

## IiME Conference

Invest in ME (iIME) is a UK charity whose aim is to educate and raise awareness of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME or ME/CFS) and promote the acceptance of the need for a comprehensive, national strategy of biomedical research into ME/CFS.

The conference will be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in the historic setting of One Birdcage Walk, in Westminster, London - opposite St. James Park and by the side of the Houses of Parliament. This fully CPD-accrued conference will consist of lectures regarding diagnosis, management, treatment and research into ME/CFS and will be of interest to GPs, researchers, physicians and healthcare support staff as well as media and ME patients and support groups. It is a rare opportunity in the UK to meet with world experts on ME/CFS, peers and support groups. Registration is from 07.45, conference



*One Birdcage Walk in Westminster, London - venue for the International ME/CFS Conference 2009*

starts at 09.00 and finishes at 17.30. Discounted rates exist for patients and GPs or healthcare staff registering in association with a ME/CFS Support Group (see registration form). More information is available at our web site at [www.investinme.org](http://www.investinme.org)

## About ME/CFS

Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a severe systemic, acquired illness that is defined by the WHO in the ICD-10 code G93.3 as a neurological illness. In the UK the estimated number of patients with ME/CFS is five times that of registered HIV/AIDS patients. ME/CFS has clear clinical symptoms which manifest predominantly based on neurological, immunological and endocrinological dysfunction.

While the pathogenesis is suggested to be multifactorial, the hypothesis of initiation by a viral infection has been prominent. A wide range of viruses and other infectious agents, such as Epstein-Barr Virus, Human Herpesvirus-6 and 7, Enterovirus, Cytomegalovirus, Lentivirus, Chlamydia and Mycoplasma have been investigated. Before acquiring the illness most patients were healthy, leading full and active lifestyles.

ME/CFS most frequently follows an acute prodromal infection, varying from upper respiratory infections, bronchitis or sinusitis, or gastroenteritis, or an acute "flu-like" illness.

Biomedical research has provided evidence of distinct subgroups within ME/CFS. This conference will provide further information on subgrouping of ME/CFS and the treatments which are available or being developed. It allows a unique opportunity for networking with peers, colleagues and presenters and provides the latest information on research, epidemiology, diagnosis and treatments for ME/CFS from world renowned experts on ME/CFS. Please join us for the conference and help advance the knowledge regarding this illness.



**CPD Accredited**

# International ME/CFS Conference



**29th May 2009  
London**

**Management, Treatments in  
and the Latest Advances in  
Research into ME/CFS**

**One Birdcage Walk,  
Westminster, London**

**Organised and hosted by UK  
Charity Invest in ME  
(Charity Nr. 1114035)**

**Phone: 02380 251719 or  
07759 349743**

**Web Site: [www.investinme.org](http://www.investinme.org)**

## Conference Speakers

The conference speakers are -

### Annette Whittemore

Founder of the Whittemore-Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Diseases, Nevada, USA - a unique centre researching ME/CFS and other neurological illnesses.

### Professor Garth Nicolson PhD

Prof. Nicolson is President, Chief Scientific Officer and a Research Professor at the Institute for Molecular Medicine, Laguna Beach, California, USA. He has published over 550 papers including research on CFS patients subsequently diagnosed with Lyme Disease *Borrelia burgdorferi*: evidence for *Mycoplasma* species co-infections and chronic infections in neurodegenerative and neurobehavioral diseases.

### Dr. John Chia MD

Dr Chia is an infectious Diseases Specialist in California, USA and has published research on the role of enteroviruses in the aetiology of ME/CFS. His latest research may result in the development of antiviral drugs to treat the debilitating symptoms of ME/CFS.

### Dr. Jonathan Kerr MD, PhD

Dr Kerr is "Sir Joseph Hotung Senior Lecturer in Inflammation" at St. George's University of London and Consultant in Microbiology in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine. His research on gene expression has resulted in several published papers - including evidence of 7 distinct sub types of ME/CFS.

### Dr. Barbara Baumgarten MD, GP

Head of the recently opened ME-centre at Ullevål University Hospital, Oslo, Norway and a board member of the Oslo branch of the Norwegian Medical Association. She has seen ME patients in her private practice since 1997 and has responsibility for specialised medical services for ME patients.

### Professor Harald Nyland MD, PhD

Department of Neurology, Haukeland University

Hospital, Bergen, Norway. Professor Nyland has seen several thousand ME patients, among them many severely ill. His recent research involves an ME/CFS Epidemic following a Giardia lamblia Infection in Bergen. He was knighted in 2007 for his services of over 30 years for MS patients in Norway.

### Professor Kenny De Meirleir MD, PhD

Director of the Human Performance Laboratory and Fatigue Clinic, The Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium is co author of 'Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Biological Approach' and his published works cover many aspects of MECFS. Current research involves the gut and ME/CFS. He has seen over 12000 ME/CFS patients and has exciting new research findings.

### Dr. Daniel Peterson MD

Medical Director, Whittemore Peterson Institute, Nevada, USA. A pioneering physician and researcher in understanding the biological characteristics and methods for diagnosing, managing and treating ME/CFS. He performed major studies of Ampligen as a treatment for ME/CFS and studied the possible role of human herpes virus 6 (HHV-6) in CFS patients.

### Dr. Judy Mikovits PhD

Research Director at the Whittemore-Peterson Institute, Nevada, USA. Co-author of over 40 peer reviewed publications that address fundamental issues of viral pathogenesis, hematopoiesis and cytokine biology.

### Professor Basant Puri MD PhD

Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant, MRC Clinical Sciences Centre, Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College School of Medicine

**Chaired by: Professor Jonathan Brostoff MA DM DSc(Med) FRCP FRCPath FIBiol**

Professor Jonathan Brostoff is Senior Research Fellow and Professor Emeritus of Allergy and Environmental Health at Kings College, London.

**Register** Please complete the form and return to the address below.

**Ticket Prices:**  
From 21<sup>st</sup> March

**Ticket categories:**

Professionals £125

Sponsored Healthcare Professional (via ME group) £90

Charities £90

Student £40

Patient, Carer, Disabled £40

Name

Address

Phone:

E-mail:

**Method of Payment**

Cheque (please enclose cheque made payable to Invest in ME)

Invoice Me (we will send an invoice)

Signature

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