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Solve ME/CFS Initiative Holds Research Discovery Forum

~Annual event attracts top scientific minds in ME/CFS research

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Solve ME/CFS Initiative (SMCI) held its second annual Discovery Forum Saturday October 14. The forum dubbed “a new era in ME/CFS research” brought together leaders from academia, government agencies, private clinics, biotech and research institutions to discuss developments in the field of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) research.

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 still unknown and there are no FDA-approved drugs or treatments for the disease. There is currently no cure.

Participants in the forum, led by SMCI’s Chief Scientific Officer/Vice President for Research Dr. Zaher Nahle, tackled pressing issues in the ME/CFS field. It aimed to break new ground by bringing together scientific leaders in this field including Dr. Ian Lipkin of Columbia University, Dr. Dan Peterson, and Dr. Nancy Klimas of Nova University, along with nationally leading clinicians, biotech developers, and leaders from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

This collaborative meeting also introduced key influencers in ME/CFS science and medicine to new talent seeking interested in the field. Participants discussed the various collaborative research work ahead.

SMCI President Carol Head stated, “Given the crisis for those who live with ME/CFS, we’re gratified to augment our organization’s extensive research and policy work by convening leaders in the field. Finding ways for ME researchers to work together is difficult but essential.”

The Discovery Forum 2017 boasted presentations from top scientific minds in the field of ME/CFS research, including SCMI’s Dr. Nahle. It also featured presentations from all recipients of the coveted NIH competitive consortium grants, Drs. Peter Rowe of the Johns-Hopkins School of Medicine, Ian Lipkin of Columbia University, Maureen Hanson of Cornell University, and Derya Unutmaz of the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine. This is the first meeting of these minds since the NIH announced the recipients in September.

Discovery Forum 2017 was broadcast with live twitter coverage and facebook live using #DiscoverMECFS17 with over 70k impressions.

This event also follows SMCI’s announcement that it will be launching a state-of-the-art patient registry in 2018. The Platform for Engaging Everyone Responsibly (PEER) registry aims to further the scientific understanding of ME/CFS by forming a comprehensive data network to be used by patients and

researchers alike. The platform is also integrated with efforts from the Data Management Coordinating Center (DMCC) recently established from the NIH competitive consortium grants.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:

The Solve ME/CFS Initiative is the leading national non-profit 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.

To learn more, visit our website at www.solveCFS.org.