



WHITTEMORE PETERSON  
INSTITUTE FOR NEURO-IMMUNE DISEASE

### ABOUT THE WHITTEMORE PETERSON INSTITUTE

The Whittemore Peterson Institute, (WPI), is a comprehensive translational research institute located on the University of Nevada's medical school campus in Reno, Nevada. The WPI institute was uniquely developed to serve those with neuroimmune diseases, through an active working relationship between our basic research team and clinical experts. The WPI is directed by Annette Whittemore, Founder and President. The WPI Translational Research Department is directed by Dr. Judy Mikovits, PhD, formerly of the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Daniel Peterson serves as WPI's part time Medical Director while also practicing medicine in Incline Village, Nevada.

The WPI began its comprehensive research program in the fall of 2006. Dr. Mikovits formed a research team including scientists from the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Aging, the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology and the Kings College, UK. Her far reaching efforts have produced amazing results including the discovery of the infectious retrovirus, XMRV in more than 95% of institute repository patient samples. The results of the WPI's genetic susceptibility studies describe a new HLA type. In addition, several key immune system defects believed to be related to infection with XMRV, including a unique cytokine pattern of inflammation, are currently under study.

ME/CFS is the first of many neuro-immune diseases to be studied by the WPI. This disease has debilitating consequences for the millions of those who are afflicted; yet the few biological studies of underlying immune abnormalities have not led to effective treatments. The majority of ME/CFS patients experience a diverse group of symptoms such as disordered sleep, nerve, joint and muscle pain, gastrointestinal changes, severe headaches, tender lymph nodes, sore throats, a loss of stamina and poor working memory. Complications may include immune deficiencies resulting in poor control of infections, neurological deficits, seizures, severe allergies, and chronic inflammation that in many cases have led to rare cancers.

The loss of income to society by those with ME/CFS is estimated to be 9 billion dollars annually before consideration of medical or disability costs.

The WPI has kept its promise to bring discovery to a vastly underserved population. We are continuing to move this vital research forward with collaborators from several major institutions to answer the many critical questions surrounding ME/CFS or X associated neuro-immune diseases, (XAND). Medical research, diagnostic tools, drug development and clinical trials must be provided for patients suffering from this disease and the millions more who suffer from other X associated diseases. Projects such as these are vital to disease prevention and effective treatments and are well worth the financial investment.

The WPI is uniquely prepared to continue this important work and is attempting to raise additional money for research and medical support.

Annette Whittemore  
Founder and President