

INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)



Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) or ME/CFS, is a devastating multi-system disease that causes dysfunction of the neurological, immune, endocrine and energy metabolism systems.

DID YOU KNOW



ME/CFS affects an estimated 1 to 2.5 million American children and adults of all races, income levels, and geographic areas.



75 percent of patients are women.



There is no diagnostic test, no FDA-approved treatment, and no cure.



At least 25 percent of ME/CFS patients are home or bed-bound.



People with ME/CFS have lower quality of life measurements than any other disease tested.



84-91 percent of ME/CFS patients either are not yet diagnosed or are misdiagnosed.



Symptoms typically persist for years; recovery is rare.



ME/CFS costs our economy \$17 to \$24 billion annually.

AND YET

- + Multiple Sclerosis receives \$115 million per year in public research funding in the United States (Source: National MS Society), while ME, which affects over one million Americans and is three times as common as MS, receives \$6 million a year.
- + In actual dollars, government spending on ME/CFS is less than is spent on hay fever.
- + ME/CFS faces a crisis in clinical care and patients are adversely impacted by poor medical education. Fewer than 12 ME/CFS specialists are available to treat up to 2.5 million patients nationwide. Fewer than 30% of medical curricula address ME/CFS.

Information courtesy of MEAction and SolveME/CFS Initiative. Learn more at www.timeforunrest.org.

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