

Capital Reporting Company
Patient-Focused Drug Development Meeting 04-25-2013

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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)
CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH (CDER)

DRUG DEVELOPMENT FOR CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME
AND MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS: PUBLIC WORKSHOP

DAY ONE

Patient-Focused Drug Development Meeting

Thursday, April 25, 2013

1:08 p.m.

Bethesda Marriott
5151 Pooks Hill Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Reported by: Natalia Thomas
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1 MEETING ROSTER

2

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18 Pulmonary, Allergy, and Rheumatology Products, Office

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21 Theresa Mullin, Ph.D.

22 Director, Office of Planning and Informatics, CDER, FDA

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1 MEETING ROSTER

2 (Continued)

3

4 FDA STAFF (Continued)

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7 Associate Director for Drug Safety Operations, CDER,

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1 MEETING ROSTER

2 (Continued)

3

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21 Matina Nicholson

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1 MEETING ROSTER

2 (Continued)

3

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

5 Carol Olson (ph)

6 Anita Patton

7 Dr. Dan Peterson

8 Mary Schweitzer

9 Amanda Simpson

10 Dr. Janet Smith

11 Jennifer Spotila

12 Susan Vitka

13 Charlotte von Salis

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 DR. KWEDER: Good afternoon, everyone. I am
3 delighted to be the person welcoming you to this Part 1
4 of a two-day workshop. My name is Sandra Kweder, and I
5 am the Deputy Director in the Office of New Drugs at
6 FDA. And again welcome. Welcome to this important
7 meeting on chronic fatigue syndrome and chronic myalgic
8 encephalitis. We are really excited to be here
9 ourselves and we are excited that you're here. As I
10 have kind of looked over the attendance sheet, it's
11 encouraging to see patients, patient caregivers,
12 patient advocates, drug developers, researchers, and
13 other people from the government all in the audience
14 today.

15 I think the thing that binds us here today is
16 our collective commitment to facilitate development of
17 safe and effective therapies for what we all know is a
18 very debilitating disease. The purpose of this meeting
19 over the next day and a half is to explore important
20 aspects that contribute to our thinking about the drug
21 development for CFS and ME. Our goal is to foster a
22 shared understanding on the important issues regarding

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1 the development of safe and effective therapies. For
2 example, ultimately in identifying things like good
3 measures of outcomes in clinical trials that would test
4 new therapies, how to think about innovative ways to
5 approach development in this disease.

6 So let me see if I can manage the slides.

7 I want to focus on what to expect. What
8 we're hoping will come out of today, and tomorrow as
9 well, but particularly today, a better understanding of
10 what are the high impact signs and symptoms of this
11 condition from the perspective of patients and those
12 who care for patients. We would like to gain some
13 collective insight into clinical decision-making by
14 health care providers who take care of these patients
15 and have done so for years. What are their
16 observations and what they see when patients improve or
17 get worse? And how does that match up with the
18 perspective of patients? Where are those points of
19 intersection that really seem to be places that we
20 should focus on in thinking about developing new
21 products? Similarly, some of this we've learned from
22 clinical trials of drugs, large, small trials,

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1 practitioners' experience, and how do we apply those
2 experiences going forward?

3 Tomorrow we'll also hear some things about
4 tools, whether they're scientific tools or regulatory
5 tools, to apply to drug development in these conditions
6 and how we can merge those with the signs and symptoms
7 that seem to matter most to patients.

8 The way I see this, we are building a map.
9 There are points on the map where there are pockets of
10 great expertise, really heartfelt positions or views on
11 what matters most, really well-studied, well-thought-
12 out perspectives on how to think about this condition
13 and monitoring it over time and how that would work
14 into clinical development. And then there is the
15 scientific basis and understandings of pathophysiology,
16 clinical response, clinical trial outcomes. How can we
17 create the map that links all of those together?

18 So in the way of objectives, we're here today
19 on Day One, and so let's start with the focus of that
20 discussion. We're lucky that we have a whole
21 collection of experts here in the room, patients to
22 launch our Patient-Focused Drug Development Initiative.

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1 This initiative goes beyond the particular clinical
2 conditions of CFS and ME, but we are thrilled that we
3 can engage this community in launching this larger
4 initiative of FDA. It's dedicated to engaging patients
5 and patient representatives and dialogue again on the
6 most significant symptoms and negative impacts
7 experienced in their daily lives as a result of the
8 condition. We seek their perspectives on a range of
9 therapies that they've been using or have used in the
10 past to manage that condition. And Dr. Theresa Mullin
11 is going to explain more about that larger initiative
12 shortly right after me.

13 Tomorrow's discussion will focus on things of
14 a bit more of a technical nature and will explore the
15 broader issues related to drug development. On Day
16 Two, we'll cover topics such as clinical trial design,
17 outcome measures, regulatory issues, and possible
18 pathways to expedite drug development for CFS and ME.
19 But the focus of both days will be on common issues in
20 drug development. Now, it's natural that specific drug
21 products are going to be raised, but they'll be raised
22 in the context of the broader conversation about how to

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1 go forward. We're not here to discuss individual
2 products that would be taken up to go further
3 specifically, although there may be references to that.
4 Those more specifics and detailed discussions of going
5 forward with individual drug products, we have
6 different forums for those discussions, and typically
7 our advisory committee process is used for that where
8 we can bring in just lots and lots of data, but our
9 goal is to move forward.

10 So to just put us all in the same place,
11 we're talking about chronic fatigue syndrome, or CFS, a
12 serious complex and we all know severely debilitating
13 disease of, for the most part, unknown etiology. It's
14 characterized by profound fatigue lasting 6 months or
15 more by almost any definition one encounters, and that
16 is worsened by physical or intensive mental activity.
17 We know it's a multisystem disorder with a variable
18 symptom complex from patient to patient. There are no
19 uniform diagnostic tests, which makes it a really
20 challenging diagnosis and what clinicians often say is
21 it's a diagnosis of exclusion. And we know that there
22 are no approved therapies. Complicating the picture

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1 further, there is a lack of consensus even among
2 experts in the field on both nomenclature and any
3 specific or exact definition of the disease.

4 And I want to say a little bit about
5 nomenclature, and we'll talk about two terms. The term
6 "chronic fatigue syndrome" and "myalgic encephalitis"
7 and the term "drug development."

8 First regarding the name of the disease. We
9 recognize that there is a lot of controversy in this
10 area. Some people call this CFS, some people call it
11 myalgic encephalitis, some people say that the
12 conditions and the terms are referring to the same
13 things, some people say that they're distinctly
14 different. For purposes of this workshop, the terms
15 are likely to be used interchangeably and used really
16 as a frame of reference. We and the people using them
17 we hope will make no judgment on the cause of the
18 different symptom complex their frame of reference.

19 FDA doesn't endorse any particular
20 definition; however, what we expect is that parties who
21 are engaged in drug development who are submitting
22 clinical trials for our review or new drugs where

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1 clinical trials have been conducted will articulate
2 details about what definition they used for entering
3 patients in the clinical trial so we can all understand
4 who it is that was studied. That's an important aspect
5 that will probably come up more tomorrow into sort of
6 the nuts and bolts of studying and testing drugs in
7 this disease.

8 Now, again let's go to drug development. For
9 the purposes of this workshop, particularly today,
10 we're using drug development in its broadest sense, the
11 idea of identifying, developing, and evaluating
12 potential therapies that can help patients manage their
13 conditions and get better. We, at FDA, have a narrow
14 role in drug development with a focus on ensuring
15 safety in clinical trials and rendering decisions about
16 whether or not a product's safety and efficacy have
17 been adequately demonstrated for approval.

18 At this workshop, we're also going to be
19 focusing on the role of other key stakeholders in drug
20 development, including the pharmaceutical industry,
21 academic researchers, clinicians, and our other
22 colleagues in the Department of Health and Human

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1 Services, and in the patient community.

2 So what's our agenda? Today, the next
3 speaker after me is Dr. Theresa Mullin, who will
4 provide an overview of FDA's Initiative on Patient-
5 Focused Drug Development, and following that, Sara
6 Eggers will go over the format and questions for the
7 key topics being discussed today. During this
8 discussion, today when we hear from patients and their
9 caregivers, a few of my FDA colleagues and myself,
10 we'll be sitting up here, and we may ask you some
11 follow-up questions. They'll be the kind of follow-up
12 questions, like, "Can you tell me more what you meant
13 about what you said in this part of your statement?"
14 And I would like to ask my colleagues who are going to
15 be part of that to introduce themselves.

16 So why don't we start right here?

17 ~~MSDR~~. TOIGO:Terry Toigo.

18 DR. KWEDER: And, Terry, where do you work at
19 FDA?

20 ~~MSDR~~. TOIGO:Associate Director for Drug
21 Safety Operations in CDER.

22 DR. KWEDER: Okay. And Terry, for those of

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1 you who don't know, has a really long history at the
2 Agency. She's a pharmacist, and for a very long time
3 Terry was in charge of all of our patient and patient
4 advocate outreach input and output activities. She has
5 a long track record of excellence in listening and
6 making sure that people get heard.

7 So Theresa Number 2 is next to her.

8 Dr. Michele?

9 DR. MICHELE: All right. I'm Theresa
10 Michele. And I am a physician and clinical team leader
11 in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Rheumatology
12 Products in the Office of New Drugs at FDA. Our
13 division now is the home at FDA for all of the chronic
14 fatigue syndrome applications. And I am also the
15 Agency representative to the CFSAC.

16 DR. KWEDER: Okay. Thanks, Terry.

17 And Theresa Number 3.

18 DR. MULLIN: Theresa Mullin, and I direct the
19 Office of Planning and Informatics in the Center for
20 Drugs, and I am CDER's lead on the Patient-Focused Drug
21 Development Initiative. You'll hear more about that in
22 a minute. And I have to say I've never been on a panel

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1 with three Theresas before, so it's a little bit
2 unusual for me, too.

3 (Laughter.)

4 DR. KWEDER: And they're all spelled the same
5 way, except Terry Toigo's is spelled wrong on her card.

6 And finally?

7 DR. BURKE: Laurie Burke, and I direct the
8 Study Endpoints and Labeling Development staff in the
9 Office of New Drugs, and we look at measures of
10 treatment benefit and how to describe the results of
11 clinical studies to demonstrate treatment benefit in
12 the labeling.

13 DR. KWEDER: So really an important part of
14 this discussion.

15 So the afternoon is organized as you see here
16 on the slide. You can see that this will be broken up
17 into two topics, and Sara Eggers will explain that to
18 you a little bit more in a few minutes, and Sara is
19 right here.

20 So what I would like to do, though -- and you
21 know what? Hold off on introducing the whole side of
22 the panel because I know you're going to do that.

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1 At the end of the afternoon, there will be an
2 open public comment period for those who have pre-
3 registered and been confirmed to speak. There is a
4 sign-in sheet at the registration table, so be sure to
5 check in. If you've signed up, make sure your name is
6 on that table, they'll confirm that with you.

7 And with that, I'm going to turn things over
8 to Theresa Mullin to talk a little bit more about this
9 first day focused on patient input. And again thank
10 you for being here and thank you for your
11 participation. Overview of FDA's Patient-Focused Drug
12 Development Initiative

13 DR. MULLIN: Okay, well, yes, and hi again.
14 And I'm going to talk and give you a brief overview of
15 this Patient-Focused Drug Development Initiative. This
16 is a particularly special meeting for us in terms of
17 this initiative that we're starting under the
18 Prescription Drug User Fee Act that was reauthorized in
19 2012.

20 This is the first such meeting that we'll be
21 having, and I can't imagine a more important place to
22 start in trying to see how well we're able to get

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1 information. We think that this initiative is going to
2 really help FDA because we don't get as much direct
3 engagement and input in a general way from patients as
4 we think would really benefit us.

5 We thought this initiative would be an
6 important adjunct to our benefit-risk framework effort
7 that we have underway. And our benefit-risk
8 assessments for new drugs involve five key
9 considerations: that's the severity of the condition,
10 the degree of unmet need, how much do current
11 therapies, in other words, ~~treat,~~ how well do they
12 treat the condition?; what clinical benefit is
13 evidenced in the data that's been collected in trials?;
14 what are the risks that are identified in the safety
15 data collected in trials?; and then the question of
16 whether there is a risk management plan that can make
17 sure that the benefits outweigh the risks.

18 Well, those first two factors comprise what
19 we're calling the clinical context, so the severity of
20 the condition and the degree to which it's not met and
21 taken care of by current therapies. Patients have a
22 unique perspective on this, of course; they are the

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1 ones who experience the disease, they are the ones
2 living with it, they are the ones who are taking the
3 medicines and seeing how well they work or don't, and
4 we realize that we would really benefit from a more
5 systematic approach to gathering that information from
6 patients and not just doing it in the context of a
7 particular drug application where we have to do a great
8 deal of, in fact, conflict of interest screening of
9 people.

10 We can't get as comprehensive a picture
11 because of the issues around a particular application,
12 so we thought it would be much better if we try to go
13 at this by disease and engage all the key stakeholders.
14 Really, to us, primarily we want to hear from patients
15 and their caregivers if caregiving is a very critical
16 or large part of that experience with the patient and
17 the patient's family, to really get their perspective
18 to help us understand the clinical context from that
19 most direct perspective. And we think that we'll get
20 immediate benefit from hearing about this, capturing
21 it, putting it in a report that we will give to review
22 divisions to reference and use when they're getting

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1 applications or other issues for specific drugs in that
2 disease area.

3 It may also stimulate the development of
4 other outcome measures that capture more meaningful,
5 patient meaningful, aspects of the disease that could
6 later be used in clinical trials, to look at those
7 aspects of drug performance and see if they are meeting
8 the needs that patients have told us about.

9 So this initiative under the Prescription
10 Drug User Fee ~~re~~Reauthorization involves a commitment to
11 do ~~at least 20,~~ at least 20 meetings in 20 different
12 disease areas over 5 years, and despite whatever budget
13 constraints we are undergoing right now, we are very
14 committed to doing this initiative in any case, and at
15 least 20, and so these meetings are primarily for
16 patients. We want others to listen. It's an
17 opportunity for patients to talk and, frankly, for
18 everybody else to listen.

19 And so that's the way we've set it up, but we
20 hope that we get patient advocates to participate, drug
21 companies that are interested in developing drugs in
22 this disease area, FDA reviewers, and caregivers and

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1 other stakeholders we hope will also be there to
2 listen.

3 We began this process of Patient-Focused Drug
4 Development, well, last summer we started really
5 talking to the review divisions to try to figure out
6 how to get it underway. We realized early on that we
7 wanted additional patient input. We've got other
8 ongoing what we call patient consultation meetings that
9 we've been conducting to try to get their input and
10 perspective on the things we're thinking of doing as
11 part of this initiative, but last September we
12 published a Federal Register Notice with a set of
13 candidate disease areas that our review divisions had
14 identified as a set that they thought these could be
15 good candidates -- there were almost 40 drugs on the
16 list -- and that would be good to elicit public comment
17 to see what the public thought about the drugs that we
18 had identified.

19 We had a public meeting in October to discuss
20 those candidate disease areas, and we opened a docket,
21 we received about 4,500 comments to the docket, and
22 we've analyzed those comments, taken them back and

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1 talked to the review divisions where the drugs that
2 were identified in the docket would be reviewed to go
3 back and try to identify what would be the best set to
4 start with given that we're only working with about 20
5 in this first effort. We see this as a long-term
6 project. We don't think we'll be doing it for only 5
7 years. We think this is something we'll want to
8 continue to do well beyond this 5-year timeframe of
9 PDUFA, but this is almost like a piloting and a good
10 start for us.

11 And so we identified a set of diseases for
12 the first 3 years, 2013 to 2015, and those are posted
13 on our website, and we can tell you more about those
14 later if you would like. And this, as I said, is our
15 first area, so it's very exciting for us.

16 Well, how did we come up with the initial
17 list and what kinds of diseases did we think would be
18 particularly good candidates? You see a list of areas.
19 These are our criteria that we had used to develop a
20 set, and you can see why chronic fatigue syndrome is
21 such a good candidate and such a good and appropriate
22 place to focus as, for example, our first disease area.

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1 We were looking in general for diseases that are
2 chronic, symptomatic, and affect functioning and
3 activities of daily living, ones for which these
4 critical aspects for patients are not maybe captured as
5 well as they could be in clinical trials, where there
6 may be no currently very effective therapies and no
7 therapies approved for that disease, where there is a
8 range of severity that patients experience. There may
9 even be identifiable subpopulations that have a
10 particular experience with the disease that would be
11 helpful for us to hear more about, and where there is a
12 fairly broad range of patients that may be affected by
13 it. And as a set of 20, we wanted to try to cover a
14 wide range of disease areas to make sure that we were
15 broadening our perspective and trying to get as many
16 different diseases in there as we could.

17 And so with that, we picked a set that we
18 think still corresponds to that for the first 3 years,
19 and in planning these specific meetings, we've had
20 sessions, as I mentioned, these patient consultation
21 sessions that we've had, to go over the wording of the
22 questions that we came up with, and patients that had

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1 given us input on our initial questions greatly
2 improved our questions and made them much more
3 meaningful in terms of how they were worded and what we
4 were trying to get at. They were extremely helpful in
5 helping us improve the wording, and yet the same groups
6 told us, "Well, you know, you're going to continue to
7 modify these questions, you're going to have to, for
8 each group that you meet with because every disease is
9 different and they might need slightly different
10 questions, they may have different issues, and you need
11 to be sensitive to that," and so we think that was very
12 good advice, and we have tried to do that as well.

13 And not only are we needing to maybe modify
14 the questions a little bit to fit the disease context
15 that we'll be doing in a particular meeting, but we
16 also want to be sure that the format of the meeting is
17 tailored to sort of maximize the opportunity to get
18 input from patients and to hear what they have to tell
19 us in the course of a meeting. And so we might vary
20 our format for the meetings across the 20 a little bit
21 for those reasons.

22 We're hoping that patients will participate

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1 and come to these meetings that we have if they can.
2 We're also making sure that we have remote access
3 available so people can also send in comments
4 electronically. We've heard from patients that they
5 would want to be sure that we heard directly from them
6 and not just be filtered through advocacy groups, so
7 we're trying to make sure we're providing ways for that
8 to happen. We're also looking at whether we can
9 possibly expand, and beyond the 20, maybe we can be
10 collecting information electronically and doing other
11 things for groups that we're not able to meet with
12 face-to-face.

13 Any of these meetings that we have and the
14 information that we will collect we will be building
15 into a report which reports back what we've heard,
16 we'll be posting those reports on our website, and we
17 see that as the first product of perhaps a series of
18 continuing efforts in each of the disease areas that
19 we'll be looking at. And so if you would like to see
20 more about it, there is a link here to the website
21 where it's almost like the first place to go look. We
22 have a lot of information at this location, and you can

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1 find it by going to this link.

2 And with that, I really look forward to
3 listening to your input today. And thank you again for
4 coming to the meeting. And I'll turn it over to Sara
5 Eggers now. Overview of Discussion Format

6 DR. EGGERS: Good afternoon. I'm the only
7 one without a name tent card. And since I put the tent
8 cards out, I don't know how I could have forgotten
9 myself, but I did. It's really great to see you all
10 here. We have been preparing for this for a long time,
11 and I'm so excited that the day has finally come and we
12 get to hear the patients' input directly.

13 As Theresa said, I'm Sara Eggers. I am one
14 of Theresa Mullin, Dr. Mullin's staff, from the Office
15 of Planning and Informatics within the Center for Drug
16 Evaluation and Research. I will serve as the
17 discussion facilitator today, and my colleague Theresa
18 Toigo will be supporting our discussion as a moderator,
19 making sure that the process runs smoothly, on time, et
20 cetera.

21 This discussion is rather different from the
22 types of government-sponsored public meetings that

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1 you've participated in, and so I'll be going over that
2 format and the questions before we begin.

3 We have two main topics today. The first
4 topic is to explore the most significant symptoms of
5 CFS and ME and their impact on daily life. And here we
6 really want to know the most significant symptoms that
7 you experience resulting from your condition, knowing
8 that there are a wide range of symptoms experienced. We
9 also want to explore the negative impacts on your daily
10 life that result from those symptoms, specifically the
11 important activities that you cannot do at all or as
12 fully as you would like because of your symptoms and
13 because of your condition.

14 And then the second topic is understanding
15 patient perspective on treating CFS and ME. What are
16 you currently doing? What's the range of therapies
17 that you are currently using to treat your condition or
18 its symptoms, and how well do these treatments address
19 your most significant symptoms, and what are the
20 downsides of those treatments?

21 We have questions that will be coming up at
22 the start of each discussion topic, and that will give

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1 you a good sense.

