS Initiative (SMCI) has directly funded or leveraged more than \$12 million in ME/CFS research studies in the past 5 years alone, all aimed at accelerating progress toward accurate diagnosis and effective treatment of ME/CFS. SMCI is the largest source of ME/CFS research funding aside from the federal government.
- The first formal ME/CFS research network was initiated in January 2009, a collaboration between SMCI and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to leverage existing expertise from successful network models like NIH's Biomedical Informatics Research Network and the National Cancer Institute's Early Detection Research Network. This ME/CFS network was formed to impact research and patient care, ringing clinical and academic investigators into closer contact and stronger alignment.
- In March 2010, the Association announced the creation of the [SolveCFS BioBank](#) which collects and stores biological samples (such as blood, tissue, cells and DNA) and clinical information from ME/CFS patients and healthy individuals aged 10 years and older. Consistent collection of detailed clinical data and health history is a tremendous resource for ME/CFS research, in addition to the tissue repository. General Enrollment Criteria enable the broad participation by patients diagnosed with ME/CFS by a physician, while ensuring that the population can be narrowed according to criteria for individual studies approved by our Research Advisory Council. Consistent collection of detailed clinical data and health history is a tremendous resource for ME/CFS research, in addition to the tissue repository.
- On February 23, 2012, SMCI announced the new "Research Institute Without Walls" or RIWW, breaking out of the conventional non-profit role of simply sponsoring medical research by becoming a full partner with leading research institutions.
- SMCI is committed to providing relevant, up-to-date information about ME/CFS in various formats for readers: [SolveCFS Chronicle](#), a print publication; [Research1st News](#), a monthly e-newsletter delivered to subscribers the beginning of each month; as well as regular blog posts at [SolveCFS.org](#)
- The Association's website offers the latest ME/CFS-related information on research, policy, media coverage and organizational news and events for readers. [SolveCFS.org](#) is a one-stop shop for the most current and reliable information about ME/CFS.
- SMCI has a stellar record of keeping our overhead, management and development expenses considerably below the national average for non-profit organizations. Our supporting services ratio is consistently under the 25% threshold of the best-run nonprofits. In November 2010, the Better Business Bureau conducted its evaluation of the Association for charity accountability and reported that we remain fully compliant, making the Association the only ME/CFS related organization to be accredited under the Wise Giving program.