

From: Nancy Hall
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 5:45 PM
To: OS OPHS CFSAC (HHS/OPHS)
Subject: Comments for May 27-28 Meeting

To the CFSAC;

I would like to add my brief comments to those of fellow CFS/ME patients who have written to you. I am also writing as an art therapist/psychotherapist who has seen people with CFS/ME in my practice.

I have had this illness for 42 years, dating back to my late adolescence. My 60th birthday was last week. CFS/ME has been a constant throughout my adult life. I had hoped that there would be more progress toward understanding and treating this illness by now.

Perhaps the biggest reason for lack of progress is inadequate funding for CFS/ME research. Funding has always been out of proportion to the economic and human impact of the illness. The diversion of CFS/ME research funds to other projects, at various times over the past twenty years or so, has exacerbated the problem. This must change.

We need more funding for CFS/ME research and we need it now. This must be funding earmarked specifically for this illness and not for study of fatigue, fibromyalgia, Gulf War Syndrome, post-traumatic stress disorder or for any purpose other than the study of CFS/ME.

The focus of today's meeting is on the children and adolescents whose emergence as adults will be rendered more difficult by the effects of this illness, just as mine was 42 years ago. I've made the best of it, but I will always wonder what more I could have done with my life if I'd had the energy and the stamina. Please do what you can to give these kids a better start than I had.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns as well as to those of others who have written to you,

Sincerely

Nancy Hall

\ 5/21/2009