2 So now for the format. For each of the
3 Topics 1 and 2, we're first going to hear from a panel
4 of patients and patient representatives, and the
5 purpose here is to set a good foundation for our
6 discussion. There are five panel discussions for each
7 topic, primarily patients, but we do have a patient
8 representative or caretaker, at least one on each of
9 the panels. Each panelist has prepared 2 to 3 minutes
10 of remarks in response to the questions that I'll put
11 up, and after we hear from each of them, we will have
12 some time for some follow-up questions from me and my
13 FDA colleagues up here.

14 After the panel discussion, we'll broaden the
15 dialogue to include other patients and patient
16 representatives in the audience, and the purpose here
17 really is to build on the experiences shared by the
18 panel and get a sense for what is generally similar and
19 what may be different from what you heard. We'll focus
20 on the key questions for each topic, and I will be
21 asking follow-up questions, inviting participants to
22 raise their hands to speak, and I'll call on you, and

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1 we have some people with microphones who will come to
2 you.

3 So in a group this size, we will need to rely
4 on the method of raising your hands to speak. I will
5 try to get everyone who wants to speak, knowing that we
6 do have the time limitations, but as much as possible,
7 everyone will have a chance to speak.

8 Those participating by live webcast can add
9 comments through the webcast comment box, and although
10 they won't be read or summarized today, they will be
11 considered part of the public record. This meeting is
12 being transcribed, and we have people on our team
13 taking detailed notes as well. So even if you don't
14 see me taking notes, which I'm a pretty bad note taker,
15 I can't read my own writing, just know that there are
16 others in the room who are listening very intently and
17 taking notes.

18 At any point if you have to get up for any
19 reason, please feel free. There are comfortable chairs
20 near the registration, there's a piano there as well,
21 if anyone wants to play or perform during the break, be
22 my guest. There are rest rooms located behind me, if

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1 you go out to the right here and keep going. We'll
2 take a 15-minute break at about 2:40, around 2:40,
3 between Topics 1 and 2.

4 So in order for this meeting to add the most
5 value to FDA and to the participants, we have a few
6 ground rules for all of us. We are here first and
7 foremost to hear directly from those of you who have
8 this condition. Some of you are here today as
9 caregivers representing someone who could not be here
10 in person, and this is very important because it means
11 that we get to hear a perspective from someone who may
12 be too ill to travel today. We encourage you to
13 contribute to the dialogue as well. Some of you are
14 here as patient advocates, and we encourage your
15 participation as well, again with the intent of
16 speaking on behalf of patients. And we're happy to see
17 participants here who represent research, industry, and
18 government agencies, and we hope that this input is
19 important for you as well and that you will learn
20 something today. We just ask that you stay in
21 listening mode and let the patients and patient
22 representatives contribute to the discussion.

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1 The purpose of the opening panel is to give
2 our discussion a solid foundation; however, the views
3 expressed by the participants speaking first will have
4 no greater weight than any other comments expressed by
5 the participants.

6 In the large group facilitated discussion --
7 so after the panel discussion, we'll open it up to the
8 large group, we'll ask participants to focus on the
9 topics that we are currently discussing; for example, a
10 particular symptom. Try to keep responses or comments
11 to a question to 1 or 2 minutes so that we can ensure
12 that everyone can talk and focus on building on what
13 others are saying. I will regularly ask for a show of
14 hands if you generally share a particular view or not,
15 and if you are comfortable, please raise your hand.

16 We'll try to accommodate everyone who wants
17 to speak. If we don't get your full thoughts on a
18 topic, we strongly encourage you to elaborate on your
19 comments and what you heard today in the docket, which
20 will remain open until August 2nd.

21 Our discussion will focus on the common
22 ground regarding the symptoms, impacts, and treatments

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1 of CFS and ME, as Dr. Kweder said. There are many
2 important issues to ensuring that people with CFS and
3 ME get the health care treatment and support that they
4 need. For our discussion, though, we want to focus on
5 these topics that I just went over because that's what
6 is critical input for FDA at this time. We may touch
7 upon specific treatments, and that's okay. The
8 discussion of any specific treatments, however, should
9 be done in a way that helps us understand the broader
10 issues.

11 Again, you are encouraged to elaborate on
12 your perspectives through the docket. And the comments
13 on other topics are welcome at the open public comment
14 for those who have pre-registered and are confirmed to
15 speak during the session.

16 FDA's staff is here to listen. FDA will have
17 its turn tomorrow to present and discuss in detail
18 various issues related to the drug development process,
19 and they may build on, as will all participants, we
20 hope, on the various topics that will be raised today.
21 Occasionally, as I said, I will turn to them and ask if
22 they have any questions or clarifications.

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1 And we want your feedback from this meeting.
2 What we learn here today will help us continue to
3 design and implement future patient-focused drug
4 development meetings that are useful to FDA and useful
5 to those who contribute to these meetings. There are
6 evaluation forms available, completely voluntary, and
7 at the break, if you go to the back table -- I'll tell
8 you at the break where to go -- you can pick those up
9 and we would be happy to hear your comments.

10 Above all, courtesy and respect is paramount.
11 Our goal today is to have a fair and open discussion.
12 Therefore, please wait to be acknowledged before
13 speaking. Speak into the microphone and please state
14 your name. I'll try to call on people by name if I can
15 read your name tags, but if you are able and can stand,
16 please stand and state your name. If you are not
17 comfortable or not able to stand, please don't worry,
18 you definitely don't need to.

19 Avoid any kind of negative or derogatory
20 language, and keep all side conversations to a minimum
21 so that we can focus on the person who is contributing
22 at the moment. Okay? Discussion Topic 1: Disease

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1 Symptoms and Daily Impacts That Matter Most to Patients

2 DR. EGGERS: And with that, I think we are
3 ready to begin discussion Topic 1. I have asked all
4 the panelists for discussion Topic 1 to join me at the
5 front, and they are here. And I'll go through and say
6 their names and then I'll ask each of you, and we'll go
7 through -- I think we're in alphabetical order -- we'll
8 go through in alphabetical order and ask you to share
9 your remarks, and then, as I said, we'll have follow-up
10 questions.

11 So we have Dr. Jon Kaiser, we have Mr. Joseph
12 Landson, Ms. Denise Lopez-Majano, Ms. Kim McCleary, and
13 Ms. Charlotte von Salis. I'll say those again. We
14 have Jon Kaiser, Joseph Landson, Denise Lopez-Majano,
15 Kim McCleary, and Charlotte von Salis. Okay? Thank
16 you.

17 And with that, Jon, I will let you start.

18 DR. KAISER: From this chair?

19 DR. EGGERS: From that chair, yes, that's
20 fine. Panel Comments

21 DR. KAISER: Good afternoon. It's going to
22 be a challenge to condense my experience with this

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1 condition into just a few minutes, but I'll do my best.

2 My name is Dr. Jon Kaiser, and I practice medicine in
3 the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1987, after many
4 stressful years of pre-med, medical school, residency
5 training, and working as a solo doc in a busy emergency
6 room, I developed ME/CFS. I had severe fatigue,
7 recurrent sore throats, chronic pain, and unrefreshing
8 sleep. If I exercised just a modest amount, I would
9 experience a devastating crash with an exacerbation of
10 all my symptoms, and I never knew how long a crash
11 would last. Sometimes it would last only a few days
12 and other times it would last several weeks.

13 My ME/CFS had a significant effect on my work
14 and my personal life. I had to cut down my work hours.
15 I remember lying down on the couch frequently between
16 patients. And if I was able to socialize, I never knew
17 how long it would be before I went up to my wife and
18 said, "We need to leave now." It's like you just hit a
19 wall and you become dizzy and lightheaded and your
20 brain clouds over.

21 Fortunately, after 5 or 6 years of working
22 really hard to rebuild my health, including taking a

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1 job with much less stress and leaving emergency
2 medicine, I was able to recover to a significant
3 degree; however, I still experience relapses of these
4 symptoms that significantly impact my life. When a
5 relapse occurs I cannot participate fully as a father
6 or a spouse, I need to lie in bed for hours at a time,
7 and I experience total body pain during these relapses.

8 Now, there are a lot of people who are
9 totally disabled from this condition, bedbound or can't
10 leave their homes, and they're a lot worse off than I
11 am, but I'm not here to speak for them, I'm here to
12 speak for the thousands of people with CFS who are able
13 to work but struggle to make it through each day and
14 each week.

15 People who are able to work with CFS struggle
16 to get our minds clear enough to function and to be
17 able to think well enough to perform. We struggle to
18 make it into work by 9:00 or 10:00 in the morning and
19 be as productive as everyone else, and we struggle to
20 make it through an 8-hour workday without having to lie
21 down and take a break.

22 The worst part about this condition, from my

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1 point of view as a person with CFS who is still able to
2 work, is the toll this disease takes on my family. I
3 don't know if I can convey the psychological distress I
4 feel when I'm unable to spend time with my daughters or
5 participate in family activities because I'm in bed on
6 the weekend recovering from all the energy I expended
7 during the week. This for me is the worst part of this
8 condition, the fact that during exacerbations I have no
9 energy left to participate fully in my family and
10 social life.

11 And one other terrible thing, which I'm sure
12 all of you are familiar with, is that family members
13 and friends just can't understand how I can feel so
14 sick when I'm at home if I'm still able to work and
15 hold a job.

16 So I want to thank the FDA for holding this
17 meeting and for getting input from patients themselves.
18 I hope they will work to identify treatments that not
19 only help those that are bedbound get out of the house
20 but also help those of us still able to work be able to
21 think more clearly and function at a higher level. And
22 I look forward to hearing other people's perspectives

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1 and having a productive sharing of ideas.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Jon.

5 And I am going to put the discussion
6 questions up here so that you can see the types of
7 questions they were addressing.

8 And we'll next move on to Joseph Landson.

9 Thank you, Joseph.

10 MR. LANDSON: Hello, everyone. I'm Joe
11 Landson. I am a veteran. I am a graduate student sort
12 of, and I have been ill for about 8 years. A little
13 bit about my life today. I live at home with my mom
14 here in the D.C. metro area, and I am on my seventh
15 year of a 2-year master's program. Lots of people take
16 a little bit of extra time to finish a graduate degree,
17 but I'll tell you a little bit about my past so we can
18 put my present situation in perspective.

19 But first let me answer the central question.
20 The symptom I chose as the most significant for me in
21 my daily life is confusion, which seems an odd choice
22 given the very many different symptoms that are

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1 profoundly disabling for lots of us with this illness.

2 So why confusion? Several reasons. One, I
3 now have trouble today for longer than 15 or 20 minutes
4 to follow a single conversation with someone I know. My
5 former life as a veteran was as a military linguist. I
6 translated Arabic on the fly. I would typically listen
7 to multiple conversations at once, at least one in each
8 ear of my headphones. I was on a plane, a rattling
9 plane, an old reconnaissance plane, that wasn't very
10 well pressurized, I was trapped in that for up to 10
11 hours. We would typically get up at 0200, 0400, oh
12 dark 30, as they say, as we know from the movie title
13 now, and go translate whatever our languages were on
14 that plane for a long time, and then we would get up
15 again and do it all the next day.

16 I now have trouble sitting in a comfortable
17 office translating the same language for more than
18 probably 2 or, at most, 4 hours would be the maximum I
19 could do. And that's why confusion has affected me the
20 most: the loss of my ability as a linguist and hence
21 any possibility of employment in that area, the
22 inability to finish my graduate school program. It's

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1 possible I could work again on a low concentration job,
2 but I have not tried in years, I'm just hoping to
3 finish my thesis.

4 The confusion probably wouldn't matter as
5 much without another symptom of the illness called
6 post- exertional malaise, and it's not just that we're
7 confused, it's that any sort of effort -- mental,
8 physical, or emotional -- makes us so exhausted that
9 any progress we've made, for instance, on said thesis,
10 I read it the next day, what I've written, and I have
11 to decide. What do I have to decide? It's not making
12 sense to me what I wrote. Now, does that mean I was
13 confused when I wrote it and the writing is actually no
14 good and I can't make sense of it now, or am I confused
15 now and unable to read a perfectly good sentence? In a
16 sense, it doesn't matter because that means the
17 previous day's work is probably wasted.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Joseph.

21 Denise Lopez-Majano?

22 MS. LOPEZ-MAJANO: Good afternoon. Thank

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1 you, everyone, for making the effort to be here. Thank
2 you especially to patients who have used scarce energy
3 and financial resources to be here.

4 I have two children. My son Matthew got sick
5 2 days after his twelfth birthday. That was over 8
6 years ago now. He's now 20. My son Alexander got sick
7 over 7 years ago. He's nearly 22. Before they got
8 sick, they were actively engaged in academics,
9 championship level swimming, fencing, theater, family,
10 friends, travel, world affairs. Those are things of
11 the past. They've been housebound since they got sick.
12 They've tried numerous medications but have had
13 virtually no improvement. Since they got sick, I have
14 provided 24/7 care for them. Because they require 24/7
15 care, I am nearly as housebound as they are. I leave
16 home to get materials from the library, go to the
17 grocery store, I attend my neighborhood book group once
18 every 10 weeks or so.

19 Usually when I leave home it's to take care
20 of my sons in terms of medically related appointments,
21 driving them to and fro. To be here today, I made
22 arrangements for a full-time caregiver to come in and

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1 stay at my home with my sons with coverage from friends
2 and neighbors as well. However, those plans went up in
3 smoke. The caregiver, 2 weeks ago today, had a heart
4 attack, said caregiver cannot travel at present, said
5 caregiver cannot undergo situations of stress, let
6 alone take care of people 24/7 other than herself.

7 So I had to punt. I tried my best, I
8 couldn't come up with any other arrangements, so my
9 sons are upstairs in a hotel room with friends and
10 caregivers looking in on them.

11 Their symptoms run the gamut of post-
12 exertional malaise, immune problems, orthostatic
13 intolerance, neurocognitive problems, autonomic
14 manifestations, myalgias, unrefreshing sleep, and more.
15 Both of my sons more than meet the Canadian Consensus
16 Criteria and the International Consensus Criteria for
17 ME, but the symptoms that are most frustrating to them
18 are impaired executive function, impaired reaction
19 times -- keep in mind that in swimming and in fencing
20 they were used to very quick starts and agile movement
21 -- slowed processing speed, impaired working memory,
22 difficulty processing information.

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1 It was said earlier that intensive cognitive
2 exertion triggers post-exertional malaise, but from my
3 experience with my sons, it can be triggered by minimal
4 exertion. For my sons, post-exertional malaise can be
5 triggered by cognitive exertion that lasts more than 20
6 minutes at a time, about three times a week, meaning
7 they can't study for any extended period of time.

8 The term "malaise" to the layperson is a
9 misnomer because what they experience and what most
10 patients that I know of experience is much more like a
11 collapse, as was said before. For my sons, a post-
12 exertional malaise or collapse can be brought on by
13 physical or cognitive exertion, and these collapses can
14 last for weeks.

15 Orthostatic intolerance is also a very
16 significant problem for them. Matthew's resting heart
17 rate when he is sitting down is about 110 beats per
18 minute. Alexander's is about 116. As examples, for
19 the orthostatic intolerance they have tried Florinef,
20 atenolol, propranolol, pindolol, midodrine, and many
21 others, to no avail. Over the years, Alexander and
22 Matthew have repeatedly said that if there were only

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1 one area of function they could improve, they would
2 choose to be able to sustain cognitive function without
3 the payback of post-exertional collapse. Earlier this
4 month, Matthew said to me that he would choose
5 cognitive function because what's made with the mind
6 lasts longer.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Denise.

10 I'll ask Kim McCleary to next go.

11 MS. McCLEARY: Thank you, Sara. Thank you to
12 the FDA for selecting ME/CFS as the first topic for the
13 series of Patient-Focused Drug Development Initiative
14 workshops. This is a tremendous opportunity for our
15 community and for advancing research and drug
16 discovery.

17 My comments will be based on the responses
18 that we received over the last 35 days to a survey that
19 we launched on March 18th following the March 11th
20 Federal Register Notice indicating that this would be
21 the first of that series of meetings. We patterned our
22 survey very much after the FDA's questions that

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1 patients can submit answers to directly to the FDA
2 docket.

3 DR. EGGERS: Kim, may you just say what
4 association you're with?

5 MS. McCLEARY: Oh, yes, I'm sorry. I'm
6 President and CEO of the CFIDS Association of America.

7 We patterned the survey questions after those
8 that the FDA published in the Federal Register Notice,
9 and we also augmented the questions with some
10 additional questions that we felt were important in
11 terms of setting the context for this conversation.

12 And just to recap sort of the demographics of
13 the population that responded to the survey, we had
14 1,300 survey responses in 35 days. The average age of
15 onset for patients' symptoms was 32, and that broke
16 down to 250 people responded that they became ill at 18
17 years or younger, so that's quite a significant
18 pediatric population or population of pediatric onset.
19 Between the ages of 19 to 35, there were 500 responses,
20 and again that's the age of onset, and that was the
21 largest group of the four age groups. Ages 36 to 50
22 was 452, and then onset at age 51 or higher was 157, so

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1 the typical sort of bell curve.

2 The average number of years since symptoms
3 began at the time the respondent replied was 18 years
4 of illness duration. So this is quite a chronically
5 ill population that responded to the survey, and the
6 range was within the first year they were responding to
7 the survey all the way up to 70 years of illness. So
8 we have quite a range.

9 Our survey allowed patients to -- or
10 participants, it didn't have to be a patient, it could
11 be anyone who responded to the survey, although 86
12 percent of the survey respondents reported that they
13 had been diagnosed with ME or CFS or ME/CFS by a health
14 care professional, so I think it's a good study
15 population -- they were able to fill in answers in an
16 open-text format without any guidance or suggestion
17 other than the same language that the FDA used.

18 We conducted natural language processing
19 analysis of the texts that came in and used principal
20 components analysis to define and distill down the
21 answers. So out of 1,300 responses, there were 700,000
22 words used in those responses, which then distilled

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1 down to about 970 concept IDs in a unified medical
2 language, and these are some of the topics that came
3 out most highly in the principal components analysis of
4 the data on impact on daily life, "What is the impact
5 of this illness on daily life?"

6 And there were basically five areas that came
7 out most strongly. The first was a fear of increased
8 risk of death or disease, and that's not something that
9 my fellow panelists have yet brought up. The second
10 feature in terms of impact on life was that,
11 quote/unquote, life is not worth living or life stops,
12 and this translated a little bit more into the loss of
13 friends and a vastly different professional life, and
14 that could mean either the loss of a career or a career
15 that was not the career that the individual was
16 performing before the onset of illness.

17 The third feature was the lack of effective
18 treatments, and this goes back to what was described
19 earlier as the unmet need, so this condition -- the
20 unmet need and the lack of effective treatments has a
21 major impact on people's everyday lives.

22 The fourth component was the following: "I

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1 can't work because of sleeplessness, medication side
2 effects, muscle pain, exhaustion, blurred vision, and
3 migraines." So that answer actually responds also to
4 the question about symptoms.

5 And then the fifth feature that popped out
6 most strongly was the social isolation that comes with
7 this illness, and that would be probably the hardest
8 thing to restore with a drug therapy, but is again
9 another major impact on patients' lives.

10 I don't have any more time, I'll stop there,
11 but I have lots more comments I could give. We'll
12 submit those to the docket.

13 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you,
14 Kim.

15 (Applause.)

16 DR. EGGERS: And I'll ask Charlotte von
17 Salis. And can you get the microphone to where you need
18 it?

19 MS. VON SALIS: I'm hoping, yeah. Twenty-
20 three years ago --

21 DR. EGGERS: If you could speak into the
22 microphone as much as possible.

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1 MS. VON SALIS: I can't move to -- okay. Ah,
2 there we go. Okay. Is this better?

3 DR. EGGERS: There we go.

4 MS. VON SALIS: Okay. Twenty-three years ago
5 I came down with myalgic encephalomyelitis. I meet the
6 ME International Consensus Criteria as well as the
7 Canadian Consensus Criteria, and I'm only spared
8 gastrointestinal symptoms. With the notable exception
9 of a 20 percent overall improvement that lasted 2
10 months while on an antiviral prescribed due to low
11 natural killer cell activity and high viral titers, I
12 have not had any significant remission. My most
13 debilitating symptoms fall under the rubric of
14 neurological and cognitive dysfunction.

15 I'm a lawyer, a graduate of a top 10 law
16 school, used to reading, analyzing, writing, and
17 talking to judges and clients. Within days of getting
18 sick, I could not read a memo I had written myself, it
19 literally looked like hieroglyphics on the page. I
20 cannot think clearly. This includes an inability to
21 process information, be it oral or written. I often
22 cannot communicate properly, struggling to get a

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1 thought together, find a correct word, and then speak
2 coherently. I am no longer able to read or write as I
3 had before and have trouble understanding and
4 remembering. My thinking has slowed down. A QEEG
5 revealed predominant delta wave activity, and I have
6 difficulty prioritizing. My IQ has dropped to 107.

