

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMCI Honored to partner on three NIH-funded centers

~Grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health will advance ME/CFS research

LOS ANGELES, Cal. – The Solve ME/CFS Initiative (SMCI) announced Thursday its inclusion on three competitive consortium grants that will be awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The grants were established to develop a coordinated research effort and build research infrastructure for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) through the creation of one Data Management Coordination Center (DMCC) and three Collaborative Research Centers (CRC). The winners were announced by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on Wednesday. These are the first NIH grants in twelve years to address the public health crisis of ME/CFS.

Carol Head, SMCI President, noted “The NIH consortium grants are a much-anticipated commitment of federal funds to solve this devastating disease. We hope and trust these consortia, along with the NIH intramural study, represent the dawning of a desperately needed, rapid expansion of the Federal commitment to ME/CFS; **a new era in ME/CFS research.**”

The team selected to lead the development of the DMCC is Dr. Rick Williams of Research Triangle Institute (RTI International) in partnership with Dr. Peter Rowe of the Johns-Hopkins School of Medicine and Dr. Zaher Nahle, Chief Scientific Officer and Vice President for Research at SMCI. The DMCC will centralize, share and standardize the data of the ME/CFS CRCs.

The three teams announced by NIH to lead the development of the CRCs are Dr. Ian Lipkin of Columbia University and team, Dr. Maureen Hanson of Cornell University and team, and Dr. Derya Unutmaz of the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine and Team.

SMCI will serve as a collaborator for the teams of Drs. Lipkin and Hanson. Dr. Unutmaz was a previous grant recipient of SMCI.

"We are thrilled to be part of that effort in what is a landmark turning point development for our disease," said Dr. Nahle, the creator of these strategic partnerships.

ME/CFS is a chronic, complex, multi-systemic disease that profoundly limits the health and productivity of patients. The disease affects as many as 2.5 million Americans and nearly 20 million people worldwide. The causes of ME/CFS are unknown and there are no FDA-approved drugs or treatments for the disease.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:

The Solve ME/CFS Initiative is the leading disease organization solely dedicated to solving ME/CFS. We are committed to making ME/CFS understood, diagnosable, and treatable. SMCI works to accelerate the discovery of safe and effective treatments, strives for an aggressive expansion of funding for research that will lead to a cure, and seeks to engage the entire ME/CFS community.

Visit our website at www.solveCFS.org.