New Leader, Same Passion

Just a few short months ago, Vicki Boies (pictured left) completed her term as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Solve ME/CFS Initiative. Dr. Boies continues on in the role of Vice-Chair and her leadership has been instrumental in effecting the many positive developments at SMCI over the recent years.

We are pleased to introduce our new Chair, John Nicols (CEO of Silicon Valley biotech firm Codexis), and share a few words from Dr. Boies.

FROM VICE-CHAIR VICKI BOIES

Dear Friends,

Like all of you who are patients or caregivers for a patient, ME/CFS has been an unfortunate fixture in my life for too many years. My family member became ill in the late 80’s, was diagnosed in the early 90’s, and is still ill today. During those early years, little was known about the illness and there were too few scientists or physicians interested in ME/CFS. The situation felt very desperate.

While there are still no reliable treatments and there is much to be done, today’s landscape looks much more hopeful. SMCI has been one of the important factors in making this change.

For the past 8 years, I have had the privilege of serving on the SMCI Board including the past 3 plus years as the board chair. It has been an exciting time. Under the very able leadership CEO Carol Head has brought to the organization, we have made great strides in research, both in-house and supporting others’ work in science and discovery. We have seen measured success in making ME/CFS much more visible on the national scene through our greatly increased advocacy and education efforts. Our staff is currently made up of a group of highly effective and dedicated people who accomplish so much more than our resources would seem to support. We have been especially fortunate to have Dr. Zaher Nahle join SMCI two years ago; he has transformed our research program into the very powerful multi-pronged strategic approach we have today.

I know that our leadership team, along with our new chairperson, John Nicols, will ably continue to lead the organization in our mission to diagnose, treat and cure ME/CFS.

Fondly,

Vicki Boies, Psy.D
Vice-Chair and former board Chair
Solve ME/CFS Initiative

John Nicols, pictured above, serves as President and CEO of Codexis Inc., a leading San Francisco Bay Area biotechnology company that engineers and markets proprietary proteins for the world’s pharmaceutical industry. Prior to Codexis, John worked in strategic development for 22-years at Albemarle Corporation, a globally leading specialty chemical company headquartered in Baton Rouge, La.

A native of New York City, John earned an MBA from the M.I.T. Sloan School of Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the NYU Polytechnic University.

John is married with two children and four grandchildren. His wife has suffered for over 20 years with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS) and Fibromyalgia.