7 I also have significant problems with light
8 sensitivity -- as you can see, I am wearing dark
9 glasses -- and cannot focus if faced with too much
10 visual or sound stimulation, for example, too many
11 objects in a store, music in a restaurant, busy
12 websites. I get dizzy, spatially disoriented, lose my
13 balance, come down with headaches, and feel nauseated
14 in such environments. Extensive vestibular testing,
15 including computerized dynamic posturography, confirms
16 these symptoms. Sometimes a small amount of anti-
17 seizure medication helps, all too often, though, I must
18 lie down in a quiet room with the drapes drawn.

19 I can't sustain any mental or physical
20 activity for a significant time without post-exertional
21 exhaustion and exacerbation of all symptoms including
22 low-grade fevers and chills, which lasts for days or

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1 weeks. My activity intolerance is confirmed by
2 abnormal cardiopulmonary exercise testing, also known
3 as CPET. During these times I am unable to do more
4 than go to the bathroom and kitchen as needed.

5 The impact of this illness on my life has
6 been significant. I've had to give up my law career.
7 I can't work. Due to my light and sound sensitivity
8 and my activity limitations, I have to pay to have
9 groceries delivered, laundry washed, and my home
10 cleaned. Socializing is difficult, as I can't predict
11 how I will feel at a given time, and I must avoid
12 overly stimulating environments. The latter often
13 includes the internet, something many people with my
14 disease turn to for social contact. I must limit my TV
15 viewing and I am rarely able to listen to music. Phone
16 calls must be limited as well. I've had to give up one
17 of my greatest pleasures, reading, relying instead on a
18 special audio book player that allows me to slow down
19 the reader's voice and change the tone.

20 I have moved to a quieter neighborhood and
21 adjusted to a life spent mainly housebound and lying on
22 a couch or bed. As I can't walk much more than a mile

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1 on a good day, I've had to enjoy the outdoors through
2 views from my windows or balcony.

3 I've lost almost half my life to this illness
4 and still wait for appropriate treatment. And I am
5 able to participate in this workshop only because I
6 live 5 minutes from its location.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Charlotte.

10 So in order to make sure that we have enough
11 time for the facilitated discussion, I'm just going to
12 ask my colleagues at FDA if they have any burning
13 questions for any of the discussants up here.

14 Dr. Kweder?

15 DR. KWEDER: I want to ask, Mr. Landson, you
16 talked about confusion, and I found that really
17 intriguing, and I wanted to ask you -- you said a few
18 things and I'm trying to tease out your description of
19 being confused, and particularly your experience when
20 you're trying to read something you wrote the day
21 before. Is it a sense of a cognitive confusion or is
22 it more like a fog? Can you differentiate?

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1 MR. LANDSON: It's difficult, but, yes, I can
2 differentiate, I think, between cognitive confusion and
3 a fog. I think I've experienced both. I'm trying to
4 sort out which I experienced when.

5 DR. KWEDER: Okay. And so do you see words
6 that you don't understand? Is it like, "I don't know
7 that word"?

8 MR. LANDSON: Yes.

9 DR. KWEDER: Okay.

10 MR. LANDSON: For instance, I was just
11 reading something about someone with the last name of
12 "Ishere," but then it was actually a comment that
13 someone is here?

14 (Laughter.)

15 DR. KWEDER: Okay. Yeah.

16 MR. LANDSON: Didn't get that.

17 DR. KWEDER: Yeah. Okay.

18 MR. LANDSON: That's a strange experience for
19 a linguist.

20 DR. KWEDER: Right. Okay. Yeah, I bet.

21 Thank you.

22 DR. EGGERS: Yes, Terry, Theresa. Dr.

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1 Michele.

2 (Laughter.)

3 DR. MICHELE: Too many Theresas.

4 So I would ask any of you to respond to this,
5 but many of you have talked about the post-exertional
6 malaise, and I'll use that term for want of a better
7 one, but you've all mentioned that this can occur both
8 secondary to cognitive exercise or due to physical
9 exercise. Can you differentiate? Do you have
10 different symptoms with your crash if you were exerting
11 yourself mentally versus exerting yourself physically?
12 And do you find one to be a greater trigger than the
13 other?

14 MS. VON SALIS: Okay, I'll take that, I
15 guess. Yeah, I think they are different. For me, the
16 stimulation, I think the cognitive, actually having to
17 mentally exert myself, talk to people or read or try to
18 write or something, does cause a crash that is somewhat
19 different from the physical in the sense that my head
20 feels like it's going to explode, I don't know how else
21 to explain it than that. And I really have to have
22 total silence, total darkness. The physical exertion

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1 crash, well, they both are the same in the sense that I
2 guess with the mental, everything -- basically all of
3 my symptoms are exacerbated, and that's why
4 "exhaustion" to me isn't even the correct word because,
5 yes, I am more tired than healthy people, but that is
6 only one of my symptoms. It's basically an exacer-
7 bation of absolutely everything.

8 DR. KAISER: If I could make a comment on
9 that. Jon Kaiser. One of the post-exertional symptoms
10 that is the strangest to me is a post-exertional sore
11 throat, and it can be physical exertion or it can be
12 just working too many hours straight, within 24 hours
13 I'll have a sore throat, and it's not like I have
14 become infected with a virus, it doesn't follow the
15 normal course of a 7- to 10-day viral illness, it
16 doesn't become a strep throat, but it's more of an
17 inflammatory response. And so I've learned that if I'm
18 in the midst of exerting myself either physically or at
19 work for an extended period of time, I don't wait for
20 the sore throat, I just take anti-inflammatories to try
21 and prevent it, and that seems to help me somewhat, but
22 I can break through that, I can break through the anti-

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1 inflammatories if either I go on too long or I don't
2 take them soon enough. So I wanted to make that
3 comment.

4 DR. EGGERS: Any other final burning
5 questions?

6 (No audible response.) Large-Group

7 Facilitated Discussion

8 DR. EGGERS: Okay, let's move this
9 conversation to engage everyone. And if I can, let's
10 see, Murphy's law is going to come into play. Does
11 this come off? Yeah. Okay, it came off. And now the
12 second thing, let's see if I can come down into the
13 front so that I can speak closer to you.

14 Terry, how much time do we get to have for
15 this? Do we have a few minutes left over?

16 DR. TOIGO: Yes. You have 40 minutes, and
17 you have 10 minutes for each of the top three symptoms
18 that you're going to identify.

19 DR. EGGERS: But we can go a little bit over
20 to the break?

21 DR. TOIGO: Yeah. Well, we're about 10
22 minutes behind.

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1 DR. EGGERS: Okay. So we get our 40 minutes
2 for this. Great.

3 Okay. My first question that I want to -- do
4 you have a question?

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I wanted to
6 comment.

7 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Let me ask, I want to ask
8 one general question first, and that is, we heard five
9 experiences, and I thank you for those experiences, I
10 know it can be difficult. It's difficult for me to
11 stand up here and ask questions; I'm sure it's very
12 difficult to share your experiences.

13 But what I want to know from the patients and
14 those who have loved ones with the condition is, how
15 many of you related with some person's story up here?
16 Did you generally relate? If you feel comfortable, can
17 you show a raise of hands?

18 (Show of a lot of hands.)

19 DR. EGGERS: Okay. So we're pretty
20 reflective of experiences. And at the end we'll talk a
21 little bit about some of the differences that you might
22 feel, but I want to focus first on the similarities.

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1 And we're going to go through some of the key symptoms
2 and sets of symptoms that we heard today. We heard a
3 lot about cognitive functioning. I'm just going to use
4 that as a catch-all. We heard a lot about the
5 collapse. We heard about sensoral sensitivities to
6 light and sound. We heard about problems related to
7 blood pressure and orthostatic intolerance. And then
8 we heard a lot about the impacts.

9 But let's focus on the symptoms first. And I
10 would like to start with the cognitive functioning
11 ones. So we heard each of you, I believe, mentioned
12 cognitive functioning. We heard brain clouds over,
13 confusion, and where you have significant time
14 limitations, and I would just like to see if anyone
15 would like to build upon and share their experience
16 about the cognitive functioning limitations that they
17 would feel comfortable sharing.

18 Okay. And that's right, I don't have to go
19 to you. Microphones will come to you.

20 MS. NICHOLSON: I have significant --

21 DR. EGGERS: Can you state your name?

22 MS. NICHOLSON: Oh, yes. I'm Matina

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1 Nicholson. I've had ME for almost 7 years. I have
2 significant cognitive dysfunction, and partly it turns
3 -- just minimally if I just read something, I can't
4 retain, short-term memory loss. My body just shuts
5 down. It's hard to concentrate. I can't focus. Word-
6 finding, talking is difficult, so I have to kind of be
7 quiet because I have to talk on the next panel.
8 Otherwise, I will start stuttering or I can't get words
9 out. So those are the most common. I have a lot more,
10 but that's briefly.

11 DR. EGGERS: Can I just, before we go on to
12 the next person, if you feel comfortable raising your
13 hands, for who has problems with finding words or
14 getting words out and speaking.

15 (Show of some hands.)

16 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Any other types?

17 (Show of hands.)

18 DR. EGGERS: Yes.

19 DR. SMITH: Dr. Janet Smith. I'm one of
20 those working sick. And I find that decision-making is
21 very stressful and I have more problems with decision-
22 making. And getting to the question about whether

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1 mental fatigue versus physical fatigue, they are both
2 extremely fatiguing. The mental fatigue, I'm just
3 totally wiped out. The physical fatigue has more
4 muscle pain associated with it.

5 DR. EGGERS: Okay. So the challenges with
6 decision-making or decision-making becomes harder,
7 slower, more troubling, more anxiety about decision-
8 making, if you feel comfortable raising your hand to
9 say that you have that general experience.

10 (Show of a couple of hands.)

11 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Okay. Anyone else?

12 (Show of hands.)

13 DR. EGGERS: We're on this side of the room,
14 so let's go with Mary first, and then I'll come to you.

15 MS. SCHWEITZER: I'm on the next panel, so
16 I'm going to talk about me in the next panel. Right
17 now I want to talk about the people up here, who I know
18 almost all of you. I know many of the people in this
19 room because I see you at CFSAC meetings, and what
20 people here don't know -- I do better because I'm on
21 treatment -- what people here don't know is how much
22 effort it took for these people to talk, and after

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1 people get up and testify, for one thing, sometimes
2 you'll hear them testify, "You're going to be cut off
3 in 3 minutes," "You're going to be cut off in 5
4 minutes," and they speak very slowly because it's hard
5 to remember or read what it is that you're reading
6 because you have cognitive dysfunction.

7 And then once when I was very sick and I was
8 testifying, as soon as I was through, I passed out on
9 the floor, and my friends knew what was happening, they
10 saw me slipping from the chair, they got up, they got
11 me, they brought me back, they brought me back and let
12 me lie down in the back of the room, and somebody
13 brought me something to drink.

14 This happened to another friend of mine, I
15 could tell she was about to crash because she started
16 shouting suddenly and getting more incoherent and
17 louder, and I knew she was about to go, and she did,
18 boom, down she went, and we had to take her in the
19 bathroom, and she was sitting on the floor, and we were
20 giving her something to drink, and it took people quite
21 some time to get her settled again. I ended up driving
22 her home. She was incoherent the whole way home. She

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1 has no memory of that. And I had her spend the night
2 in my house instead of driving home because obviously
3 she couldn't drive.

4 So what a lot of you people don't know -- and
5 we know because we take care of each other, there is
6 someone else who is here, Carol is the back here
7 somewhere, when I crashed once, Carol and her husband
8 took care of both me -- and I was with someone else who
9 was a patient, we had come on the train, the patient, I
10 had taken care of her and brought her, she didn't know
11 how to get back on the train, so Ken, the husband, had
12 to take the other patient back to Union Station to get
13 her on the train because she didn't know how to do it
14 by herself while Carol took care of me and Ken came
15 back and got me and Carol, and they took me home, and I
16 laid down on a sofa while they called my husband, and
17 he drove down to pick me up from Delaware. We met at
18 BWI.

19 So the thing that I want everybody here to
20 understand is that the patients who are speaking are
21 generally speaking at a great cost to what they are
22 going to be like after this. And I wish some of you

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1 could see what we are like afterwards, what they are
2 like afterwards, because then you might understand this
3 disease a lot better. Okay.

4 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Mary.

5 (Applause.)

6 DR. EGGERS: Before going back to the next
7 person, let me just get a show of hands if you're
8 comfortable, how many of you would put as a significant
9 symptom for you the idea of confusion that is so bad
10 that it scares you, that you don't know what you've
11 done, that it causes anxiety?

12 (Show of a few hands.)

13 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Okay. So we have -- and
14 I'm sorry I can't see your name. Yeah, in the --

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Chris.

16 DR. EGGERS: Chris. Thank you, Chris.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm Chris Williams, and I'm
18 patient, and I'm going to be on a panel tomorrow. I
19 just wanted to pick up on something that Jon was saying
20 as someone working. I am no longer working, but I did
21 work for 2-1/2 years after I got sick, and I also had a
22 very demanding job working in Federal Government doing

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1 health policy, and I was used to supervising about 70
2 people, running multiple activities, et cetera, and
3 when I was diagnosed, I was diagnosed on the,
4 quote/unquote, mild end of the spectrum.

5 One of the things that I was no longer able
6 to do, and am no longer able to do, is multitask, and
7 those of us who have demanding professional jobs
8 understand what that means. Even though my husband has
9 been very, very supportive over the almost 5 years I've
10 been sick, he does not really get the no multitasking
11 idea. When I tell him that I have to finish what I'm
12 doing first before I can get on to the next thing, he
13 really does not get that even though he lives with me
14 and he's seen it.

15 So I think that there is a sort of a slippery
16 slope going from what we were able to do as high-
17 functioning professionals to the impact of this
18 illness.

19 I also had another comment on something Jon
20 said. Could I?

21 DR. EGGERS: Sure.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: You were talking about the

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1 crash and the physical versus the cognitive, and I,
2 both as a professional and personally, was somebody
3 used to doing a lot of public speaking, and one of the
4 things, while I fortunately don't have the most serious
5 of the cognitive issues, when I speak, whether it's
6 publicly or going to talk to my therapist about how
7 depressed I am that I'm sick, I get a sore throat, and
8 the sore throat comes on, I know it's going to come on,
9 I know it's just a price I pay to be on a phone call,
10 to be in a public venue, or even at a social venue, and
11 I did not know about the anti-inflammatories, but I'm
12 going to follow up on that.

13 Thank you.

14 (Laughter.)

15 DR. EGGERS: Okay. We've heard a lot about
16 cognitive limitations. First, does anyone on this side
17 have a comment, any that they want to share an
18 experience? I just want to make sure I don't always
19 look over on this side.

20 Yes? Yes, Tasha.

21 MS. KELEMEN: Hi. My name is Tasha. I'm
22 going to be talking later. I just wanted to respond to

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1 what I thought was an interesting question about the
2 different way we react to overexertion mentally versus
3 physically, and I have noticed a difference. When it's
4 too much physical activity, I find that the sensation,
5 the response, is very much one of the whole body
6 throbbing, sort of a sensation of some kind of
7 inflammation as well as the muscle pain. With the
8 overexertion mentally, I get nauseous feeling with
9 that, and it's a little bit strange to explain, but
10 it's sensations that's a lot more focused in the head
11 and the neck.

12 DR. EGGERS: I will at this point ask if any
13 of my FDA colleagues want to ask a follow-up question
14 about anything they've heard so far.

15 (No audible response.)

16 DR. EGGERS: No? Okay. Okay.

17 Does anyone have a real pressing cognitive
18 one that they want to talk about?

19 (Show of hands.)

20 DR. EGGERS: Okay. We had a comment right
21 there in the back.

22 DR. GROBSTEIN: My name is Joan Grobstein.

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1 I'm a physician. I've had ME for 13 years. I'm not
2 going to stand up because I really can't. I would just
3 like to comment that I think when you use the term
4 "anxiety," that is not really correct.

5 DR. EGGERS: Okay.

6 DR. GROBSTEIN: What people experience is
7 fear, not anxiety. Anxiety is something that you're
8 worried about that might not happen. Fear is when you
9 know that something bad is going to happen and so you
10 pull back from doing whatever you're doing in order to
11 avoid it. So I think it's very important to make it
12 clear that this group of patients is not anxious. We
13 have a severe condition that causes huge impacts in our
14 lives, and we have a very legitimate fear of what
15 happens when we overexert ourselves because we have
16 experienced it.

17 (Applause.)

18 DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Joan, for the
19 clarification. I was going to say I saw a lot of head
20 nods, and your claps reaffirm that.

21 I know that there are others who want to talk
22 about maybe cognitive, but I do want to make sure that

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1 we move on to talk about the crashes that come on from
2 either the cognitive exertion or the physical exertion,
3 and if we have time, we'll come back and ask any other
4 questions.

5 We have talked a lot about what triggers it,
6 what triggers those crashes, is what I'll call them for
7 lack of any other term. And how many of you, when
8 you've heard other people talking, like Tasha and John
9 talking, say, "Yes, I experience -- those are similar
10 to what I experience"?

11 (Show of a few hands.)

12 DR. EGGERS: Anyone who has something
13 completely different that happens to them when a crash
14 is about to happen that they want to share?

15 MS. LOPEZ-MAJANO: There are times that you
16 have no idea when a crash will happen.

17 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Can you elaborate,
18 please? And if you could state your name.

19 MS. LOPEZ-MAJANO: Denise Lopez-Majano.
20 There are times that you have no idea when a crash will
21 happen, when something that you can normally undertake
22 suddenly produces a collapse.

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1 MR. LANDSON: I just want to echo that. Joe
2 Landson, sorry. One thing could be the straw that
3 breaks the camel's back. You try to measure out your
4 limited life as best you can, and you overstep
5 sometimes.

6 MS. VON SALIS: Yeah, I agree. It's the
7 unpredictability of this that's really, really quite
8 difficult to live with.

9 DR. EGGERS: Does anyone want to share about,
10 follow up, build on what they're saying?

11 (Show of hands.)

12 DR. EGGERS: Yes?

13 MS. NICHOLSON: Yeah. Crashes are
14 unpredictable. For instance, for me, I have to go 2
15 hours to see my doctor in New York, no one will treat
16 me where I live in Delaware, and one time just to drive
17 30 minutes to a train, get on a train, get off the
18 train, and then I went to go get a cab, I actually
19 blacked out, and I started walking across the street,
20 and the bus started honking and just nudged me. Thank
21 God it went from a red to a green, and I just looked
22 up, people were yelling, and I was just, "Oh, wow." And

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1 it can just happen at any time, and it's hard to manage
2 that for me.

3 DR. EGGERS: And are there times when you --
4 are there ways that you have found that you can make it
5 more predictable in a sense?

6 (Show of hands.)

7 DR. EGGERS: Yes? And if you could just
8 state your name?

9 MS. BEAN: Hi. I am Diane Bean, and I am a
10 caretaker for my daughter Lauren, who is here with me.
11 And I just want to make the point that obviously the
12 symptoms that everyone else has talked about are things
13 that she has experienced. She used to be also an honor
14 student and an athlete, got sick at age 15. But one
15 thing that we have noticed that hasn't really been
16 emphasized I think yet is how interrelated they all
17 are. So when you talk about the crash, you know, it's
18 not just the physical pain or it's not just the head
19 pain, it's also more cognitive impairment, more
20 orthostatic intolerance, more neurological issues. So
21 they're very interrelated, and I do think it's
22 important to tease it apart, but we've been in search

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1 of the treatment that's going to sort of get at the
2 core problem for the 15 years that she's been ill, and
3 without success, because it's been our experience that
4 when some of it is better, it's all better. And if
5 there is any predictability at all, the one thing that
6 Lauren has noticed -- and this is more a negative
7 predictability -- is that the worse sleep she gets, the
8 worse she's going to feel during the day across the
9 board in every way, the more lightheaded she'll be. And
10 so sleep for her is something that we suspect is a
11 major symptom. She has had two separate sleep studies,
12 which shows that she gets zero slow-wave sleep, and
13 this is even with sleep medications.

14 DR. EGGERS: Okay. We have someone in the
15 back?

16 MSDR. TOIGO: Sara, you have 20 minutes.

17 DR. KWEDER: Can you ask about the sleep?

18 DR. EGGERS: Oh, sure. Before we go there,
19 Dr. Kweder, would you like to --

20 DR. KWEDER: Yeah, I would like to know --
21 several people did mention them. I would like to see
22 in the room for how many people lack of sleep or poor

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1 quality sleep seems to be a trigger for these crashes.

