

A Welcome Letter from Ron Davis

Dear Friends,

I want to personally welcome you to this day of presentations by a group of superb scientists! I greatly respect each of them and am always impressed with their creativity, dedication and rigor. I'm excited to have them all together, analyzing and integrating all of our data, brainstorming and thinking out of the box about how to put it all together, and planning next steps so that the research can move as fast as possible with the most qualified scientists doing work they are good at to cure this horrid disease.

As I look at my son, Whitney, my heart cries for his suffering and then it connects to all of you patients who suffer with him.

As I watch my wife, Janet, caring for our son into the early morning hours, giving up so much of her life, I think of all you caregivers who walk with her on this path caring for your loved ones.

Of course I am constantly thinking of all you doctors and scientists, trying to absorb all the data you have collected, feeling all of our pain at the painstaking process that never moves fast enough, and trying to find the best to join our collaboration.

And to all of you doctors out there – I'm incredibly grateful for your dedication to caring for these patients when it is so hard and so little is known, and I'm thrilled that you are here trying to learn more so you can bring it back to your patients.

Finally, I'm grateful beyond words for the generosity of the donors who have contributed to this research, because you make our progress possible. I'm especially grateful for Linda Tannenbaum and the Open Medicine Foundation for their tireless work in raising the funds that enable us to do this work, and for making this symposium possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We are all in this together. I have no doubt that we will figure out what has gone wrong in the bodies of patients with this tragic disease, and find treatments that will work to make it better or someday cure it.

I hope you enjoy this wonderful panel of scientists that we have gathered. Many of them are not people you have heard of before in this field. I have chosen them because I believe we need to garner expertise from peripheral, but related, fields of study, open our minds to new thoughts and information, and nurture out-of-the-box thinking in order to break open this field, unravel the mysteries of this disease, and find a cure.

I hope this day leaves you inspired and hopeful!

Sincerely,



Symposium Chair

Professor of Biochemistry and of Genetics, Stanford University School of Medicine

Director, Stanford Genome Technology Center

Director, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Research Center at Stanford University

Director, Open Medicine Foundation ME/CFS Scientific Advisory Board