

## Testimony

Pat Fero

Recorded in the Minutes of the fall 2008 CFSAC meeting is inquiry from Dr. Jason and Dr. Klimas about NIH funding allocations and success rates for CFS grants. Dr. Hanna (pg. 14) suggested that the inconsistencies in reporting grant awards year to year will be clarified once the Research Condition and Disease Categorization system is in place in 2009.

Since that time, I delivered a report of a 10-year summary of NIH CFS funding patterns showing that awards for CFS specific funding are limited to one or two grants per year. In addition, I included, but did not highlight the fact that millions of dollars are shown as CFS research expenditures but are not spent on anything CFS related. I watched the <Grants.Gov> July 2011 webcast on ethics, investigator reporting, and definition of misuse of funds. From FOIA requests, 2000 – 2010, I once again isolated those awards that concern me. Charlotte Von Sails and I began an intense search to track grant activity of those in question.

We agreed to look at all grantees via NIH Reporter, PubMed, their affiliated institution, and Google hoping to find any references to CFS. Our goal was to eliminate any researcher from the long list of researchers with apparent misspending. What follows is a listing of grant number, grantees and their affiliation, project name and the total dollar amount spent and recorded as CFS expenditure from 2000 – 2010. These awards are unrelated to CFS. The total dollar amount is \$18, 563, 463. That's right. About 18.5 million dollars.

A grant award is a legally binding contract. A material deviation from what the researchers propose in the grant and the work outcome gives cause for probable concern. It warrants investigation. Charlotte and I plan to follow through with the Office of Inspector General. I will highlight a few awards that are questionable. Lastly, this report is

preliminary and when I testify on November 8 or 9, I may bring changes.