2 (Show of a lot of hands.)

3 DR. KWEDER: Yes. Thank you.

4 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Yes, let's go --

5 MS. CASSIDY: Hi. I am Shannon Cassidy. I'm
6 a patient. I just wanted to address the question of
7 whether you can predict a crash and if there are any
8 signs. I think there probably aren't in terms of the
9 way I start feeling, to say, "Oh, I'm going to crash."
10 I think there are things that I know that will make me
11 crash, which is pushing it too hard, having been
12 physically overexerted, having had to think real hard,
13 and so I kind of know that it's going to come, whereas
14 there are other times where I haven't done that and
15 there is no warning, there is nothing I have done,
16 there is nothing I can attribute it to, and for me
17 literally it's an eye movement, like I'm looking here,
18 I look over there, and, boom, I know I'm going to have
19 a crash because I can feel my whole body changing, it's
20 like an instantaneous knowledge.

21 DR. EGGERS: And how long will that crash
22 last? Let me just follow up a little bit.

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1 MS. CASSIDY: That crash can last anywhere
2 from a day to weeks.

3 DR. EGGERS: Thank you.

4 Yes, we have a question.

5 MSDR. TOIGO: Just to clarify, when Sandy asked
6 the crash/sleep/sleeplessness connection, I think
7 people were responding to the sleeplessness but maybe
8 not the connection.

9 DR. KWEDER: Right.

10 DR. TOIGO: So can we ask the question again 11 --

12 DR. EGGERS: Sure.

13 DR. KWEDER: Yes.

14 MSDR. TOIGO: -- the way you wanted to ask,
15 Sandy, and make sure that you get the right --

16 DR. KWEDER: Okay, right. I'm sorry, I don't
17 want to interrupt the flow here.

18 DR. EGGERS: No, no.

19 DR. KWEDER: But my question is, how many of
20 you would say that when you know you've had poor sleep
21 or when you've had a poor night's sleep, that that is
22 likely to trigger a crash?

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1 (Show of some hands.)

2 DR. KWEDER: Okay.

3 MS. HARPER: We're looking at each other like
4 we always have poor sleep.

5 DR. KWEDER: All right. But if it's
6 particularly problematic, particularly, because the mom
7 said she knows when her daughter has a particularly
8 difficult night that it's going to be a problem.

9 DR. CHU: Hi. My name is Lily. I'm a
10 patient. I'm also a physician. And I will be on the
11 panel tomorrow. But I just wanted to comment about
12 sleep. So there is always this concern that maybe
13 people with CFS, if they only slept better or slept a
14 longer number of hours, that they would feel better,
15 and I want to dispel that notion. For me, I could
16 sleep 10 to 12 hours a night, and I do, and I still
17 don't feel good in the morning. Of course, if I get
18 less than 10 to 12 or if I have a bad night for
19 whatever reason, I feel even worse.

20 DR. KWEDER: Right, and that's what I was
21 asking.

22 DR. EGGERS: I see a lot of heads. Is that

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1 generally shared? Okay. Okay.

2 MS. BEAN: If I could just clarify. Hi. I'm
3 Lauren Bean. I just wanted to clarify, it's not
4 necessarily that an especially poor night's sleep will
5 make me crash, but that if I have had an especially
6 poor night's sleep and I do something that I would have
7 normally done on a day when I got better sleep, I'm
8 much more likely to crash, and I know that going in
9 usually.

10 DR. KWEDER: Thank you.

11 DR. EGGERS: Just to stay on -- oh, let's let
12 Dr. Michele ask a question.

13 DR. MICHELE: Actually two questions. One is
14 by show of hands, if you could just tell me how many of
15 you find that the onset of your crashes are always
16 rapid, like within minutes to an hour or so?

17 (Show of one to two hands.)

18 DR. MICHELE: So that's not necessarily the
19 case, it may come on more slowly.

20 The second question is with regard to
21 duration of crashes. If anyone could comment on if you
22 have a more mild event that set off your crash, are you

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1 likely to have a shorter duration of your crash,
2 whereas if you did more exertion prior to the crash,
3 are you going to have a longer crash? Is there
4 anything predictable about that?

5 DR. EGGERS: Okay, I see head noddings.
6 Let's let Ms. LaRosa.

7 MS. LaROSA: Pat LaRosa. For me, I don't
8 know when I'm going to crash. And I'm trying to
9 remember what you just asked in that question. Could I
10 ask you --

11 DR. MICHELE: Duration.

12 MS. LaROSA: That's right, duration. The
13 duration of the crash? No, it doesn't seem to
14 correlate at all, and it may be that it was a lot of
15 very little things over the preceding days or weeks
16 that you're not aware of, or it just could be that you
17 did too much in one day or had poor sleep. It's just
18 sometimes it's there and sometimes it's not. When you
19 feel good, you feel good, and you pay for it. We will
20 all pay for this, this weekend, but we appreciate the
21 chance to share it.

22 DR. EGGERS: Thank you. Okay. Anything else

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1 about this? And then I'll move on to another set of
2 topics. Someone who hasn't --

3 Mr. Miller?

4 MR. MILLER: So Robert Miller, a patient
5 since 1982. So this is a great question because I
6 literally got in yesterday and had a pretty good
7 evening. Got up this morning, I've had a pretty good
8 morning. I just went to the business center and my
9 crash just started. So I don't know why I went to the
10 business center. You know, I got there, sat down,
11 logged into the computer, and I was like, "Why am I
12 here?"

13 Now, there will be days when I can go
14 outside, function with my kids, and exert energy and
15 will not have anything set me off, there will be no
16 crash. So just like Pat just said, it's just like when
17 it's coming, it comes, and sometimes it's not that
18 you've done some major expenditure of energy. So that
19 was it.

20 DR. EGGERS: So generally I see a lot of head
21 nodding in agreement with this.

22 Before we move on, Dr. Burke?

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1 DR. BURKE: It sounds like there are many
2 times of crashes actually, I mean, that there is the
3 kind of crash where you are blacking out, like crossing
4 the road and blacking out, and then there is the crash
5 where you have a click and there's a loss of cognition
6 or memory. And I just think there's a lot that we
7 could explore here. I don't think we could possibly
8 get to the end of this in one afternoon.

9 DR. KWEDER: That's okay. That's okay.

10 DR. BURKE: But I think if we could hear more
11 about what we're defining as a crash or a collapse,
12 that would be really useful, and the range of that.

13 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Sure. So can someone say
14 where they -- let's go with someone over there next to
15 Mr. Miller?

16 DR. SMITH: Dr. Janet Smith. There are two
17 types of crashes. There is the mental one, that Bob
18 just described, and that's actually what I sought
19 treatment for, is because I was finding myself going
20 down a one-way road the wrong way and over a bridge
21 with no sight, and it could have been deadly. Another
22 time I was in the hospital and I knew -- I had been to

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1 the hospital thousands of times, and I got out the
2 elevator and couldn't remember where to go. The
3 physical crash is like if you run a marathon and you
4 bonk. I mean, I can barely put one foot in front of
5 the other, I can barely lift my arm, I jerk.

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: (Off mic.)

7 DR. SMITH: No, no, I jerk, too. So that's
8 different crashes.

9 DR. EGGERS: And when you say you jerk, can
10 you just explain just so we all know what you're
11 talking about?

12 DR. SMITH: All of a sudden --

13 DR. EGGERS: Your body is jerking.

14 DR. SMITH: Yes. I almost knocked a table
15 over one time because I had my legs crossed, and my
16 foot jerked, and set the table over.

17 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Is this a type --

18 DR. BURKE: And then something more about the
19 duration. Oh, I'm sorry. And then the range of
20 duration. We're seeing that all of the symptoms
21 improve at once for some people, and I heard one person
22 say that it could last for weeks or it can last a day.

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1 And so can we qualify those crashes by time, length of
2 time?

3 DR. CHU: The reason why I'm waving here is
4 because this is a basic question I don't think has been
5 really well answered, and I've actually reviewed the
6 studies on this, the few studies, and what they find is
7 that people can crash within a few minutes of an
8 activity or even days after, and it's like a moving
9 target.

10 In terms of duration, similarly, some people
11 can crash and it will last for a few days, but it can
12 last for weeks or months depending on the type of thing
13 they were doing before.

14 DR. EGGERS: Okay. So, let's see, let's go
15 with -- and then we'll get Amanda and then we'll get
16 over here. Okay?

17 MS. HARPER: Hi. My name is Kathleen Harper.
18 I'm a registered nurse. And I've had several types of
19 crashes, but the worst ones were after I had like minor
20 skin surgery and pneumonia. After the pneumonia, I had
21 a 2-year crash. After the skin surgery, it was about 6
22 months. And just this October, I had to go -- I went

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1 to the supermarket, I was feeling okay, I was with my
2 daughter, which helps to be with someone, and they had
3 no water. I needed to go -- so we had to go to another
4 supermarket. Well, that did it. I was disoriented and
5 everything, but I got home and I got into bed. That
6 night I had to -- I woke up with heart beating out of
7 my chest, and I couldn't breathe, and I called the
8 ambulance, and they said I was in atrial fibrillation,
9 and that was the first time that ever happened to me.
10 So I apparently pushed myself where my heart just --
11 it's a muscle and it went just -- it went berserk.

12 And ever since then I've been trying to
13 recover from that where now I can't go to the store the
14 way I used to, like which was once or twice a week I
15 was able to do that. And I just got driven here. And
16 I've been sick for 22 years, and it all started with my
17 teenage daughter getting mono, and she's still sick,
18 and I'm still sick, and we really desperately need
19 help. It's getting worse. Now my heart is being
20 affected, I'm on medication that actually makes me more
21 tired, so I'm trying to beg the doctors, "Give me
22 something else," I'm like so sleepy. So anyway, it's

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1 nice to be here and have a place to be heard.

2 Thank you.

3 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much for the
4 feedback.

5 Shall we let Ms. Simpson talk? And then
6 we'll come over here.

7 Right here in the front?

8 MS. SIMPSON: Hi. I'm Amanda Simpson, and
9 I'm a patient. And I would just say -- maybe I'll help
10 explain -- I have my symptoms all the time, it's just a
11 matter of whether or not I can function, how bad those
12 symptoms are. For me, a crash is when my symptoms get
13 to the point where I just can't go anymore, I don't
14 have any cognitive function left to focus, to be able
15 to speak coherently, or my body just simply won't go
16 anymore. And I haven't had the blackouts or anything
17 like that, and they'll last anywhere from a day to I've
18 had one where I was in bed for 3-1/2 months and
19 struggled to make it from my bed to the bathroom. And
20 yet here I am now. So it's just, I think, one of the
21 most frustrating parts about the illness itself, is
22 that you have no way to plan your life, it's definitely

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1 difficult.

2 DR. EGGERS: Thank you.

3 And here?

4 MS. HART: Thank you. My name is Karen Hart.

5 I would like to speak to the crash as well. I know
6 where my social envelope is, and that's about 1 hour
7 and 45 minutes. If I exceed that, I pay that price. So
8 2 weeks ago I had tea with my lady friends, which is
9 probably easy for you to do, but because I went to
10 about 2 hours and 30 minutes because someone else was
11 driving, that was 5 days for me in the house because of
12 an extra 45 minutes of social interaction, and that
13 means 5 days of avoiding conversation, of not leaving
14 my home, of not answering the telephone, of e-mail, all
15 that stuff, it's just too much, because of that 45
16 minutes. What is this going to cost us? Weeks. I
17 don't have anything on my calendar for 2 weeks. Do
18 you? Because what is this going to cost me? There is
19 no way for me to predict that.

20 DR. EGGERS: Thank you.

21 MS. McCLEARY: Sara?

22 DR. EGGERS: Yes. Yes. Go ahead. Kim?

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1 MS. McCLEARY: So there were three themes
2 that came out that weren't necessarily just words that
3 popped out of our survey in answering this question,
4 and the three themes were "restriction," "dependency,"
5 and "adaptation," and that's what I'm hearing a lot of
6 in the comments also.

7 And if I could just read five quick quotes
8 that are direct quotes from the survey. "My day is
9 structured around my illness." "Every aspect of my
10 life has been adjusted, my job, my role as mother and
11 wife." "I call myself in jail, a prisoner of this
12 disease." "I have a very small life." "I'm living a
13 life of lowered expectation and I feel like this is a
14 living death."

15 DR. EGGERS: Can I just ask, how many of you
16 saw your own experiences reflected in those quotes?

17 (Show of some hands.)

18 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Dr. Kaiser.

19 DR. KAISER: Yeah. I would like to try and
20 just put into pseudo-medical terms what I think we're
21 all trying to describe about these crashes, and that
22 is, it's almost like your nervous system at any given

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1 point just completely runs out of energy and you just
2 fall off a cliff, and it's then followed by sometimes
3 an inflammatory cascade.

4 And as someone who has recovered to a good
5 extent from this, when I finish a workweek, my Saturday
6 and my Sunday are completely different experiences. I
7 spend the entire day Saturday in the midst of recovery
8 and fog and pain and exhaustion. And fortunately that
9 recharges my nervous system enough so when I wake up
10 Sunday, I often feel completely normal. And so for me,
11 the recharge occurs to a significant extent with a full
12 day of bed rest, but I think for many people who are
13 speaking who have the condition more serious at this
14 point, that when your nervous system runs out of gas,
15 it can take weeks to recharge it.

16 MS. VON SALIS: Or months.

17 DR. KAISER: Or months.

18 DR. EGGERS: Okay. I just want to do --
19 looking at the time, we have about 3 to 5 minutes left,
20 and I know that we aren't going to be able to cover
21 everything, but what I wanted to get -- and let's see
22 if we get to this -- is there anything that you have

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1 had in your experience that you haven't heard anyone on
2 the panel mention, you haven't heard it in anyone
3 else's comments -- okay -- that you want to make sure
4 is important to say. Now, we only have 3 minutes. I
5 know everything is important, but we'll try to get as
6 many as we can.

7 MS. BURMEISTER: My name is Jeannette
8 Burmeister. And this is something that I think is very
9 important and hasn't been brought up, and that is that
10 my crashes pretty much correlate with very low NK cell
11 function and very high viral titers, so that's pretty
12 much something that my doctor, Dr. Peterson, and I have
13 figured out, so my NK cell function could be as low as
14 1, which is basically no functioning NK cells at all.
15 So this is something that's measurable, it's not just a
16 subjective, "Oh, I feel lousy today," kind of thing. We
17 do have the science already to measure this, and I
18 think it's very important that people know about that.

19 (Applause.)

20 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Are there any follow-up
21 questions to that one on the table? Okay. Anyone?
22 Okay. So we'll -- let's see, yes, we'll go there, and

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1 then we'll go over --

2 MS. HART: I simply want to say that I have
3 blurred vision and double vision. You all have four
4 eyes. That's really disconcerting to look at.

5 (Laughter.)

6 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Ms. Spotila.

7 MS. SPOTILA: My name is Jenny Spotila. I'm
8 a patient and I'll be on a panel tomorrow. No one has
9 mentioned gut problems, irritable bowel syndrome and
10 other gut symptoms, and how those flare up also in
11 reaction to activity and crashes and may have their own
12 cycle. Even on good days your gut can still be out of
13 whack.

14 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Any follow-up questions
15 about those problems?

16 (Show of hands.)

17 DR. EGGERS: Okay. I think we have time for
18 one more. Okay. We'll do two more because we haven't
19 heard from you in the back.

20 So first in the purple shirt. I can't --
21 sorry.

22 DR. GROBSTEIN: Hi. Joan Grobstein. I just

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1 want to comment that I think we're hearing varying
2 descriptions of a single phenomenon, and I would like
3 to point out that if we did not know that people with
4 diabetes had high blood sugar and we just listened to
5 them describe their experience when they have high
6 blood sugar, we would have a similar variability in
7 what we heard. So I want to make the point that there
8 is probably a single underlying thing that is happening
9 to all of us patients that we have not yet identified.

10 DR. EGGERS: Very good point. And finally in
11 the -- oh, yes, in the back there. Yes. I'm sorry.
12 Raise your hand.

13 MS. VITKA: Oh, okay. Hi. I am Susan Vitka
14 and I'm a mom of a patient, and I just wanted to say
15 there is one other measurable symptom that always comes
16 along with a crash, which is the sore throat, that's
17 been mentioned, but then also a fever. So something is
18 happening that's measurable in a certain sense.

19 DR. EGGERS: Okay. And I guess we have one
20 more in the back.

21 MS. PATTON: Hello. Anita Patton, 26 years.
22 Anyways, there are two things. One, if you're not

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1 sick, you might understand. Like you're working on the
2 computer and all of a sudden it says, "Not responding."
3 That's like all of a sudden you have nothing to draw
4 from. So this is a scientific situation. Like there
5 is always a "Why? Why is this happening?" A lot of
6 times -- and this hasn't been mentioned -- is a trigger
7 would be a viral or a bacterial infection. Instant
8 nothing, no output of energy. So you say output of
9 energy, it's ATP, just a basic science, biology,
10 whatever high school class where, why is your body not
11 making ATP? So those are like the questions that help
12 us maybe find answers.

13 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you. Okay. I want
14 to sincerely thank all of you for your input into the
15 first discussion on behalf of my colleagues up here at
16 the table. We are going to take a 15-minute break, so
17 we will be back at 3:05. And at that time, I would
18 like for the people who have been identified for the
19 second panel to work their way up at that break. Again,
20 the rest rooms are located behind us here, and there
21 are some chairs in the lobby. And if there are any
22 questions, let me know. Thank you very much.

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1 Oh, I'm sorry, one thing. Graham is telling
2 me there are some evaluation forms, completely
3 voluntary, if you would like to fill them out and
4 return them at the end of the day.

5 (Break.)

6 DR. EGGERS: Can we have everyone start to
7 take their seats? And if as you're taking your seats,
8 if you are a patient or a patient representative, and
9 in particular if you want to participate in the
10 facilitated discussion, can you move up to the front?

11 My eyesight is hard enough to see in the front row, I
12 have a challenging time seeing in the back. Discussion
13 Topic 2: Patient Perspective on Treating CFS and ME

14 DR. EGGERS: Okay, I'm going to get started
15 with the second discussion topic, and again the format
16 of this discussion topic will be identical to the last
17 discussion topic, which I thought was truly such a good
18 discussion, and we look forward to the discussion to
19 the next topic, which is really focusing on patients'
20 perspective on treatment approaches. And we have again
21 five people who will present their comments first to
22 set a good foundation for our broader discussion. We

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1 have Mary Dimmock, Tasha Kelemen, Matina Nicholson,
2 Mary Schweitzer, and Amanda Simpson, and they will
3 share their experiences. They each have prepared a
4 couple, 2 to 3, minutes of remarks. We'll go through
5 their comments and then ask a few follow-up questions
6 for them, of them, and then broaden it to the rest of
7 the participants in the audience. Okay?

8 The questions that we're looking at are
9 focused on understanding the treatment approaches that
10 you take as patients to help treat your condition or
11 its symptoms, including prescription medicines, over-
12 the-counter products, non-drug therapies, such as
13 activity limitations, et cetera. And what we're really
14 looking for is what specific symptoms your treatments
15 address, or how do you feel after you take those
16 treatments? And then we're also looking to see, what
17 are the downsides of those treatments, for example, the
18 side effects?

19 Now, there are a number of treatments. We're
20 going to hear from up here and we're going to hear from
21 through our discussion, and we're just going to try to
22 do exactly what we did for the first topic and cover

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1 whatever we can knowing that the docket is available
2 and we want to hear your full perspectives through
3 there. Okay?

4 With that, I will turn it over to Mary
5 Dimmock to begin. And Mary -- just so everyone knows,
6 Mary is a caretaker of someone with CFS and ME. Panel
7 Comments

8 MS. DIMMOCK: Thank you, Sara, and thank you
9 to the FDA and to everybody for being here today. I'm
10 speaking for my 25-year-old son, who woke up one day
11 with myalgic encephalomyelitis after contracting
12 Giardia while backpacking across Asia. Three years
13 later, he is largely housebound, often unable to read
14 or write more than a few sentences, sit or stand for
15 long periods of time, watch TV, listen to music without
16 exacerbating his symptoms. He spends his day, most of
17 his day, lying flat listening to audio books.

