

# Public Presenter Bios

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## CO-DIRECTORS

**Ronald Tompkins, MD, ScD**, Sumner M. Redstone Professor of Surgery at HMS and MGH, is a surgeon and scientist who also trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) receiving a ScD in Chemical Engineering. Dr. Tompkins has been the Chief of the MGH Burn and Trauma Services as well as the Chief of Staff, Shriners Hospitals for Children—Boston for more than 20 years. Dr. Tompkins has been active in medical research supported by more than \$200M from the NIGMS in the fields of inflammation and metabolism with emphasis on genomics, proteomics, and small molecule metabolomics. Dr. Tompkins has collaborated for more than two decades with Dr. Ron Davis of the Stanford Genome Technology Center (Department of Biochemistry). Dr. Tompkins has actively participated on the Scientific Advisory Board of OMF since its establishment.

**Wenzhong Xiao, PhD**, Associate Professor of Surgery (Bioinformatics) at HMS and MGH, directs the MGH Inflammation & Metabolism Computational Center and leads the Computational Genomics Group at Stanford Genome Technology Center. Dr. Xiao received his PhD from the University of California Berkeley. Dr. Xiao develops bioinformatic and statistical tools for use in understanding human diseases, especially in studies of immunometabolic response. He focuses on integrative analysis and interpretation of multi-dimensional molecular, cellular, and clinical data of many types of patients, including those with ME/CFS. Dr. Xiao's expertise will be essential for the interpretation of the massive data sets that will be collected in this project.

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## OPEN MEDICINE FOUNDATION

**Linda Tannenbaum**, is Founder and CEO/President of Open Medicine Foundation (OMF), currently the largest independent non-profit organization funding research in ME/CFS. Ms. Tannenbaum founded OMF in 2012 after her daughter came down with sudden onset ME/CFS. Realizing that open, global collaborative research into this disease was lacking, she established OMF to fundraise and facilitate large-scale research to find a cure for these chronic complex diseases.

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## INVESTIGATORS

**Ron Davis, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Genetics at Stanford University School of Medicine, Director of the Stanford Genome Technology Center, Director of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Research Center at Stanford University, and Director of the Open Medicine Foundation ME/CFS Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Davis holds a PhD in chemistry from Caltech and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Throughout his career he has made numerous seminal discoveries that have accelerated genetics, genomics, and

bioengineering, including over 70 patented technologies that have launched numerous successful companies. His contributions have been recognized by the Gruber Genetics Prize, the Genetics Society of America Medal, the Warren Alpert Prize, and the Personalized Medicine World Conference Luminary Award. In 2013, he was named one of the 7 World's Greatest Inventors by *The Atlantic*.

**Donna Felsenstein, MD**, Physician in Medicine and Assistant Professor of Medicine at HMS and MGH, is a senior attending in the Infectious Disease Unit at MGH. She has been diagnosing and caring for patients with ME/CFS since 1979. She has a large number of ME/CFS in her clinical practice, some of whom she has followed for more than 20 years. Dr. Felsenstein has participated in several clinical research studies on ME/CFS. Her clinical expertise in evaluating, diagnosing and treating patients with ME/CFS will be highly valued in the Harvard Center.

**Maureen Hanson, PhD**, is the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at Cornell University. She previously was on the Biology faculty at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. She holds a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from Harvard University, where she also completed an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship. Her lab is currently carrying out collaborative studies on ME/CFS concerning gene expression in immune cells, mitochondrial DNA variation, characterization of extracellular vesicles, and metabolomics, and the effect of exercise on inflammatory markers, metabolism and physiology. She is Director of the Cornell Center for Enervating Neuroimmune Disease. Dr. Hanson is a member of the OMF Scientific Advisory Board.

**Amel Karaa, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at HMS and MGH, is a board-certified pediatrician with specialty in medical genetics. This is an expertise that is very much needed in our ME/CFS research for many reasons but particularly because many mutations are and have been discovered but there is little medical expertise to assist us to better understand the medical implications of these mutations. She treats many ME/CFS patients in the MGH Mitochondrial Disorders Clinic will be critical to coordinate and recruit patients as well as interpret the multiple genomic findings in patients. In addition, she is critical to coordination with the mitochondrial genomic specialists at the MGH Center for Genomic Medicine.

**Anthony Komaroff, MD**, Distinguished Simcox-Clifford-Higby Professor of Medicine at HMS, and Senior Physician at BWH. He served for 15 years as Director of the Division of General Medicine and Primary Care at BWH. Dr. Komaroff's contributions to ME/CFS include his pioneering work in the definition of, epidemiologic studies of the prevalence of the illness, and assessment of the biological changes present in chronic fatigue syndrome. He will be a consultant to the Harvard Center and he currently leads the human studies core at the Columbia NIH-funded ME/CFS Collaborative Center.

**David Systrom, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine at BWH and HMS, is a internal medicine and pulmonary disease physician with certification in critical care medicine. Dr. Systrom's expertise focuses on cardiopulmonary function resulting in highly specific



phenotype characterization of ME/CFS patients particularly those with POTS syndrome. His research involving ME/CFS particularly seeks to discover the link between small fiber polyneuropathy (nerve damage) and exertional intolerance. Dr. Systrom recently received a gift to continue his ME/CFS research from the Solve ME/CFS Initiative (SMCI). His participation in the Harvard Center has tremendous value to more precisely characterize ME/CFS patients with their ME/CFS disease characteristics and to study these well-characterized patients in clinical trials.

**Michael VanElzakker, PhD**, Research Fellow at the MGH and HMS Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging in the Neurotherapeutics Division, and lecturer at Tufts University. As a graduate student, Dr. VanElzakker wrote an influential hypothesis paper on the potential role of the vagus nerve in ME/CFS that has now been downloaded more than 10,000 times. Dr. VanElzakker's expertise in neuroscience is focused on identifying abnormal patterns in brain metabolism, inflammation, structure, and function in this condition. He has enthusiastically engaged the ME/CFS community as both a scientist and patient advocate. Dr. VanElzakker will be critical to develop and conduct the neuroimaging clinical studies with the Martinos Center, which is one of the most advanced neuroimaging centers in the world.

