



# Solve ME/CFS Initiative

Leveraging patient-centered  
research to cure ME/CFS

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CFIDS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## CFIDS Association Announces New Name – Solve ME/CFS Initiative May 30, 2014

We're delighted to announce that The CFIDS Association of America has a new name – the **Solve ME/CFS Initiative**. While the organization's name has changed, the mission steadfastly remains the same: **Make ME/CFS understood, diagnosable and treatable**.

Recognizing the many changes in the organization and surrounding the illness since the organization was first founded, the Board of Director's led the charge for a name change. While the name of the illness continues to be controversial, "ME/CFS" better reflects today's understanding and the word "initiative" ('leading action'), expresses a strong commitment to funding ground-breaking research.

Since the organization was founded and named in 1987, it has been the leading organization focused on this disease. Over the years, the Solve ME/CFS Initiative has celebrated many remarkable advances regarding this controversial and misunderstood disease.

- Under the 22-year leadership of Kim McCleary, the organization's first CEO, the Association played an integral part in developing a policy ruling for the Social Security Administration that recognized CFS as a disabling condition.
- SMCI is the leading private funder of ME/CFS research, directly funding \$5.5 million in ground breaking research which has been leveraged into more than \$12 million in additional ME/CFS research.
- The organization fought to create and continues to advocate to sustain a dedicated federal advisory committee on ME/CFS research and education (CFSAC).
- SMCI helped expose the misappropriation of \$12.9 million in CDC spending, restoring these funds to ME/CFS research.
- SMCI led the first-ever public awareness campaign for ME/CFS, led lobbying events, organized Congressional briefings and regularly deliver testimony at numerous federal hearings and meetings.

Four years ago, guided by a desire to move into a new era of scientific progress on ME/CFS, the organization made a strategic decision to heighten its focus on **research**. The thinking was simple – the best way to use precious dollars is toward **solving** this despicable illness.

Today, led by President and CEO, Carol Head, the organization continues to drive its mission forward – to fund research *that will make ME/CFS understood, diagnosable and treatable*. This is done by providing more funding for high-quality ME/CFS studies, fostering increased collaboration among ME/CFS researchers and pushing the federal government to make ME/CFS research a higher priority. The Solve ME/CFS Initiative leverages experience, relationships and collective knowledge to propel the ME/CFS research field forward, serving as a catalyst for scientific advances that translate into better care for ME/CFS patients.

As the organization continues its efforts to **make ME/CFS widely understood, diagnosable, and treatable**, it is fitting that it is under a name that more accurately reflects their work: **The Solve ME/CFS Initiative**.

Inspired by the courage and passion of volunteers and fueled by gifts small and large from supporters committed to a vision of a world without ME/CFS, the Solve ME/CFS Initiative leads with purpose, collaboration, respect, integrity and innovation.

For more information, please visit the SMCI website at [www.SolveCFS.org](http://www.SolveCFS.org)