18 In the years before he found an ME
19 specialist, doctors were dismissive or gave him
20 ineffectual or harmful recommendations. One, exercise
21 at a gym landed him in bed for a couple days. After
22 reaching an ME specialist, he was prescribed Imunovir

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1 to address low natural killer cell function and high
2 inflammatory cytokines, Florinef for orthostatic
3 intolerance demonstrated by a tilt table test,
4 mirtazapine to alleviate non-refreshing sleep,
5 Equilibrant to deal with various viruses, antifungals
6 for Candidas, supplements to treat low
7 neurotransmitters and low cortisol, and an activity
8 program to try to address the post-exertional malaise.
9 He uses sleep hygiene, strict pacing, and an avoidance
10 of sugar, alcohol, and coffee, and he was also on a
11 long regimen of treatments, antibiotics for Lyme
12 disease.

13 Of all these treatments, Florinef, the
14 antifungals, the dietary avoidance, and the strict
15 pacing have had an effect either on specific symptoms
16 or on helping him to avoid relapses, but there are only
17 two drugs that have made a difference, two treatments
18 that have provided a big difference, the azithromycin-
19 doxycycline combination for Lyme led to an amazing
20 increase in his ability to get around. He would be out
21 of the house for 5 hours at a time. He was able to
22 read entire books. He read 1,000 pages of books in 6

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1 weeks. He was able to walk a couple of miles. But it
2 only lasted 6 weeks, and in spite of another year of
3 IV, IM, and oral antibiotic treatment, it never came
4 back.

5 The second drug, Kineret, was prescribed for
6 high IL-1. It decreased his inflammatory cytokines
7 significantly and normalized his neurotransmitters, but
8 it produced limited functional change.

9 He is slightly better. He wakes up feeling
10 slightly better in the morning. He is able to do about
11 an hour of activity every other day instead of every
12 fourth day. He is able to tolerate sitting up for a
13 little bit longer periods of time, and he has a slight
14 decrease in cognitive issues. We would barely notice
15 it. The healthy people in this room would not think it
16 was important to them at all. To him, it's like a
17 miracle, but it is not the dream he has of regaining
18 his life. Because of his immunological markers and
19 Kineret's lack of clinical effect, his doctors have
20 prescribed rituximab. It's not FDA approved for this
21 disease, so if he is going to go onto it, he's going to
22 have to pay for it out of pocket.

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1 He has access to one of the best doctors in
2 the country, he has good insurance, and he is well
3 supported by his family and his wife, but in spite of
4 this, over all this time, he remains in bed sick with
5 little quality of life and little hope that he will
6 ever get better. He is willing to accept significant
7 risk in new treatments and trying anything to give him
8 back his life and to escape this hellish debility of
9 this disease.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 DR. EGGERS: Thank you, Mary.

13 I'll ask Tasha Kelemen to go next.

14 MS. KELEMEN: My name is Tasha Kelemen. I
15 developed CFS in 1996 following a tropical illness I
16 had while working in Angola in Africa. I believe I can
17 provide a unique perspective on the treatment of CFS
18 since I have been diagnosed and treated for the illness
19 in three different countries: in Belgium, in the U.K.,
20 and in the U.S. Treatments have included everything
21 from antibiotics, azithromycin, doxycycline,
22 antivirals, Valtrex, famciclovir, to supplements, B-12

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1 injections and others, graded exercise therapy, CBT,
2 and pacing. I'm currently on famciclovir, 500
3 milligrams, and low doses of Savella, 25 milligrams,
4 and amitriptyline, 10 milligrams.

5 Other than in the U.K., I have been lucky to
6 live in locations where I had access to a CFS
7 specialist covered through my insurance. This is not
8 the case for many patients. The main reason I wish to
9 comment today is to caution against what I see as a
10 possible harmful trend to uncritically adopt the
11 treatment approaches favored in the U.K.

12 I will provide a brief background to my
13 illness for context. My illness started suddenly in
14 April 1996 when I was working in Angola. I developed
15 very sore muscles, fever, severe fatigue, and lost
16 approximately 20 pounds over 2 months. I had a rash on
17 my arms. I returned to Belgium and during the
18 following years had recurrent bouts of throat
19 infections with swollen glands, fever, and muscle ache.
20 I also developed headache and dizziness.

21 I felt increasingly persistently fatigued and
22 found it a struggle to keep up with the demands of a

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1 full-time job. (Becomes emotional.) I found that my
2 symptoms got worse after exercise.

3 I was diagnosed with CFS in January 1999. I
4 moved to work part-time. I moved to the U.S. in 1999.
5 During the following 2 years, my symptoms became
6 cyclical. I would have 4- to 8-week bouts of severe
7 fatigue with sore throat, muscle ache, headaches, joint
8 aches, followed by relatively good periods. From
9 October 2000 to May 2001, following testing revealing a
10 Rickettsia conorii infection most likely contracted in
11 Angola, I was treated with antibiotics. I can't say
12 for certain whether this treatment helped, but I was
13 consistently well until June 2003. I was able to work
14 full-time and to be fully active outside of work
15 including doing physical activities. However, in June
16 2003, around 3 months after the birth of my daughter, I
17 became very sick with CFS again. (Becomes emotional.)

18 DR. EGGERS: Tasha, we can come back. Why
19 don't we go to the others and we'll come back and you
20 can finish?

21 MS. KELEMEN: I'll be fine. I'll hurry up.
22 Sorry.

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1 DR. EGGERS: Oh, don't worry. No worries.

2 MS. KELEMEN: For the next few years I grew
3 very sick, worse than previously. I had to spend a
4 whole year in bed and was mostly housebound for 2
5 years. I felt that it was my great misfortune to be
6 living in the U.K. at this time. I was not offered any
7 kind of treatment other than a referral to a CBT
8 program, for which there was a 2-year waiting period. I
9 saw several general practitioners, primary care
10 physicians, who generally treated the illness with much
11 skepticism.

12 In 2005, I was provided the opportunity to
13 enroll in the PACE trial in Oxford, for which I could
14 choose GET, graded exercise therapy, or CBT. I chose
15 GET, as it provided an opportunity to get physical
16 therapy. I found the opportunity to see a physical
17 therapist weekly to work on gentle stretches very
18 helpful. I was able to increase the distance I could
19 walk slightly but remained very limited in my mobility.
20 GET helped only to a limited point. It was in no way a
21 cure.

22 The GET program included a patient manual.

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1 The manual tried to explain how CFS symptoms, not
2 including symptoms like headaches, dizziness, twitching
3 muscles, were the result of deconditioning. I was
4 referred to CBT in 2006, when my name came up on the
5 waiting list. I went to a few sessions before leaving
6 for the U.S. I did not find it helpful. By the end of
7 2006, I had started to improve. I had started weekly
8 B-12 injections in 2005 and think that these did help
9 with muscle pain and concentration.

10 I moved back to the U.S. in 2007 and started
11 on Valtrex in line with the results of EBV and
12 herpesvirus tests. Since then I've been on and off
13 Valtrex and I'm now on famciclovir. I went back to
14 work in 2007 starting part-time at 10 to 15 hours and
15 have gradually been able to move to 25, 28, 32, and now
16 35 hours per week. I believe that the antiviral
17 treatment has really helped me.

18 Of course, it's hard for a patient to know
19 what works with CFS because the symptoms themselves
20 shift over time. Though I am much better today than I
21 was for most of the past decade, nothing I have tried
22 is a cure. Of the many different treatments I've tried

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1 over the years, I believe that the following have been
2 particularly helpful at particular points in time:
3 Valtrex, famciclovir, vitamin B-12 injections, Savella,
4 and pacing. I don't see evidence for any of the others
5 in my case.

6 I believe all CFS patients should be provided
7 with access to a trained physical therapist to work on
8 stretching and exercises that meet their individual
9 capacity. I believe this is a simple missing piece
10 that could benefit many of us. For me, pacing is the
11 number one most effective strategy without which I
12 would never have been able to go back to work.

13 I now have an exciting job as the executive
14 director of a small nonprofit organization. I still
15 can't walk more than 3 blocks, I can't stand more than
16 a few minutes, but I am lucky to have seen significant
17 improvements in my mental concentration. I spend a lot
18 of time in bed, need to rest after work and on the
19 weekend, but being able to work has been very important
20 to my health.

21 I believe that the U.K. does not apply the
22 same criteria to the diagnosis of CFS that the U.S. and

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1 other countries do. I don't remember being asked about
2 symptoms outside of fatigue when joining the PACE
3 trial. I therefore think the results of the PACE trial
4 are not generalizable to those who meet the narrow
5 definition of CFS outlined by the Canadian Criteria. I
6 never had access to a trained CFS specialist, as
7 claimed by the study authors. I also think the U.K.
8 approach is harmful to patients. The idea
9 that all CFS symptoms come from deconditioning that
10 could simply be avoided by overcoming negative thought
11 patterns is ridiculous and offensive.

12 The U.S. should think very carefully and look
13 a bit more closely at the GET and CB PACE trials before
14 promoting similar approaches in the U.S.

15 (Applause.)

16 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Tasha.

17 Matina Nicholson?

18 MS. NICHOLSON: Can you hear me? Okay. Hi.

19 I'm Matina Nicholson. I've had myelitis (sic)
20 encephalitis for over 6 years. Prior to that, I had a
21 successful career. I was moving into senior management
22 at a top pharmaceutical company in marketing. So now

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1 due to the time, I will address the treatments that are
2 for my most significant symptoms because my list of
3 symptoms is very long.

4 First, I have a lot of significant cognitive
5 and neurological symptoms, but at this time there are
6 no treatments that are working for me. I need to
7 really go back to a neurologist.

8 Next is post-exertional malaise, PME (sic),
9 or penny (ph). I take -- just to be here today, I take
10 a high dose, within label, of Adderall, therefore, I do
11 that if I have to go to doctor point meetings or
12 advocate, but sometimes I take up to 60 milligrams of
13 Adderall, and I'm still sleeping at that time, I listen
14 to my body.

15 For autoimmune, I do Myers' cocktail. I
16 can't get to my doctor's in New York, 2 hours or 3
17 hours, so I can only get that bimonthly. I self-
18 inject. I get gammaglobulin shots once a month, self-
19 inject B-12, and glutathione. I am also on
20 levocarnitine and Vitamin D shot or pill. For sleep
21 abnormalities (sic), I use Ambien and Xanax most likely
22 when I'm on the Adderall because I take so much

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1 Adderall, it's hard for my body to unwind, but again I
2 kind of watch what I take because I don't like using
3 something up and coming down, so I'm very careful. So
4 like last night I only got 2 hours of sleep. Pain due
5 to fibromyalgia, I use Cymbalta, Vicodin, or a heating
6 pad.

7 My treatment regime has changed a multitude
8 of times due to new abnormalities (sic) and disease
9 progression. To date, no treatment works well for me.
10 They aim just at symptom control or mask the symptom.
11 By masking the symptoms is what exasperate my symptoms,
12 and I crash. This could last several days, weeks, or
13 months. Currently, I'm trying to get approval for
14 Medicare to try IVIG. Otherwise, due to the expense, I
15 will not be able to afford it. The same with some of
16 the other drugs in clinical trials.

17 My current treatments don't improve my daily
18 life. It allows me to get to an appointment or
19 hopefully see a friend or family, but I never know, it
20 depends on that day, so people have to be patient with
21 me. For me, any minimal mental or physical activity
22 makes me very sick, leaving me a prisoner to my

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1 bedroom.

2 I have many abnormalities (sic) with so far no
3 treatments. To date, I have no treatment options at
4 this time in terms of low natural killer cells, low
5 growth hormone. I have very high titers of EBV, HHV-6,
6 CMV. I tried all the antivirals. They didn't work for
7 me and actually one antiviral I used I broke out in
8 hives. I have high interleukin 6 and 2. I have very
9 bad cognitive dysfunction, so I would like to really
10 focus on some research about cognitive rehabilitation
11 therapy that's done for MS, encephalitis, and Lyme and
12 lupus.

13 The neurological issues I need treated are
14 balance, weakness of limbs, blackouts, fainting,
15 twitches. My one leg drags. I don't know if it's a
16 neurotransmitter problem. Sleep abnormalities (sic),
17 you always don't get refreshing sleep, so I think you
18 really need to do more sleep studies in terms of any
19 CFS patients with and without their drugs to stay
20 awake. And then nothing is working on my GI issues. I
21 tried everything.

22 So the most significant downsides of my

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1 treatment is the use of amphetamine salts. I'm not
2 talking about this drug, it's just for me. It causes
3 severe dry mouth, jitters, high pulse rate, and then I
4 can't sleep at night. After the use of Adderall, I
5 need to take Ambien, but I can only take 10 milligrams
6 because Ambien makes me -- over 10 milligrams, I will
7 drive and I don't know it, I'll eat, I'll wake up
8 somewhere doing some weird thing, so 10 milligrams is
9 my limit.

10 Adderall gets me through the day, but that's
11 just today and hopefully tomorrow. I may look happy
12 and healthy to you, but I am suffering greatly, but I'm
13 in a survivor mode. I am fortunate enough to attend
14 this meeting while many patients cannot.

15 At this time, I am mostly bedbound,
16 homebound, for 80 percent of the time suffering
17 terribly with poor quality of life and no hope that
18 I'll ever get better. I am willing to accept
19 significant risk to escape from this disease that
20 imposes this miserable debility and leaves so little
21 for which to live. All my work and career aspirations
22 went down the drain. I think I'm just waiting my turn

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1 for heaven, but thank God for my friends and the
2 incredible group of patients. ME/CFS patients are
3 incredibly strong and have a lot of courage.

4 We look forward to partnering with you, the
5 FDA, to find more new ways to allow us to fast-track
6 drug approval outlined by your special drug approval
7 process. Also, we want to look for a way to fast-track
8 an FDA compassionate care program for this disease and
9 this illness must be given at least equal consideration
10 for drug development as HIV, Alzheimer's, cancer, et
11 cetera. Our federal approval process needs to be
12 customized for a complex, serious, and debilitating
13 disease, and I think this is a start.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Matina.

17 I'll ask Dr. Mary Schweitzer.

18 MS. SCHWEITZER: Hi. My name is Mary
19 Schweitzer. I have been on Ampligen most of the time
20 for over 14 years. I was a 44-year-old tenured
21 professor of history at Villanova when I suffered a
22 blackout in my office on October 24th, 1994. From that

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1 point on, I was very sick. I suffered from blackouts,
2 absence seizures, ataxia, expressive dysphasia,
3 disorientation, short-term memory loss, dyslexia,
4 tinnitus, sensitivity to light and sound, massive
5 confusion to the extent that I once poured an entire
6 pot of coffee into a silverware drawer, convinced it
7 was a cup. I had intense pain behind my eyes and in
8 the back of my neck, suffered intense headaches, and
9 had constant muscle pain. I could not pass a Romberg
10 test.

11 I practiced the enveloped theory of pacing.
12 We treated hypothyroidism with Cytomel and Levothroid,
13 NMH bouts with Florinef, but it didn't work, and sleep
14 with Flexeril, Ambien, and Klonopin. This made me more
15 comfortable, but nevertheless, my condition got worse
16 and worse. My world grew smaller and smaller. I
17 couldn't drive a car. By the summer of 1996, I was
18 falling every time I tried to walk, so we had to get a
19 wheelchair. In 1997, we added a riser to the toilet
20 and a shower chair. Finally, in the fall of 1998, I
21 was confined to bed, able only to make it to the
22 bathroom and back by holding onto furniture, and walls,

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1 and my Golden Retriever. By the end of 1998, I
2 couldn't even brush my own teeth.

3 It was at this point that Dr. Dharam Ablashi
4 found me positive for HHV-6 variant A in a study, we
5 also found I was positive for the 37-kDa RNase L
6 defect, both predictors of success with Ampligen, which
7 is why my family decided to pay the expense that
8 Ampligen was both in terms of money and time.

9 I began Ampligen on February 4th, 1999. In 2
10 months, I could walk without a cane. In 5 months, I
11 could drive again. The most remarkable moment was when
12 I realized that for the first time in 4-1/2 years I did
13 not feel sick. After 6 months, the defective RNase L
14 was gone and HHV-6A was dormant. I also read an entire
15 book. In September, I danced with my son at his
16 wedding and I walked barefoot on a beach. Ampligen
17 took care of my encephalitic and neurological symptoms
18 such as described here in this handout.

19 After that, it became a matter of stamina.
20 It took a lot longer, more years, to work back up to
21 stamina like a normal person. I continued to improve
22 on Ampligen, and after 20 months, I thought I had been

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1 cured, but 1 year later -- so I stopped treatment
2 because it's expensive. One year later, I had a
3 blackout and HHV-6A was back. It took 7 months to get
4 back on Ampligen in Philadelphia. We decided to stay
5 on it indefinitely and just put the cost into our
6 current income. I remained on Ampligen for over 5
7 years before I lost it again. At that point, I was
8 doing so well I could go hiking for a half hour with my
9 brother, but in January 2008, the head of my practice
10 died, and we lost permission to continue receiving
11 Ampligen.

12 Seven months later, I crashed again. I saw
13 my new specialist, Dr. Dan Peterson, at Lake Tahoe. I
14 was running a fever and had active cases of Epstein-
15 Barr and cytomegalovirus. My natural killer cell
16 function was 3 percent. I had abnormal SPECT scan and
17 cytokine patterns, and my VO2 max score was so low it
18 fit Social Security's definition for permanent
19 disability from a heart condition.

20 In July 2009, a spinal tap revealed that my
21 spinal fluid contained active HHV-6 and CMV as well as
22 the defective RNase L. We concluded I had to get back

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1 on Ampligen, so I moved to Nevada, 3,000 miles away
2 from my home and my husband of 25 years. I started
3 Ampligen once again on -- (Becomes emotional.) --
4 excuse me -- on March 10th, 2010. After 2 months, I no
5 longer needed a cane. By the summer, I was walking
6 along the lake. And in August my husband sent my car
7 out to me because I was well enough to drive again. I
8 had to spend over a year in Nevada separated from my
9 husband. Then in the spring of 2011, I heard that Dr.
10 Derek Enlander would be starting Ampligen treatment in
11 New York City, and I came home.

12 Today I get Ampligen by going to New York
13 City twice a week. It's a 12-hour day. I have to take
14 a local train to Wilmington, I take Metro -- I take
15 Amtrak to New York, and a Metro bus out to Dr.
16 Enlander's. I take 3 hours because now I get a liter
17 IV saline twice a week instead of the Florinef, that
18 works for the NMH, and I get Ampligen. Then I turn
19 around, the other direction, 3 hours, and then I'm
20 home.

21 It's that important that I remain on
22 Ampligen. Without Ampligen, I could not be here talking

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1 to you.

2 Without Ampligen, I don't have a life. I can
3 take care of myself. I have very little stamina. It
4 takes longer to work the stamina up, but my husband has
5 a very aggressive form of bladder cancer, and he has to
6 be cared for. I got 5 hours of sleep last night
7 because we had a family crisis, and my son and my
8 daughter both turned out to be leaving on the same time
9 tomorrow. I am stuck in a Hobbesian choice: I can
10 only get Ampligen by moving away or by leaving home for
11 12 hours twice a week, but without Ampligen, I couldn't
12 care for my husband, and my family would have to care
13 for me. And my son and my daughter have talked about
14 how they would have to do that, how they would care for
15 the two of us. Right now, it's enough trying to take
16 care of Bob. Please don't take Ampligen away from me
17 again. It is that important.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much, Mary.

21 And finally we have Amanda Simpson. Can you
22 reach the microphone?

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1 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah. I'm good. Thank you.

2 Hi. And thank you so much for having
3 me. I am so grateful for the opportunity and I am so
4 grateful to be able to be here today. A little over 3
5 years ago I had to put my 15-year-old dog to sleep on
6 Christmas Eve. Three weeks later my dad was diagnosed
7 with cancer. And that same night my husband was killed
8 in a car accident on his way home from the gym. As you
9 might imagine, it was a difficult and stressful time.
10 And 4-1/2 months later, I woke up feeling like I had
11 the flu. Two days later I was in the emergency room.
12 Thirteen months, 30 doctors, across Dallas, Houston,
13 L.A., and New York later I was finally diagnosed with
14 ME/CFS.

15 My life had changed dramatically in 15
16 months, but I simply refused to believe that my life
17 was over at the age of 44, and so I have pursued the
18 most aggressive treatment options that I've had
19 available to me. I take 16 pills each day. I used to
20 do well to remember to take my multivitamin, and I take
21 2 injections each week. I've been on 100 milligrams of
22 Savella two times a day since August of 2010 for pain

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1 management and increased energy levels, and quite
2 simply, I believe it's the only reason that I've been
3 able to remain on my own and that I haven't been
4 completely bedridden. I also use Tylenol and rarely
5 hydrocodone for pain management. I take Bystolic and
6 diltiazem to help with my heart rate and blood
7 pressure, both of which were fine before I got sick. It
8 took a while to find the right sleep medication, but I
9 now take zolpidem CR, 12.5 milligrams, and can usually
10 get 7 to 8 hours of sleep a night. To help bolster my
11 immune system, I take hepapressin and Nexavir
12 injections, Immunoprop and Immunoprop Plus from Dr.
13 Enlander, a multivitamin, fish oil, resveratrol,
14 Vitamin C and Vitamin D supplements.

