



## Solve ME/CFS Initiative

The Solve ME/CFS Initiative (SMCI), formerly known as the CFIDS Association of America, is the largest non-profit organization actively supporting research and advocating at the federal level for myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), commonly known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). Guided by new leadership, SMCI is now located in Los Angeles, CA, with a sharp, forceful staff fighting to make a difference.

### OUR VISION

A WORLD FREE OF ME/CFS

### OUR MISSION

MAKE ME/CFS UNDERSTOOD, DIAGNOSABLE, AND TREATABLE

SMCI is the first and only ME/CFS organization to earn a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator.



### PRESIDENT CAROL HEAD

MBA, Stanford University

CEHead@SolveCFS.org

Carol's accomplished career spans major corporations to small entrepreneurial ventures, but it's mission-driven work that fuels her passion as a crusader for this disease. Carol is an ME/CFS patient.

"The only way to understand ME/CFS and provide patients with the answers they desperately need is to produce the highest quality medical research. Our mission is to make that happen." —Carol Head



### VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS ZAHER NAHLE

PhD, MPA, Harvard University, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and Stony Brook University

ZNahle@SolveCFS.org

An award-winning scientist with interdisciplinary training in biomedical research and public administration, Dr. Nahle has a long history of accom-

plishments and publications in patient-centered research and prestigious journals like *Nature* and *Nature Cell Biology*. Dr. Nahle, an awardee of the American Heart Association and Department of Defense, was a Mason Fellow at Harvard University.

"Never in the history of this debilitating disease has the opportunity for scientific discovery been as high as it is right now. Unlocking the mysteries of this complex, poorly understood illness is a gratifying, noble pursuit." —Dr. Zaher Nahle

## Sign Up

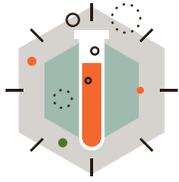
for weekly updates on research, policy, and ME/CFS community news at [www.SolveCFS.org/subscribe](http://www.SolveCFS.org/subscribe)



### RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER SUE LEVINE

MD, Chair of the HHS Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee

"I am so pleased to collaborate with the Solve ME/CFS Initiative and serve on the Research Advisory Council. I've been particularly impressed with SMCI's ability to reach out to scientists who initially were unfamiliar with this illness but whose special talents and laboratory expertise provided new insights into this complex illness." —Dr. Sue Levine



## RESEARCH

*Driving toward biomarkers, treatments, and a cure*

### Original Research

With a focus in three key areas (**bioenergetics, immunity and inflammation, and neuroendocrine biology**), SMCI is launching multiple initiatives in partnership with biotech companies, medical clinics, and universities.

### BioBank and Patient Registry

SMCI's BioBank supports the work of qualified ME/CFS researchers to accelerate progress, while our state-of-the-art Patient Registry, operated in collaboration with **Dr. Susan Levine**, is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Genetic Alliance White Label PEER Program.

### Ramsay Award Program

This competitive, peer-reviewed grant program funds promising research and **draws new researchers** to the field.

### Bioenergetics Deep Dive

Our organization is launching a multi-million-dollar, **multi-year biogenetics umbrella study** made up of several individually ambitious studies.



## ADVOCACY

*Leading the fight for increased federal investment*

### Engaging with Key Federal Agencies

SMCI is a go-to organization for the CDC and NIH regarding funding and research strategy for ME/CFS. President Carol Head, with other advocates, was recently part of meetings with the **Acting Assistant Secretary of HHS**.

### Creating Momentum on Capitol Hill

SMCI coordinates briefings, meetings, and strategic alliances with key congressional members/staff and was a leader in the effort to **reinstate the FY 2016 budget** for ME/CFS research at the CDC.

### Building Coalitions

SMCI partners with global organizations and advocates to bring coordinated, **strategic messaging** to all areas of policy.

### Making ME/CFS Part of the Conversation

President Carol Head serves on the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee (CFSAC), which **makes recommendations to HHS** and endorses or opposes legislation that may affect ME/CFS patients.

### Bringing Together the Research, Advocacy, and Patient Communities

SMCI brings relevant scientific research to the community in an accessible manner, backs **patient-centered research**, and calls for policies and funding to improve the lives of patients.

## Contact Us

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