Dear Friends,

New developments on all fronts!

We reported in our last edition of the *Chronicle* (Spring 2017) on the pre-submission status of many proposals competing through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Collaborative Research Centers (CRCs) and Data Management and Coordinating Centers (DMCCs) mechanisms. Although still meager in total dollars, these new NIH funding opportunities, announced on January 27, 2017, represent an important step to concretize NIH support for ME/CFS research. This constitutes meaningful momentum following the announcement made by NIH Director Francis Collins in late 2015 and affirmed repeatedly by Dr. Collins, as well as Dr. Walter J. Koroshetz, the Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), who is overseeing this initiative. We are gratified to update our community that the review process is now well underway, with outcomes expected in late September 2017.

There have been additional recent developments of note regarding ME/CFS. For instance, new updates to the ME/CFS information page on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (as of July 7, 2017), are a key step forward in refining the narrative about ME/CFS and purging the disease space from noxious and dated inaccuracies. To this end, the CDC website has been streamlined and improved, notably with the removal of the cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and graded exercise therapy (GET) as recommended treatments for ME/CFS. This has been a longstanding point of contention between the CDC and the patient community.

SMCI-wise, although we continue to throttle on all cylinders, we recognize that it is never enough. In the spring we launched another cycle of the Ramsay grant award competition in basic, clinical, translational and epidemiology research. In response, we again received international participation from six countries—underscoring once again the universality of our plight.

Peer-review is underway with the winning proposals expected to be announced in the next two months. We also organized, alongside partners and stakeholders, dozens of advocates and patients for an intense advocacy week on Capitol Hill in May that featured a dedicated, even extraordinary, congressional briefing. Moreover, we convened an expert panel dedicated to ME/CFS at the prestigious Precision Medicine World Conference (PMWC), raising the visibility of our disease amongst industry leaders. Our work was also presented at an annual meeting organized by Invest in ME-Research (InME) in London, enabling us to forge new partnerships. All of the aforementioned was undertaken in addition to the numerous features and highlights described throughout this issue.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Importantly, please tell us how we did and how can we improve!

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