15 In October of last year, I began taking
16 GcMAF, and I've had a significant decrease in the
17 number of symptoms, including weakness, pain, brain
18 fog, sore throat, nausea, and sensitivity to light and
19 sound, and I have experienced a significant increase in
20 energy and functionality. My EBV, HHV-6, and CMV
21 levels have all decreased.

22 I have also embraced some helpful non-drug

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1 therapies, including acupuncture and chiropractic care,
2 to help treat headaches, sleep disturbance, and pain,
3 and I believe that they've made a significant
4 difference for me.

5 I changed my diet. I have eliminated almost
6 all processed foods. I drink at least 80 to 100 ounces
7 of water a day. I have eliminated aspartame completely
8 from my diet, and I am in the process of converting
9 over to the Super Immunity Diet by Dr. Furhman. I use
10 Lumosity.com to help with my memory and concentration
11 issues, I try to play that every day.

12 I rely heavily on my faith, my family, my
13 friends, and my two sweet dogs to help me maintain a
14 positive attitude. And I think depression is maybe one
15 of the things that is such a misunderstanding about
16 this disease, you know, it's easy when you feel like
17 your life is over because of the way you feel, but I
18 think that the positive attitude and believing that
19 somewhere, someday out there, there is hope has helped
20 a whole lot. And I also severely limit my stress and
21 activity levels.

22 There are certainly downsides to all of this.

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1 The drugs have competing side effects. The Savella
2 gives me energy, the diltiazem makes me tired, the
3 zolpidem I have to take to help sleep, and it goes on
4 and on. And then there are the more humiliating side
5 effects that are of a more personal nature, and I won't
6 go there, but finally there is the exorbitant cost. My
7 medical care can cost as much as \$2,500 a month.

8 It was really important to me after those
9 initial 15 months to find a way to still matter. It's
10 hard to do that when you're cooped up in a bedroom. And
11 I can say that although I am not as well as I would
12 like to be, these treatments have restored a great deal
13 of purpose and meaning to my life, enough so that I am
14 in the process of trying to start a nonprofit
15 organization to help speak up for those with this
16 illness who can't speak for themselves.

17 DR. EGGERS: Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 DR. EGGERS: And thank you to all the
20 panelists. I want to see -- now, I don't want to limit
21 the time for the broad discussion, so we'll bring you
22 guys back in. But before I go to the broad discussion,

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1 I just want to see if any of my colleagues at FDA have
2 any burning questions that they want to ask as a
3 follow-up to the panelists.

4 (No audible response.) Large-Group
5 Facilitated Discussion

6 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Well, let's go down --
7 and did this to myself again, I put it back. It could
8 make a loud noise. Okay.

9 Now let's see if can do the same thing.
10 Excuse me. I'll come down here. I feel much more
11 comfortable down here. And I do again want to thank
12 the people who have come up here today and speak. It
13 is difficult, and we sincerely thank you for sharing
14 your experiences, and I hope that we can build on the
15 experiences. So I want to ask the same question I
16 asked at the start of the last discussion, which is how
17 many of you saw your experiences reflected in at least
18 one of the panel members who spoke today?

19 (Show of a lot of hands.)

20 DR. EGGERS: Okay. I know there are
21 differences, and at the end we will try to get into
22 those differences again, but for now I would like to

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1 focus on the general types of treatment approaches that
2 we heard and build up a little bit more on what we
3 heard from the panel members.

4 So we heard a lot about treatments that are
5 an attempt to treat the underlying source of the
6 condition, the immune modulators, the
7 immunosuppressants, and the antimicrobials,
8 antibiotics, and antivirals. I would like to spend
9 some time on that. We'll spend -- let's see, how much
10 -- we have -- Terry, can you just -- I should have --
11 MS. TOIGO:3:40. So you have until about 12
12 4:15.

13 DR. EGGERS: 4:15. Okay. So we'll spend
14 some time on that, and then we'll move on to the ones
15 that really are targeted to treat the symptoms, the
16 more symptomatic components. Okay?

17 So would anyone like to start? We heard
18 about Ampligen, we heard about Rituxan, we heard about
19 Kineret, and then we heard about some antimicrobials.
20 Would anyone like to build on what they've heard? Let's
21 start with Ampligen. Does anyone want to build on what
22 they heard from Ampligen?

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1 (Show of hands.)

2 DR. EGGERS: Yes.

3 MS. BURMEISTER: Jeannette Burmeister. I'm
4 going to make it real quick. I had a treadmill test
5 about 3 weeks ago, and I had two horrible days after
6 that, the typical symptom flare-ups, I didn't sleep, my
7 digestive system was completely messed up, pain. It
8 was pretty horrible. Two days later I went into the
9 office to get my Ampligen infusion, barely made it to
10 the office. After my infusion, I was bouncing out of
11 the office. So it was an immediate huge improvement.

12 I also have in the last 2-1/2 weeks gone
13 through two moves, two because I live in Incline
14 Village, like Mary was, and my 2-year-old daughter and
15 my husband live in the Bay Area, and so we just
16 happened to have to have two moves, and I've gotten
17 through them and here I am today. And this would not
18 have been possible without Ampligen. I am so much more
19 functional because of the drug, it's like I'm an
20 entirely new person.

21 DR. EGGERS: So can I just ask, so everyone
22 takes different treatments, so if you feel comfortable

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1 raising your hand that you have had an experience like
2 what Jeannette -- right? -- Jeannette has shared with
3 this sort of instant -- okay, we've got -- okay, some
4 in the back?

5 (Show of a couple of hands.)

6 DR. EGGERS: Okay. How about sharing
7 experiences like what Mary talked about?

8 (Show of a couple of hands.)

9 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Would anyone else like to
10 add upon this?

11 (Show of hands.)

12 DR. EGGERS: Okay, we'll go with both of you.

13 DR. SMITH: Janet Smith, Sioux Falls, South
14 Dakota. In 1998, I was diagnosed with an actual IgG
15 deficiency, so I was started on gammaglobulin, which
16 helped for 3 years, but then it was either retire or
17 disability or do something drastic, and that drastic
18 was that I've been commuting to Incline Village from
19 Sioux Falls, South Dakota, weekly to get Ampligen. At
20 first, I couldn't even walk up the jetway. The first
21 time I tried to blow out a candle after I started
22 Ampligen, the wax went all over the table.

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1 (Laughter.)

2 DR. SMITH: So I have been commuting. Now
3 it's every other week because I'm starting a practice
4 out in Incline Village, Nevada. So I have two
5 practices going. And I wouldn't be here today if it
6 wasn't for Ampligen.

7 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Mr. Miller?

8 MR. MILLER: Robert Miller, patient since
9 1982. So I want to build on my previous statement of
10 my crash has started. Because of Ampligen, I will
11 bounce back. I've already started to feel better just
12 from sitting and resting, but had I not been on
13 Ampligen for this trip, I would not have made it here.
14 Before Ampligen, I was literally bedbound. When people
15 talk about being bedbound, I mean, we're like bricks,
16 we can't be moved. My wife would come in and check on
17 me to see if I was breathing because I would sleep for
18 days at a time. I didn't get up to eat, I didn't get
19 up to go to the rest room.

20 My doctor, Dr. Dan Peterson, who is here,
21 enrolled me into the Ampligen 516 clinical trial in
22 1998. At the end of that, Hemispherx, the drug

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1 sponsor, gave everybody 6 months of drug for free.

2 Within that span of time, it was like -- it's hard to
3 describe. When people ask you about your energy level
4 and cognition, for me, it was this like little glimmer
5 of light that I could feel and see again, and I kind of
6 built off of that. Prior to Ampligen, I had been
7 placed on Famvir, Valtrex, Valcyte, antibiotics such as
8 Zithromax, Levaquin, Ceftin, amoxicillin. I was put on
9 Prozac, Pamelor, Desyrel, several other
10 antidepressants, Lyrica, Cymbalta, Flexeril, did
11 acupuncture.

12 When we're talking about symptoms, it's
13 difficult for us to say that -- and Jeannette did a
14 great job earlier explaining that when my energy level
15 is low and I'm tested, my natural killer cell numbers
16 will be down to zero, my natural killer cell function
17 will be down. Prior to Ampligen, my total T cell count
18 was 285. On Ampligen, it's five times that.

19 What Mary described is very much a mirror of
20 what I've experienced. I've been on and off Ampligen.
21 I did so well on it, and my wife had a chance to move
22 from the Reno area to D.C. for a promotion, that we

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1 talked to Dr. Peterson, my health was doing pretty
2 well, we talked about what the percentages would be if
3 I went off of Ampligen, whether I would maintain my
4 health, whether it would improve or whether I would
5 slide back. There was about a 66 percent chance that I
6 would at least maintain it.

7 We moved to Northern Virginia. I was there
8 for 2 years and went into a slide and went right back
9 to where I was when I very first started. So in the
10 midst of the housing crisis, we sold everything we
11 owned, we moved back to Reno, Nevada, so I could be
12 close to Dr. Peterson and get back on Ampligen.

13 It's different for every patient, just like
14 every medication is. It's not a cure for me. I am one
15 of, you know, the most severe type patients, and you
16 can certain confirm that with Dr. Peterson, and for any
17 medication to get me up and allow me to think clearly,
18 allow me to function, allow me to make my own meals,
19 allow me to outside with my boys, is a miracle drug.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 DR. EGGERS: Okay. I want to make sure that

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1 we touch the range, and I think if you agree that your
2 experiences on that particular drug are reflected and
3 shared by the experiences that we've just heard, then
4 we'll move on and talk about other treatments that
5 you're taking to really try to deal with the underlying
6 condition.

7 DR. CHU: Hi. My name is Lily. A lot of the
8 treatments that people are talking about other than
9 symptomatic treatments I think are limited to a very
10 small population of CFS patients. I see Dr. Klimas and
11 I see Dr. Montoya, but I have enough insurance, money,
12 knowledge, and a supportive family to help me get to
13 those places, and a lot of patients don't. So this is
14 a somewhat selective group already who are able to come
15 here, and try some of these treatments.

16 (Applause.)

17 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Yes?

18 MS. OLSON: Hi. I'm Carol Olson (ph). I
19 have been sick for 28 years, getting sick in Denver
20 when there was an outbreak. I have done many things
21 that many of you have done, but one thing that's most
22 significant for me that no one has mentioned was

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1 Vistide with Dr. Peterson. That's also cidofovir. It's
2 a very potent AIDS drug. It had tremendous effects. I
3 looked differently, I lost a lot of weight, my weight
4 had been going up and down, I had always been kind of
5 thin, but I wasn't. And that seems to happen to a lot
6 of CFIDS people, but the most important thing was that
7 I could think quite clearly. And at any rate, I don't
8 respond well to toxic medicines, this is a toxic
9 medicine, which most HIV/AIDS doctors will tell you,
10 and a lot of them have had experience with. It also
11 seems to treat viruses that nothing else touches.

12 So I think in fairness -- and another reason,
13 you can also see this as a biological disease that has
14 physical causes when something affects it so
15 profoundly.

16 So I think both for that reason and for the
17 reason that it helped many people so significantly, and
18 I believe Dr. Peterson has just had a study with it, I
19 think that's something else you ought to throw out. I
20 am also doing -- I'm doing GcMAF now, and I think it's
21 helpful, I'm not really sure, but Vistide is something
22 that had a very powerful effect with me for 7 months.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 DR. EGGERS: Any questions from -- oh.

4 MS. NICHOLSON: I think when we look at
5 treatments moving forward -- and this is just my
6 opinion -- I think it's great. These drugs are not
7 going to work in all people, so we really have to look
8 at that because I think of it as cancer. If you have
9 chemotherapy, it's not going to cure all cancer. You
10 can go even smaller to brain cancer. One type of
11 chemotherapy is not going to help a different type of
12 cancer. So it's great to see like a lot of these drugs
13 that are working on people, and we need to put that
14 into some type of measurement because we are unique, to
15 allow these people to have drugs that work for them,
16 that works in a subset group versus if we're going to
17 use a big case definition such as Fukuda -- did I say
18 it right? -- no drug is going to have the efficacy for
19 that entire group.

20 (Applause.)

21 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Anyone else want to talk
22 about -- we haven't -- let's see, both Mary Dimmock and

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1 Tasha talked about azithromycin. Does anyone want to
2 share anything with that?

3 (No audible response.)

4 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Any other -- I'm going to
5 look to Dr. Michele and see if there are other
6 treatments that you would like us to follow up on.

7 DR. MICHELE: Yeah. I would like to move to
8 the pain management category, and if folks could talk
9 about their experiences with some of the products that
10 are approved for fibromyalgia, I think I heard a couple
11 of them. I heard people mention Savella, I heard
12 people mention Cymbalta.

13 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Would anyone like --
14 okay. Yes?

15 MS. HART: My name is Karen Hart. I am
16 having very good luck with this compounded formula LDM.
17 I just started on that, and it's very nice.

18 DR. EGGERS: Anyone else?

19 MS. NICHOLSON: I have one.

20 DR. EGGERS: Oh, yeah.

21 MS. NICHOLSON: Cymbalta works well. I tried
22 Savella and Lyrica. With those drugs, they have a lot

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1 of different side effects that work differently on each
2 person, so basically it's either going -- like an
3 antidepressant, it's either going to work for you or
4 not and you try a different antidepressant, and it's in
5 the same class as SSRI, in my opinion, so you just have
6 to find a pain killer that's going to work for you. I
7 don't want to talk bad about it, but it just didn't
8 work for me.

9 DR. EGGERS: And can I ask, how long would
10 you try, generally try, something before you would
11 decide that that wasn't going to work for you?

12 MS. NICHOLSON: Well, one of the drugs I
13 don't want to mention, I knew in the first 2 days
14 because I had significant serious side effects. With
15 Cymbalta, usually that takes -- because that's also an
16 antidepressant, that usually takes 2 to 3 months, so I
17 would give it like 2 or 3 months, depending on if it's
18 -- if I still have significant pain, it will be
19 shorter, but I try to allow the drug to work based on
20 whatever the indication says, in the prescribing
21 information.

22 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Is this resonating, this

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1 discussion about pain and pain management? Is it
2 resonating?

3 Well, go with Joe.

4 MR. LANDSON: Hi. Yes, Joe Landson. Just to
5 add, Cymbalta does have some marginal pain benefit,
6 pain management benefit, for me, but it also had side
7 effects, including intermittent loss of vision. I lost
8 access to it when I lost insurance. I'm now in the VA
9 Health System, which only does generics, nothing that's
10 still on patent. Cymbalta should be off of patent
11 shortly, so we may see it in the VA pharmaceutical
12 system or not. Who knows? We'll see. Thank you.

13 DR. EGGERS: Yes?

14 MS. SPOTILA: Jennie Spotila. I've been on
15 pretty much every antidepressant for pain management
16 and not a single one has worked, so we had to go to
17 codeine, Flexeril, gabapentin, which no one has
18 mentioned yet.

19 And the time period for trying a drug, I'll
20 give it 8 weeks at least before abandoning it, and over
21 time, I've been sick 18 years, the pain management
22 process has evolved substantially during that time.

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1 I've probably tried at least 25 drugs, maybe more, and
2 over time they lose effectiveness, I have to switch it
3 up. It's probably the biggest part of my treatment
4 regimen, is managing the pain.

5 DR. EGGERS: I see a lot of head nods. Your
6 experiences match with what Jennie is saying? Okay.
7 Okay.

8 Yes, Amanda.

9 MS. SIMPSON: Just real quickly, I wanted to
10 say when my Savella hasn't worked, and I've needed to
11 take pain medication, I think one of the most
12 frustrating things is that once you get out of that
13 realm and into the kinds of things you're talking
14 about, for me, it does nothing but contribute to my
15 brain fog and the memory and concentration. It makes
16 that so much worse and it makes so much harder to come
17 out because you've got all of the narcotics in your
18 system, and that for me is very frustrating.

19 DR. EGGERS: And, Amanda, can I follow up
20 with that and say, how do you make those choices? How
21 do you weigh the benefits that you think you'll get
22 with one drug with the downsides that you think you

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1 might get? And let's stay with this example that
2 you're talking about, the pain management versus the
3 brain fog.

4 MS. SIMPSON: I have gotten to the point
5 where the only time I will take the pain medication
6 beyond the Savella is if basically I'm laying in bed
7 and trying not to move because I hurt that badly. It
8 has to get to the point where I can't sleep, I can't
9 find a comfortable position to rest in, to the point
10 where I can't function anyway, and getting rid of the
11 pain becomes most important.

12 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Let me just see, is this
13 a shared experience? It's the last hope, when the pain
14 is so bad?

15 Okay, yes, Matina.

16 MS. NICHOLSON: I would also like to ask
17 people, like a lot of us have major stomach issues, and
18 we have to really watch what pain management we have to
19 take because it's like give-or-take. So I wanted to
20 see what people have done with that. And also I think
21 I wanted to reach out to researchers and look at
22 medical marijuana because there are a lot of good

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1 studies that it doesn't affect the gut and it also
2 works on sleep as well as pain because it works on
3 different neurotransmitters. So that's something.

4 DR. EGGERS: Does anyone want to take
5 Matina's, about managing the side effects of the
6 intestinal side effects?

7 Yes, Ms. LaRosa.

8 MS. LaROSA: I have serious gastric issues,
9 and most of the pain medicines have a basis, they're
10 NSAIDs, can't do them. So I use Voltaren Gel on my
11 joints. I don't know if it works or whether the
12 rubbing it in works, I'm not sure which. And I have a
13 TENS unit, which is transcutaneous electric
14 stimulation. And it sort of just deadens the nerves,
15 and I do that when I'm laying in bed and can't sleep
16 because it hurts so much.

17 MS. SCHWEITZER: Can I say something?

18 DR. EGGERS: Yes.

19 MS. SCHWEITZER: I just want to mention, you
20 talked about this in terms of fibromyalgia. Not
21 everybody with this disease has fibromyalgia, and they
22 are not the same thing. There is an unusually large

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1 number of people who have both, but at least half of us
2 don't, and probably more than half. That doesn't mean
3 I don't have pain issues, I do, partly because I gained
4 a lot of -- I was in really good shape before I got
5 sick, I was a skier, but 6 months after I got sick,
6 "pfttt," my metabolism was bad and I gained weight, and
7 that's part of the problem. Part of the problem is
8 that I fell so many times. You learn you can't walk
9 because you fall, and I've fallen so many times, I've
10 had three back surgeries, two knee surgeries, I'm going
11 to have to have a knee replacement. So I have pain
12 issues, but it's not fibromyalgia. I have muscle pain
13 issues, and it's not fibromyalgia either.

14 So there are other -- and irony of ironies,
15 when you talk about bad side effects, the one drug I
16 can't take anything that has Tylenol in it. Anything
17 with Tylenol in it makes my liver markers skyrocket,
18 which is ironic because of all the other drugs I'm
19 taking, which are serious, but I did try -- I tried
20 Cymbalta and in combination with an antibiotic, I ended
21 up passing out, and that's how come I had one of my
22 back surgeries.

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1 But the main thing I wanted to say is we
2 don't all have fibro, so when you talk about pain and
3 people with this condition, it's not necessarily
4 fibromyalgia.

5 DR. EGGERS: That's a good point.

6 DR. MICHELE: Yeah. If I might just clarify,
7 my question was not meant to imply that people with
8 chronic fatigue syndrome all have fibromyalgia, that's
9 not what I was getting at, I just was grouping those
10 medications together since they all have an indication
11 for fibromyalgia and pain specifically related to that.

12 DR. EGGERS: So we'll go -- we haven't --
13 sorry.

14 KATHLEEN HARPER: I just wanted to say that
15 since this illness is so long term, which we didn't
16 know in the beginning, but my daughter was 14 when she
17 got ill, and by 18, doctors had put her on oxycodone
18 and Percocet, and she had to take a lot of Advil, and
19 she wound up with esophageal ulcers after a few years
20 of that, and now she would have -- I mean, she needs to
21 go into a rehab or something to get off these
22 medications. So, I mean, I am very angry that she was

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1 ever put on them.

2 They wouldn't let me in on the decision.

3 When I called the doctor and said why -- questioned
4 what they were doing, they just told me I had no right,
5 that she was an adult. But I'm her caretaker, she has
6 to live with me because she is completely disabled,
7 couldn't even be here, and it's just a nightmare.

