

## Testimony

Gaston Gingues

As a patient of the ME/CFIDS/CFS community,

We would not be here (this moment in time of discovery and innovation) if the privately funded Whittemore Peterson Institute had not identified the connection between XMRV in cancer and the immune problems (RNASE L defect) in CFS patients. They had to know CFS patient histories to figure that out. That is why it is Key to have doctors like Dr. Daniel Peterson, Dr. Nancy Klimas, Dr. Antony Komaroff and others working with NIH researchers. We need CFS Centers of Excellence funded by NIH – as recommended by the CFSAC advisory committee for years. The WPI should be funded as the first one, and you need to make others happen.

Perhaps by regions in the U.S., I live in the Northeast and would like a place to go for the most excellent treatment without traveling a great distance. (I have been ill for over 7 years now, and have had very poor treatment until recently.) Perhaps some place near Boston, but not in Boston!

NIH and FDA need to drive a clinical trial process for treatments with the end goal of making safe and accessible treatments available as soon as possible. We are already experiencing the AIDS-effect of patients self-medicating with very serious medications, such as antivirals and antiretrovirals, because many of us are desperately sick and there are no alternatives for CFS patients - none.

These are my major concerns and wants at this point and time.

Sincerely,

Gaston Gingues