



WHITTEMORE PETERSON  
INSTITUTE FOR NEURO-IMMUNE DISEASE

Teamwork and Commitment are the Cornerstones of WPI

Change is difficult. It breeds uncertainty and sometimes the fear that promises will be forgotten. It takes courage to ask questions rather than simply accept what others tell you. Whittemore Peterson Institute (“WPI”) applauds the courageous patients, donors, and stakeholders for seeking answers to their questions. While we will continue to answer questions and review suggestions to the best of our ability, WPI would also like to confirm our commitment to the patients, to the discovery of the truths beneath disease, and to teamwork and perseverance that have been our cornerstones since inception.

A concern of many is whether or not the institute’s research into the pathophysiology of CFS will continue. The answer is yes; however, the final decision as to who retains the institute’s grants is up to the NIH. Despite what you may have heard from other sources, NIH research grants do not belong to a single investigator. Rather they belong to the institution which provides the necessary support so that the research can be conducted by another qualified principal investigator of the institution’s choice.

The news of Dr. Judy Mikovits’ recent departure may seem shocking because of the inappropriate, and untrue, comments made by some people who are confused or purposely trying to mislead the public. Despite what you may have heard or read on internet blogs, our commitment to neuro-immune disease research has not diminished. We have not closed our research program, ended our quest for the truth, or abandoned the institute’s grants. In fact, our commitment is stronger than ever.

Although the institute began with the help of a small group of individuals, it has grown considerably in just five short years. WPI’s unique research program has grown from two researchers to ten employees in two laboratories. It is also the home to a full time medical practice and an administrative team of seven dedicated individuals who oversee and support all of the activities of the institute including, the research program, Unevx clinical laboratory, the Center for Translational Medicine, critical fundraising activities, patient outreach, advocacy and much more.

Researchers, technicians, doctors, nurses and administrators, work hand in hand every day to ensure the institute fulfills its critical mission to serve those who suffer from neuro-immune disease. Without their dedication and commitment this institute would not exist. To guarantee success, this team must be willing to work together, respectfully and openly throughout the institute and with others around our campus and far beyond.

Devastating neuro-immune diseases like ME, which steal away the lives of millions of people around the world every day, would still be relegated to the shadows of misunderstood and maligned illnesses if we had not dedicated the institute to this cause. We are here for one reason, to find the answers to disease. We know that no one can do this alone. That is why we value the help of all of our board members, collaborators, patients, businesses and friends who stand with us in this fight, and willingly support our efforts.

Discovery was and is at the core of the mission of this institute. This institute is committed to understanding the underlying causes of disease through comprehensive research. Research such as this supports the development of biomarkers, or biological tests that can quickly and accurately diagnose abnormalities that may exist in their patients. Diagnostic tests often point the way to the development of effective treatments.

Our goal of creating novel biomarkers of disease led to the development of retroviral clinical assays for doctors and their patients using the most current knowledge at the time. Dr. Mikovits was integral to the decision to offer clinical tests to help inform and to protect the patients from a potentially infectious retrovirus. Despite WPI's continued commitment to retroviral studies, we have decided that Unevx will delay offering retroviral testing until the *Lipkin* study is completed. We hope that this study will help to provide more insight into the role of retroviruses in neuro-immune diseases.

There remain numerous unanswered questions surrounding gamma retroviruses that WPI researchers are currently investigating. One important missing piece of information is the complete sequencing of the virus and/or viruses found in patient samples. Describing the viral life cycle and the cellular reservoir of HGRVs can aid our understanding as to why some people become sick while other family members are seemingly unaffected, and tell us how these viruses are transmitted.

The serious work of discovery takes talented researchers and others investing their time, money and a strong commitment to a difficult field of research. WPI will continue to make those commitments and to other critical areas of discovery such as additional pathogen discovery, immune abnormalities and inflammation, until our questions are answered.

Patients know the magnitude of the struggle to be taken seriously in the scientific and medical communities. Researchers and physicians in this field have been accused of not living up to the standards of the mainstream research community. Because of this, we have always set the bar very high for everyone at the institute. WPI will continue to seek out leaders in this field and others who exhibit the same passion for working together and supporting our critical mission. We realize the tremendous hope that WPI has created, and we thank those of you who continue to express your deepest gratitude for our efforts.

WPI won't stop trying to discover the truth and to sharing that information with the rest of the world. All of us at WPI, like so many others working in the field, are interested in one thing: providing the best answers for the patients.

The moral and financial support, and more importantly the trust, of patients, donors, and concerned community members mean the world to WPI. We set out to find a cure for a disease that has robbed so many people of years of a normal life. We will continue in that quest regardless of the current challenges, and we hope our supporters will continue to believe in the commitments we have made. WPI further wishes all the very best to others in their own equally important journey. We hope our work will one day help each and every person suffering from neuro-immune diseases.

Thank you,

Annette Whittemore

Please read the question and answer section that we will provide on our website. Please send your questions to [info@wpinstitute.org](mailto:info@wpinstitute.org). Please send your inquiries to [info@UNEVX.com](mailto:info@UNEVX.com) for more information about Unevx and its tests.