8 Twenty-two years of pain medication does a
9 lot of bad things, and I'm getting older, I'm in my
10 sixties now, I don't want to take anything that is
11 going to affect my cognition, which is already, you
12 know, poor from the brain fog.

13 DR. EGGERS: And I think you're making a
14 really good point that I just want to make sure that
15 we're all capturing up here, is that I think what I'm
16 hearing is that since the diagnosis wasn't made, wasn't
17 easily made, that you and your daughter were trying a
18 number of other things that in the end, if you knew
19 what you knew now, you wouldn't have tried that.

20 KATHLEEN HARPER: If I knew it was going to
21 be 22 years, I would have never have --

22 DR. EGGERS: Is this a shared experience with

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1 them? I see a lot of head nodding. Yeah.

2 KATHLEEN HARPER: And like I said, she
3 actually had hemorrhaging esophageal ulcers at like 30,
4 and her health is now -- she doesn't just have chronic
5 fatigue syndrome or ME, she has ulcers and, you know,
6 just -- it's a nightmare, it's a nightmare. Sorry.

7 DR. EGGERS: If I can take -- okay, we'll go
8 with --

9 DR. CHU: I just wanted to add to Mary's
10 point earlier. Besides fibromyalgia, there are
11 different types of pain in CFS, and even though the
12 definition, the Fukuda definition, includes muscle and
13 joint pain, there hasn't been a lot of research into
14 different -- into the pain in CFS. Like, for example,
15 some people have nerve pain that's related to like a
16 reactivation of herpesviruses, and some people have
17 reported that they get better when they take antivirals
18 for that, but there is also stomach pain, you know, and
19 other types of pain that haven't really been explored.

20 DR. EGGERS: I think Diane has a -- Diane,
21 right? --

22 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

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1 DR. EGGERS: -- had her hand up.

2 MS. LEWIS: I'm not on any pain medication at
3 this time, although I certainly would like to have
4 some.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MS. LEWIS: But one thing that I -- you know,
7 I'm a social worker, I'm not a doctor, but I attribute
8 a lot of my pain to the fact that I'm not getting
9 enough oxygen, and therefore my muscles are really
10 hurting, and so, you know, my lack of ability to deep
11 breathe, you know, my sleep issues, there are a lot of
12 -- I think there are a lot of reasons that cause the
13 body to be depleted of oxygen, and there is just no
14 way, if a doctor doesn't even believe, you know, that
15 there is anything wrong with you.

16 I am on an extreme amount, \$400 a month in
17 copays, for medications, and none of it's working, it's
18 all palliative care, and it doesn't even get to the
19 core of the problem because I'm hearing antivirals,
20 pain medications, a lot of medications here, nobody has
21 mentioned Provigil. Provigil is the one thing that
22 does keep me alert and it does really help. And I also

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1 use Vyvanse instead of the Adderall. But as far as the
2 pain goes, I really think a lot of that pain comes from
3 a lack of oxygen, and your body is just not -- there is
4 nothing there for it to draw on.

5 DR. EGGERS: Can I -- I'm going to ask one
6 question, and then if we don't -- if we have -- I
7 caught up on something, and I didn't write down which
8 of you said it, but I would like to probe a bit deeper
9 into the idea of masking symptoms and causing -- by
10 taking one medication to mask symptoms, and I think I -
11 - I'm sorry, I don't know which one -- and the idea
12 that you maybe push yourself a little bit more than you
13 should, then you would have, if you weren't on the
14 medications that make you feel good right now. Is that
15 an --

16 MS. NICHOLSON: I thought about that for a
17 while. I think when I'm on it -- and I can't speak in
18 terms of the pharmacology of it -- I just think my body
19 is on overdrive. Even if I try to even pace myself,
20 it's very hard to pace because you're just full of
21 jitters. I find myself, I can just feel my body
22 running when I'm -- and not turning off. I feel like

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1 I'm a car and the wheels are turning and I'm not
2 moving, and that's even if I'm just laying in bed, and
3 that's just my side effect. Like she mentioned
4 Provigil. I tried Provigil and that made me jump out
5 of my skin.

6 So, again, I think different people respond
7 to these different medicines, you have to find one that
8 works for you, but in terms of what you said, it's
9 usually because it's a medication and it keeps working.
10 It lasts in my body longer. It says it has a short
11 half-life, but not for me.

12 MS. KELEMEN: I wanted to make one comment,
13 too, it's not actually related to your question.

14 DR. EGGERS: That's fine.

15 MS. KELEMEN: My own personal perspective --
16 and not to go contrary to the purpose of this workshop,
17 we need medicines to help people with CFS and ME -- but
18 my philosophy is to try to take as few medicines as
19 possible, and I can do that maybe because I've had this
20 illness for 16 years, so I feel like I have a good
21 sense, and I've tried things and they haven't worked,
22 but then I discontinue them. And I think we really, as

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1 patients -- I hear people are taking a lot of medicine,
2 and probably a lot of it isn't working.

3 DR. EGGERS: Yeah. I think Dr. Kweder has a
4 follow-up to that.

5 DR. KWEDER: Yeah. You had mentioned
6 actually that you thought one of the adjunctive
7 treatments that helped you the most was physical
8 therapy and the stretching. Can you say a little more
9 about what it was that helped? How did it help you
10 specifically?

11 MS. KELEMEN: Yeah. I only did that for a
12 short while, and I have to say that was really probably
13 the only thing that was good about the treatment that I
14 had in the U.K. I think it was having a trained
15 professional who knew through conversations with me
16 what the limits were, basically that at that time I
17 could really only do lying and sitting exercises but
18 was able within that framework to give me very limited
19 exercises that I could do every day. And I think
20 having that guidance -- you know, none of us are kind
21 of specialists in this, so we often don't know what to
22 do. We want to increase our capacity as much as we

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1 can, and we just don't know the best way to go about
2 it.

3 I mean, the other thing I would say again,
4 going back to pacing, I disagree with some of what,
5 just from my own experience, others have said. I feel
6 like I can tell when I'm overdoing things, when I'm
7 getting to a point where it's going to be too much. And
8 so my life is on a daily basis a very carefully
9 collaborated system, you know, and I have a mat I lie
10 on at work. I have arranged all kinds of complicated
11 work arrangements. You know, I don't work a full day
12 from the office, I work from home much of the time.

13 So I think we really have to figure out kind
14 of by monitoring ourselves carefully what works, what
15 doesn't work, and, of course, some of us -- you know, I
16 have a wonderful husband who is there to help, and some
17 people don't have that kind of care and help at home,
18 but I think we can do things ourselves that will help.

19 DR. EGGERS: Let me just go on and see if
20 anyone wants to follow up on that and build on that.

21 Dr. Kaiser?

22 MS. TOIGO: Sara, 10 minutes.

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1 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you.

2 DR. KAISER: Yeah, just quickly to build on
3 what Tasha was saying. I maintain a yoga practice,
4 which is kind of California physical therapy.

5 (Laughter.)

6 DR. KAISER: But what stretching, what daily
7 or every other day stretching, does is it releases
8 endorphins, and so there is a natural release of --
9 there is a natural pain control that comes from
10 developing a practice like that, and when you first
11 start you can barely do a stretch or a posture, but
12 that's why I think Tasha's point, that having access to
13 a trained professional, they can help you build and
14 develop that so that it can have some effect.

15 DR. EGGERS: Thank you.

16 I'm going to turn and see if my FDA
17 colleagues have any other questions about particular
18 treatment approaches, things that you haven't heard
19 about that you want to probe a bit deeper.

20 Dr. Michele.

21 DR. MICHELE: One thing that's been mentioned
22 only in passing but has come up in the course of

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1 discussion of clinical trials is IV saline, and I'm
2 just wondering how many of you have used that and if
3 you find it to be beneficial.

4 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: What?

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: IV saline.

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Oh, I use it.

7 (Show of some hands.)

8 DR. EGGERS: Let's go next to Dr. Kaiser.

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Well, I'll tell
10 you the abbreviated story. I flew down to Puerto Rico
11 with my grandson, who didn't have the right papers to
12 get on the cruise ship, and after many stressful hours,
13 we finally got him on, and I had a total, total crash.
14 The next morning when I woke up, I said I've got to go
15 to the infirmary. I went in the infirmary, my blood
16 pressure went down to like 65, and I fainted, and the
17 Belgian doctor, who understood what chronic fatigue
18 syndrome was, said, "I can either send you home or give
19 you a bag of saline." He gave me the saline drip, I
20 got up and went shopping.

21 (Laughter and applause.)

22 DR. EGGERS: We had one in the -- if one of

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1 you can work your way in the back to Ms. Patton. Did
2 you want to add to that? Did you raise your hand? No?
3 Okay, come back up. Did you see someone else back
4 there?

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Yeah. IV
6 saline helps. I consider it a treatment and a
7 relatively cheap one. It helps with the
8 lightheadedness. And I also tend to get a little bit
9 dehydrated when I have a crash, and it obviously helps
10 with that.

11 DR. EGGERS: Yes?

12 DR. GROBSTEIN: My name is Joan Grobstein. I
13 would like to say that you can also just use oral salt
14 and water. That can be very effective in an emergency.

15 DR. EGGERS: Any other burning questions?

16 (No audible response.)

17 DR. EGGERS: So we have 5 minutes left, and I
18 just want to do what we did for the first topic, which
19 is see, does anyone else have anything that they want
20 to share, a perspective or something that they want to
21 share that they haven't heard shared by the comments
22 from the panel or by others?

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1 DR. GROBSTEIN: Joan Grobstein again. I
2 would like to just say that in terms of pain
3 management, if somebody has a broken leg, it will be
4 very painful, and it will be less painful as the leg
5 heals. If you break that leg repeatedly, it will get
6 more and more difficult to control that pain. So we
7 have the equivalent situation here. We don't know what
8 the underlying cause of the pain is, and so therefore
9 we cannot probably adequately treat many people's pain.

10 So I know that this is an FDA meeting, but I
11 also know that there are members of other agencies in
12 the government here, and I would like to put in a big
13 pitch for the fact that we need more research, more
14 money, to look at the underlying causes of this
15 illness. Until we find that, people are going to be
16 taking drugs, having side effects from the drugs,
17 watching the drugs' effects dissipate over time because
18 we are not treating the disease. I am not saying that
19 we should not treat symptoms, because we should. We
20 need to make everybody comfortable and we need clinical
21 trials of palliative measures, but what we really need
22 is research.

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1 (Applause.)

2 DR. EGGERS: Here.

3 MS. HART: I have a topic pain medication, so
4 therefore it does not affect my cognitive abilities,
5 thank God, but what's in it is gabapentin, Lidocaine,
6 cyclobenzaprine, baclofen, diclofenac, I don't know how
7 that's pronounced, but if anybody is interested in
8 those percentages, they can see me. It's a compounded
9 prescription, it works beautifully.

10 MS. PATTON: Hello. Anita Patton. May you
11 please ask the question of the audience like you asked
12 us to raise our hand, may you please how many people
13 represented here today are from any sort of
14 pharmaceutical company that could help us in drug
15 development?

16 DR. EGGERS: Would anyone care to volunteer
17 themselves as being from there?

18 (Show of five hands.)

19 DR. EGGERS: Okay.

20 (Applause.)

21 DR. EGGERS: Any other final thoughts? I
22 think we have time for two more people.

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1 MS. BURMEISTER: Jeannette Burmeister. I
2 just want to -- well, obviously, what we really need is
3 some approved drug treatment, and that's why we're all
4 here, and I think that's the most important thing, but
5 I want to give a big shout-out to the research of Staci
6 Stevens and Chris Snell. I wear this heart rate
7 monitor all the time because I know what my aerobic
8 threshold is, and I know when I go over I will crash.
9 So when I brush my teeth, I sit down, so I know I won't
10 go over. I think that's very valuable, and I think
11 that's something that's maybe underutilized at this
12 point.

13 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Good. Oh, more one, and
14 then we'll come with your question.

15 Yes.

16 MS. SMITH: One other thing that hasn't --

17 DR. EGGERS: And your name?

18 MS. SMITH: Janet Smith.

19 DR. EGGERS: Thank you.

20 MS. SMITH: One other thing that hasn't been
21 mentioned that goes along with physical therapy and the
22 heart rate monitor is I've always asked myself why am I

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1 better than a lot of patients as far as physically? And
2 I think it's because the adaptation has come naturally
3 for me. Like the shower chair, sitting down to shower,
4 I sit down whenever there is a chair available. I've
5 had a handicapped sticker since 1994. And so if by
6 using the handicapped sticker I can do one more stop at
7 the store or see one more patient because I'm using
8 those aids that come naturally for me, but other
9 people, they don't think about sitting down and how to
10 reserve energy.

11 DR. EGGERS: Okay. Thank you.

12 Well, we have more question from Dr. Kweder.

13 DR. KWEDER: Actually, it's not a question,
14 but it's a comment because I wanted to pick up on
15 something that Joan said, which is -- and someone said
16 it, it might have been you, Joan, in the last session
17 about getting at the underlying cause. And I don't
18 want people to think, though, that hearing about the
19 symptoms and the varied experiences of patients, even
20 if it's a common underlying cause and everyone
21 experiences it differently, is not a worthwhile
22 endeavor. And I do think it is worthwhile in that it

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1 helps us develop research pathways to explore where we
2 see some of the commonalities, where we get hints about
3 potentially some of the common pathophysiology that
4 particular agents that are helpful are addressing, and
5 that's one of the reasons why we wanted other
6 researchers here. And one of our goals is to stimulate
7 more conversations, people smarter than me thinking
8 about, so how could we tie this all together
9 pathophysiologically and really begin to target therapy
10 development? So, yeah, we're helping symptoms, which
11 may be first on our plate, but ultimately getting to
12 the bottom of this and understanding what that common
13 root is so that we can actually cure it.

14 So your point is absolutely well taken, and
15 we're hoping that ultimately this kind of exercise is
16 one way to contribute to building the map.

17 DR. EGGERS: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 DR. EGGERS: And I think that that is a good
20 place to stop with Discussion 2. Again, a fabulous
21 discussion, and there are evaluation forms, and if you
22 can't find them -- I think they're in the back -- come

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1 find me or one of my colleagues and we'll find them.

2 They're completely voluntary, if you want to take one
3 in. And if you want to take it tonight and think about
4 it, we'll be here tomorrow.

5 With that, I'm going to turn it over to
6 Theresa Toigo, who is going to close with the Open
7 Public Comment Session.

8 I will ask the panel members up here, you
9 guys are free to go down. Thank you again so much.

10 (Applause.) Open Public Comment Period

11 MS. TOIGO: So I hope the panel will indulge
12 me here and maybe we'll change our plan for our session
13 a little bit because it seems like we can maybe do a
14 lot of this from people sitting if they don't want to
15 get up. So we'll try something a little different
16 here.

17 But this is the Open Public Comment Session,
18 and both FDA and the public believe in a transparent
19 process for information gathering, so we need to do a
20 little bit of the formality here to ensure that we take
21 care of the process, the requirements. So we're going
22 to invite the stakeholders that are pre-registered and

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1 confirmed to share their perspective with us during
2 this part of the meeting.

3 And to ensure the transparency, we think it's
4 important to understand the context of an individual's
5 presentation, so you are encouraged to disclose at the
6 beginning of your presentation whether or not any
7 organization paid for your expenses to attend this
8 meeting. And if you choose to not address that, then
9 that's fine as well. But that's an important part of
10 our open public process, that we explain that.

11 So how is this session going to work? We had
12 originally intended to use a timer, but if the speakers
13 are willing to work with me, we have 2 minutes for each
14 person to speak, and instead of the timer, I've got my
15 timer, and if you're willing, as I'm going to watch it,
16 and as you're getting close to the 2 minutes, then I'll
17 let you know, I'm going to put my hand up, and then
18 that way we can ensure that we get to everybody, that
19 everybody is able to get their allotted time, and that
20 everybody else gets out of here at the time that they
21 want, but I think we've heard enough today that it's
22 not easy for people to stand, so to make people come to

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1 the middle, to the center, to do it in the timed
2 process is probably not ideal.

3 So are you all willing to work with me who
4 are going to be speaking in the Open Public Session,
5 and when I go like this, know that you've got to get
6 close to wrapping it up? Okay, well, then that's how
7 we're going to do it.

8 So what's important here, too, is that we
9 know that not all patients speak with one voice, and we
10 certainly heard that today, that people are at
11 different stages of the disease and therefore things
12 that matter to them are going to be different, but the
13 insights that you can provide us are going to be
14 helpful as to the sessions tomorrow, and they are also
15 going to be important as we think about the challenging
16 issues related to drug development in this particular
17 disease area.

18 And so we want this, like I said, to be fair.
19 So you're willing to work with me, and I am willing to
20 change the system, and hopefully my panel here is going
21 to allow me that. They'll give me some daggers if I
22 let the time go too long, but let's give it a try.

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1 So our first speaker -- it's not on there
2 yet. Okay. So the first speaker that I have on the
3 list is Ms. Courtney Alexander? Is Ms. Alexander here?

4 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Michael --

5 MS. TOIGO: Changed. Okay. So Mr. Michael
6 Walzer?

7 (No audible response.)

8 MS. TOIGO: Okay. How about Ms. Anita
9 Patton? Okay. Anita, do you want to come up the
10 microphone, or are you going to -- okay.

11 And so Steven Chilinski is next. So if
12 you're going to be -- just so you're ready.

13 MS. PATTON: Hello. Thank you. Sorry, there
14 were a lot of cords over there, I didn't want to fall.

15 MS. TOIGO: Okay.

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you for having this drug
17 development meeting. I think it is incredibly valuable
18 and a pleasure to be here.

19 I would say so similar, so many things, about
20 what so many patients have talked about today except
21 that I think it naturally falls into several different
22 subsets, like some people have sudden onset, slow

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1 onset, some people have low NK cells, low IgG, high
2 viral titers, high cytokines. Those type of things our
3 doctors could get together, just an idea, get together
4 a subset and really put their research, their science,
5 their experience with patients, and over like some of
6 them decades, to identify which people might most
7 likely respond to much treatments.

8 And my question about the pharmaceutical
9 companies is, how can we draw them in if there is not a
10 whole lot of representation here today? How can we get
11 that and how can we facilitate faster treatments to
12 help more people?

13 MS. TOIGO: To that point, I would bet there
14 are a lot of them watching through webcasts, so they
15 are certainly probably hearing the input, and there are
16 some of them here.

17 MS. PATTON: And the last thing, of course,
18 is just that I'm an Ampligen responder, huge response,
19 15 years, long time on it, and I'm disappointed that it
20 wasn't approved, and hoping like, is there any way we
21 can put some sort of another trial or another type of
22 investigation to say that the people who did respond,

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1 why did they? And how can we help? I mean, there
2 would be hundreds, maybe thousands, of people who could
3 have a response if there was some sort of global trial,
4 another one, that would be done.

5 MS. TOIGO: Okay. Thank you for those
6 comments.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. TOIGO: The point of this is not for us
9 to be responding, this is the Open Public Session and
10 we're taking your comments.

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

12 MS. TOIGO: So next on our list -- thank you
13 -- is Steven Chilinski?

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Courtney
15 Alexander.

16 MS. TOIGO: Courtney Alexander. Okay. I'm
17 sorry. I've got a different list here, and I better
18 look at the screen. It's been revised three times. I'm
19 sorry. Courtney, please go ahead.

20 DR. SMITH: I'm not Courtney.

21 MS. TOIGO: That's right.

22 DR. SMITH: I know. But I'm standing in for

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1 Courtney. I am Dr. Janet Smith, and I am on the board
2 of Simmaron Research, which is Dr. Daniel Peterson's
3 foundation that he founded, and what we are trying to
4 do is scientifically redefined CFS/ME. So we are
5 strictly trying to do the science part. But today what
6 I would like to do is plead with the FDA and with this
7 panel to go along with the guidelines that just came
8 out with the Alzheimer's, with the looser rules on
9 approving Alzheimer's drugs, I would like to plead that
10 that would go along with looser rules for approving
11 drugs for CFS/ME since there are no approved drugs.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. TOIGO: Thank you. Okay. We'll try one
15 more time. Steven Chilinski?

16 (No audible response.)

17 MS. TOIGO: No? Okay. So next we have Judy
18 Mikovits. I know Judy is here because I talked to
19 Judy.

20 DR. MIKOVITS: You did. I'm Dr. Judy
21 Mikovits, and my travel expenses have been covered by
22 several physicians and several patients. So I'm just

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1 going to read because I want to make it quick and I
2 could talk forever.

3 We do not know the causes of multiple
4 sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease,
5 lupus, or ME/CFS. All of these serious debilitating
6 diseases have abnormalities of the immune system and
7 inflammation in common, if not central, components.

