



WHITTEMORE PETERSON
INSTITUTE FOR NEURO-IMMUNE DISEASE

Annette Whittemore, Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer

Annette Whittemore is the founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Whittemore Peterson Institute located in Reno, Nevada on the campus of the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Annette planned and created the institute in 2005 with the help and encouragement of Dr. Daniel Peterson. She has committed her time and resources to bring scientific knowledge to the field of neuroimmune diseases through the establishment of the institute's comprehensive research program under the leadership of Dr. Judy Mikovits.

The Whittemore Peterson Institute supports research necessary to provide critical scientific advances that can be translated to more effective patient care of those with neuroimmune diseases. In addition, the institute will continue to provide essential education for physicians and patients as new discoveries are made.

Annette's prior advocacy activities include the support of a Think Tank on ME/CFS, held in 2001 in Reno, Nevada, co-founder of the HHV-6 Foundation in 2004, and founder of the Nevada CFS Foundation in 2006.

Annette provided critical support to construct a state of the art research facility and to fund the construction of the institute within the University's Center for Molecular Medicine. In addition, Annette has funded and directed the programming to bring this important project to life.

Annette personally leads the day to day operations of the WPI. With the help of her administrative team, she has recruited key personnel to lead the WPI's comprehensive research and future clinical practice, oversees the construction of the institute's new facilities, and supports the institute's many development activities.

WPI's organization continues to grow as new researchers and medical personnel are added to the team. In addition, researchers at the University of Nevada and many other major research institutions continue to collaborate with the WPI on projects that are vital to the growth of knowledge in this field of medicine. This extensive collaborative effort resulted in the WPI's discovery of the third human retrovirus, XMRV, to be strongly associated with CFS. This seminal discovery was published in the distinguished journal, *Science* in 2009.

Annette's other community activities include current positions on the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy, a public school for the profoundly gifted and the Community Board of Pack Paws in support of women's sports at the University of Nevada. In addition, Annette and Harvey continue to support various non-profits throughout the Reno area and were named "Health Care Heroes of Nevada in 2006 for their commitment to those impacted by neuroimmune diseases.

Annette takes an active role in advocacy for patients by speaking at various medical conferences and recently published an article in *Molecular Interventions*. She was named Alumna the year in October of 2008 and received an honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2009. Annette is also the mother of five adult children and six grandchildren.