

A Welcome Letter from Ron Davis

Dear Friends,

I welcome you to Stanford for our second Community Symposium on the Molecular Basis of ME/CFS. We have spent the last three days with over 50 world-class scientists talking about the latest data (mostly unpublished). This was an exciting event because there has been real progress. Also, many new scientists from different disciplines who have never worked on ME/CFS were in attendance and made contributions.

The number of excellent scientists interested in research in this disease is expanding rapidly. There are many great ideas that we are unable to explore for lack of funding. The field is expanding fast. We need funding to support all the new ideas for pursuing biomarkers, disease pathways, treatments, and a cure.

I wish to thank those scientists at our meeting and elsewhere in the world that have helped unravel the mystery of this devastating disease. It takes courage to work in an area that is not well recognized. The scientists who work on ME/CFS are able to see that this is a major disease affecting millions that we know very little about so far, and find that an incredibly interesting and inspiring opportunity. We know this is groundbreaking research that will likely transform medicine and relieve the suffering of millions. The rest of the world will catch up with us soon.

I also want to thank the patients for your participation in research studies, for your efforts to call attention to your suffering, and for all the articles and information you have sent me. Without these efforts and your financial contributions we would be nowhere. As I watch Whitney's suffering, I think about all of your suffering every single day.

I welcome the physicians and caregivers that have come here and who have tuned in to learn the latest research by some of the best researchers. Your dedication to care for these patients is an incredible act of dedication and love.

Finally, I am so grateful for the generosity of the many donors who have made our work and all of our progress possible. The work so far at the Stanford Genome Technology Center has been entirely without the help of NIH. It's due to all of you. It's funded by patients and those who care for and love them, as well as people who have empathy and are inspired to help. Thank you so much to Linda Tannenbaum and the Open Medicine Foundation for all your tireless efforts to raise funds. You have all enabled us to make significant progress in our quest to find diagnostics, treatments and a cure for ME/CFS.

Enjoy the day! I hope you find hope and inspiration today.



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