8 We made a handout, and many of you have it
9 today, the people who sponsored my travel, of just a
10 few of those biological abnormalities, the clinical lab
11 tests, and the drugs with potential for repurposing.
12 The FDA has just approved dimethyl fumarate as an
13 immune modulator, an antioxidant for treatment of
14 multiple sclerosis. The bright focus in Alzheimer's
15 drug discovery foundations just announced a Phase I
16 clinical trial of bexarotene, an FDA-approved cancer
17 drug which acts on retinoid receptors like Vitamin D
18 and thyroid receptors, which are both abnormalities on
19 this list, known abnormalities tested in ME/CFS.

20 In Norway, oncologists Drs. Fluga and Mellan
21 just completed last year a small clinical trial of FDA-
22 approved cancer drug Rituxan with success in about 30

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1 percent of the patients. The logical next step to do
2 in this trial and with the Ampligen responders and non-
3 responders is gene expression, in fact, profiling, and,
4 in fact, immune profiling to determine the difference
5 between responders and non-responders at the molecular
6 level.

7 The FDA has demonstrated its commitment by
8 holding this unprecedented meeting, and we thank you.
9 Drugs which are FDA approved are generally safe in
10 humans. And, of course, everything has its risks. In
11 serious diseases without treatments, a classification
12 FDA recently gave ME/CFS, the benefits far outweigh the
13 risks.

14 For advocacy groups here today and those
15 listening, I encourage you to fund these clinical
16 trials with the drug companies, fund these follow-up
17 studies profiling responders and non-responders to
18 divide patients that exhibit different levels of
19 disease activity, prognostication and possibly insights
20 into pathophysiology as these MS and Alzheimer's
21 disease foundations have done. The technology and
22 expertise exists. The absence of a causative agent

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1 should not leave this field floundering any longer.

2 It's a new era for ME/CFS treatment.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, Judy. And I think we
5 got those documents, but it would be good if you would
6 submit those to the public docket so that they're
7 officially then included in the record as part of your
8 presentation.

9 DR. MIKOVITS: We will.

10 MS. TOIGO: Okay. Thank you.

11 Next we have Derek Enlander.

12 DR. ENLANDER: Good afternoon. I am from the
13 Mount Sinai Medical School in New York. About a year
14 or so ago, we actually received a million dollar grant
15 from one of my patients, and the dean of the medical
16 school said, "Oh, that's very generous of you. Let's
17 actually form an ME/CFS Center," and indeed actually we
18 formed an ME/CFS Center at Sinai, and our first project
19 was to prove whether GET, graded exercise therapy, was
20 appropriate in this disease. We actually have got
21 undergoing the research in post-exertional malaise, and
22 we actually expect to look at 150 controls and 150

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1 patients in this disease. We are actually going to
2 look at the usual array of cytokines, the usual array
3 of immune markers, but we are also going to include
4 genetic studies with a geneticist, Eric Schadt. Eric
5 Schadt seems to be actually well known amongst all the
6 genetic people that I've ever spoken to. We've got
7 actually a series of 39 pages of the genome study on
8 our first patients. It is a most remarkable genetic
9 study. And we are not actually going to look at
10 whether in fact graded exercise therapy is the correct
11 method or approach and we will actually prove or
12 disprove the PACE idea.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, Dr. Enlander. If
16 there is any additional information related to your
17 talk that you want to submit to the docket as well, we
18 would welcome you to do that. Thank you.

19 Next, Gisela Morales-Barreto. And I'm not
20 sure if I got that right. I tried to catch people
21 whose names I wasn't sure of before.

22 DR. MORALES-BARRETO: No, you didn't, but you

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1 tried very well.

2 (Laughter.)

3 DR. MORALES-BARRETO: And thank you for
4 acknowledging that because not everybody, as I said,
5 takes the time to ask, you know, the question.

6 First and foremost, thank you very much for
7 putting this and making this happen in such a
8 compassionate way today. I am very pleased and happy
9 to be here.

10 I am Dr. Gisela Morales-Barreto. And I am
11 here today as a caregiver of an individual that I love
12 dearly and has been sick for the last 6 years. I am
13 not going to bother you with the symptoms because they
14 are pretty much what has been said all afternoon. She
15 has suffered a lot, and we were blessed at some point
16 in time to be -- I was driving to work and I heard it
17 on NPR, the voice of Dr. Peterson. So she moved a year
18 ago -- well, over a year ago, to Incline Village, and
19 she came back a couple of months ago, but she also came
20 back herself again in many, many ways.

21 Being an active observer of all those
22 symptoms that she has had has not been easy, and

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1 watching a person that moved literally at the speed of
2 light to be limited for a long time to bed for days,
3 months, and years really has been demoralizing and
4 emotionally draining.

5 I am a cancer survivor, and when I had
6 cancer, I had options for treatment. This population
7 has really options that are not really approved by
8 anybody and guaranteed that you are going to get cured.
9 Here, after almost 12 years, and I know that if I get
10 sick again, God forbid, I can go back and find
11 treatments that have been approved. For me, the big
12 elephant in the room after everything that has been
13 said is the fact that we need the pharmaceutical
14 companies, FDA cannot do it alone, and we need the
15 pharmaceutical companies to come and play the game.
16 The only way I honestly think, as a psychologist, is to
17 also invite them with your approval. I think the FDA
18 approval will open up the doors for the pharmaceuticals
19 to say, "Yes, we can. Yes, we can help."

20 So I already saw the hand, but I really
21 implore you to look into this from that point of view.
22 If you approve any drug with whatever the name is --

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1 Ampligen will be nice, but if it's not Ampligen,
2 anything -- that will support the patients, it will
3 open the door for more research and more pharmaceutical
4 people coming into this.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, Dr. Morales-Barreto.

8 MS. MORALES-BARRETO: Good.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MS. TOIGO: And I skipped Mr. Thomas Equels?
11 Close?

12 MR. EQUELS: That's it.

13 MS. TOIGO: Okay. My apologies. These don't
14 work for up here, and that one I'm obviously not very
15 good at either. So --

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. EQUELS: I'm a little tall for this one,
18 too.

19 First of all, I want to thank everybody,
20 Admiral Kweder, the FDA staff, and most of all, all of
21 the patients and clinicians that have taken the time to
22 come here today.

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1 I am the Executive Vice Chairman of
2 Hemispherx Biopharma, and we have an experimental drug
3 that you've heard about, Ampligen. I would like to
4 just share a few words about how Hemispherx and
5 Ampligen got involved with CFS. We were actually, over
6 30 years ago, asked by the FDA to get with I believe it
7 was with Dr. Peterson and Dr. Lapp with an unusual
8 thing that they had out there called the Tahoe flu and
9 to provide our drug on an experimental basis for a
10 female subject who had a remarkable recovery. And I
11 believe there were about 12 additional subjects that
12 were approved that did extremely well. That was over
13 30 years ago, and we're here today, and it's been a
14 long and difficult journey for a small company such as
15 ours, but we're participating in this process because
16 we know that there are thousands of Americans that are
17 disabled, seriously disabled, we know from the research
18 that we've reviewed that these people have their lives
19 shortened probably due to the medication that they're
20 on and the disease by decades. And we believe we can
21 contribute to that process. And we responded when you
22 asked us 30 years ago to come to the table and work,

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1 and we've toiled in this vineyard for many years, and
2 we make our commitment that we will be 110 percent with
3 you, and with you, to make this happen.

4 Now, we know from the HIV/AIDS epidemic that
5 when there are no drugs, the results are dire, and we
6 believe that where subsets can be identified where a
7 drug can be effective, whether it be Ampligen or some
8 of the other drugs, that where there is an unmet
9 medical need, there should be some form of expedited
10 approval applied.

11 I would like to mention --

12 MS. TOIGO: You've got about 30 seconds.

13 Okay?

14 MR. EQUELS: Okay -- three articles that I
15 think warrant a lot of study, causes of death among
16 patients with chronic fatigue, which deals with cardiac
17 death increases, and shortening of mortality, cardiac
18 toxicity in chronic fatigue syndrome, which deals with
19 the effect of all of these -- you've heard about
20 probably 35 or 40 different medications, all of which
21 have severe -- not all of which -- some of which have
22 severe side effects and the impact, and then a double-

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1 blind, placebo-controlled randomized clinical trial of
2 the TLR3 agonist, that study has to do with the
3 exercise issues, and how that may have an effect.

4 Now, we have expended a great deal of time
5 and a great deal of money to get to where we are today,
6 and I just want to say that we are prepared to enter
7 into not a legal partnership, but a real partnership,
8 with the FDA, with the clinicians, and with the
9 patients to bring relief for these people who so
10 desperately need it.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, and thank you for
14 paying attention to the hand signals.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MS. TOIGO: Mr. David Strayer.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: He'll be here.
18 So save 2 minutes.

19 MS. TOIGO: Ah, see? Okay.

20 So Dr. Dan Peterson.

21 DR. PETERSON: Thank you. I am here today
22 representing myself as a caregiver but of approximately

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1 9,000 patients over the last 30 years --

2 (Applause.)

3 DR. PETERSON: -- which has given me a bit of
4 experience on the front of the disease, the front
5 lines, as they say. And on behalf of these patients,
6 their families, and really even their physicians, I
7 implore this esteemed gathering and committee to not
8 only devise, but to execute a therapeutic strategy,
9 which is much needed.

10 The federal diagnostic criteria were
11 established more than 25 years ago, even though they
12 were revised a few times. The CDC has identified,
13 counted, surveyed, and queried an estimated 1 million
14 people in this country suffering from the disorder. The
15 attended disability and poor prognosis has been
16 documented worldwide by families, physicians, and the
17 patients. The estimated cost hit to our country is \$9
18 billion a year, a diagnostic marker would yield a
19 company \$250 million a year, a therapy probably in the
20 billions of dollars, yet 25 years later we have no FDA
21 approved drug for this indication, or therapy.

22 So the heterogeneous nature of the disorder

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1 has been a problem, obviously, and I see that as an
2 invitation or a beg to study subsets in this disease
3 that have the same pathogenic mechanisms. Over this
4 25-year period of therapeutic stagnation, there have
5 been thousands of peer-reviewed articles published with
6 respect to pathogenesis, but it's difficult to connect
7 the dots. I'll just mention a few. Worldwide, the
8 number one immunological marker is low NK cell
9 function. MRI scans are abnormal by everyone who has
10 looked at them. SPECT scans are abnormal. Low VO2 max
11 and stress testing is a universal finding. Many
12 clinicians are already utilizing these markers and
13 endpoints in their own practices as they treat these
14 patients to document efficacy or to teach us more about
15 the disease.

16 Symptomatic therapy, unfortunately, I think
17 is useful in quality of life, but I have not seen it
18 return patients to full functional physical nor
19 cognitive conditions. I think targeted immunological
20 therapy has a possibility to do that.

21 On behalf of clinicians worldwide -- you may
22 not know this -- we already have established

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1 consortiums and collaborations worldwide with
2 multicenter primary care clinics that are ready and
3 willing to do pilot projects, Phase I, II, and III
4 clinical trials, and more, and I know we're all
5 committed to doing this.

6 So I implore again this committee to take
7 some action to support the private sector, to use the
8 resources of the Federal Government, its science, its
9 personnel, its computing capacity, et cetera, to
10 develop safe and effective therapies.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. TOIGO: Thank you.

14 Mary Silvey?

15 (No audible response.)

16 MS. TOIGO: Eileen Holderman?

17 (No audible response.)

18 MS. TOIGO: James Baraniuk?

19 Oh, I'm sorry. Eileen? Okay.

20 MS. HOLDERMAN: Good afternoon. My name is
21 Eileen Holderman. I'm an independent advocate for ME.
22 Thanks to the FDA for hosting this conference and

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1 giving me the opportunity to speak. I would like to
2 address a concern, and that is the concern of the name
3 of the conference, which doesn't really distinguish
4 between myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue
5 syndrome. There are 1 million American men, women, and
6 children suffering with ME, 17 million worldwide, and
7 unfortunately in 1988, the CDC renamed it chronic
8 fatigue syndrome, which is unscientific and dismissive,
9 and it was further compounded by definitions that
10 included the empirical Oxford definition which just
11 states one symptom, fatigue, to have it, and today you
12 heard multitudes of symptoms that really describe this
13 disease.

14 The results of the faulty definitions have
15 caused muddied research, the inability to replicate
16 findings, no universal biomarkers, drug development
17 without target audience, erroneous medical information
18 on websites, bad media and press, skewed public
19 perception, and, most importantly, neglect and harm
20 inflicted on patients who truly have ME. The disease
21 costs the nation billions in lost productivity, tax
22 revenue, and medical benefits. The funding for this

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1 disease has been abysmally low and it needs to be
2 commensurate with the disease burden.

3 The solution is that all the government
4 agencies, the scientific, medical, academic, legal,
5 advocate, and patient communities must come together
6 and adopt the Canadian Consensus Criteria and to
7 dismantle the use of CFS and move research and
8 treatment forward to help the over 1 million Americans
9 with this disease.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. TOIGO: Thank you.

13 Okay. Dr. Barraniuk?

14 DR. BARRANIUK: Thank you very much for
15 letting me speak. I'm Jim Barraniuk. I'm from
16 Georgetown. I wanted to applaud Badrul Chowdhury and
17 his crew for taking on this very great challenge. All
18 the best.

19 I also wanted to tell you that it's not all
20 doom and gloom. We have started publishing the results
21 of our studies from Gulf War illness patients who also
22 meet chronic fatigue syndrome criteria, only about half

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1 met fibromyalgia criteria. We have identified three
2 separate dimensions of exercise-induced fMRI changes
3 that we believe we may be able to apply to chronic
4 fatigue syndrome.

5 First off, we have identified a white matter
6 abnormality that separates the GWI CFS people from
7 healthy controls. We have two mutually exclusive bold
8 blood flow responses to exercise that subdivide into
9 four mutually exclusive groups and I think begins to
10 address the issue of heterogeneity, and with these,
11 they're purely objective. You can't use any subjective
12 criteria to define them in advance.

13 So the simple message is all of these
14 subjective criteria that we're using for these
15 subjective syndromes we're going to get rid of, we're
16 going to have objective diseases, we're going to have
17 objective diseases that will end up in Harrison's
18 Textbook of Medicine.

19 (Laughter.)

20 DR. BARANIUK: A little bit, since I have 30
21 seconds, my complex message here is that what we
22 identified is a problem in the right inferior fronto-

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1 occipital fasciculus, a white matter tract that
2 connects the pre-frontal lobe here that deals with
3 fatigue and valuation of pain. It moves and connects
4 with the insula, which deals with phantom pain, the
5 emotional link of how much pain means to you. And it
6 tracks posteriorly to involve the working memory, the
7 default network, which is your mind wandering or
8 daydreaming that all of a sudden breaks up your
9 thoughts. It also connects your dorsal and ventral
10 attention networks, which are the systems for
11 maintaining your focus. And if you think about the
12 cognitive dysfunction, the exercise-induced exertional
13 exhaustion, that's what are model is demonstrating
14 abnormalities in, and based on this, we're hoping we
15 don't get sequestered --

16 (Laughter.)

17 DR. BARANIUK: -- and we actually get some
18 funds to keep going.

19 Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. TOIGO: Thank you.

22 And again just a reminder to you and to

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1 anyone else, anything that you want to submit to
2 supplement your public comments, please submit them in
3 writing to the docket.

4 So next we go to Mr. Charles Lapp.

5 So, see, you're all proving me wrong, nobody
6 has sat down, so everybody has come up to the podium.

7 (Laughter.)

8 DR. LAPP: Thank you for this opportunity.
9 I'm Charles Lapp. I'm a physician from Charlotte,
10 North Carolina, and I've been treating patients with
11 chronic fatigue syndrome since 1985, and I've been
12 using Ampligen since 1988. My expenses today will be
13 kindly reimbursed by Hemispherx, but I am not here to
14 speak for them, I'm here to speak for the patients and
15 say that in the 28 years -- or 25 years that I've been
16 using Ampligen, we've had excellent success. I
17 reviewed our records recently, and it shows that over
18 50 percent of our patients have responded very nicely
19 to Ampligen and about 30 percent have very significant
20 improvements, which is sort of a disconnect from the
21 data. You know, we chose the endpoints from the
22 Ampligen studies many, many years ago, and there seems

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1 to be a disconnect from the endpoints that we are using
2 to measure the effect compared to the patients' global
3 impression of change and the physicians' global
4 impression of change. We see patients who are treated
5 with Ampligen, as you've heard here today, who have
6 seen remarkable improvements and have been able to
7 return to gainful occupations, school, and work.

8 I guess the most important thing that I can
9 say -- there are two points that I would make today.
10 One is that in all of the years that I have been
11 administering Ampligen, we have not had a serious side
12 effect from this drug. There are not many drugs that
13 you can say that about.

14 And the second thing is that I think history
15 will show that when a new drug is brought into a field,
16 for example, when AZT was approved for AIDS or when
17 interferon was approved for multiple sclerosis, there
18 were many other players, many other pharmaceutical
19 houses, that got into the field, and it really opened
20 up the treatment of these two illnesses. We hope that
21 perhaps Ampligen will do that for chronic fatigue
22 syndrome.

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1 Thank you for your time.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, Dr. Lapp.

4 Steven Lempert.

5 DR. LEMPert: I'm Dr. Steven Lempert. I have
6 no financial interests.

7 Approximately 70 percent of patients tested
8 in a 1994 study of chronic fatigue syndrome were
9 positive by culture for HHV-6. There is a subgroup of
10 CFS patients with active HHV-6 infection on culture.
11 Characterization by nested polymerase chain reaction
12 has indicated predominantly HHV-6A more frequently than
13 HHV-6B. In the paper by Dr. Ablashi entitled,
14 "Ampligen Inhibits Human Herpesvirus 6 In Vitro," viral
15 replication was inhibited by 46 to 98 percent. The in
16 vitro antiviral effects reported by Dr. Ablashi for
17 Ampligen appears to translate clinically to being
18 effective in vivo in severely sick CFS patients. Mary
19 Schweitzer was HHV-6A positive before Ampligen and
20 negative on Ampligen three times.

21 Ampligen converts an active HHV-6 infection
22 into a quiescent or latent herpesvirus with marked

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1 recovery of both the patient's health and functioning.
2 Patients severely afflicted with a neurovirulent human
3 herpesvirus 6A, as occurs in subgroups with chronic
4 fatigue syndrome and progressive multiple sclerosis,
5 have died without an effective antiviral such as
6 Ampligen.

7 Ampligen infusions target a presumptive viral
8 trigger in a subgroup of patients with CFS. Antiviral
9 Ampligen needs to be transferred to the FDA antiviral
10 division and reevaluated now rather than wait another
11 10 to 20 years.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, Dr. Lempert.

15 Mr. Dwight Merriman?

16 (No audible response.)

17 MS. TOIGO: Joan Grobstein? I know she's
18 here. Grobstein, I'm sorry, Grobstein.

19 DR. GROBSTEIN: I would like to sit.

20 MS. TOIGO: Okay.

21 DR. GROBSTEIN: Thank you. Hello. I'm Dr.
22 Joan Grobstein. I'm a physician. I've had ME for 14

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1 years. I think I might have said 13 earlier, but I've
2 lost count.

3 FDA is faced with a great responsibility to
4 encourage rapid development of treatments for this
5 serious disease. There are several important issues to
6 keep in mind in this process. It's extremely important
7 when evaluating drugs to make sure that this patient
8 population is well defined. I strongly suggest that
9 the FDA require the use of the Canadian Consensus
10 Criteria for all studies.

11 In order to better define the patient
12 population, FDA should also make the validation of
13 biomarkers a very high priority. As you have heard
14 today, patients have many measurable abnormalities.
15 It's important to distinguish between therapeutic
16 agents that treat symptoms versus agents that treat the
17 underlying cause of ME. Although the underlying cause
18 is still unknown, it's very possible to treat symptoms.
19 It's also possible to treat associated infections even
20 if the infection is not the sole cause of the disease.
21 It's very likely that multiple agents will have to be
22 used concomitantly to treat this multisystem disease.

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1 This reality should be addressed in the design and
2 evaluation of drug trials. Outcome measures must
3 reflect the impact of ME on patients' lives. Small
4 improvements in function are extremely important to
5 patients, and we're willing to tolerate risks to get
6 those improvements.

7 Finally, the FDA should demonstrate a sense
8 of great urgency to evaluate therapies for ME. As you
9 know, there are currently no approved treatments.
10 Patients are paying for expensive efficacious
11 treatments like Ampligen and Rituxan out of pocket,
12 causing financial harm on top of physical disability.
13 It is FDA's responsibility to remedy this situation.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, Dr. Grobstein.

17 Jeannette Burmeister.

18 MS. BURMEISTER: My name is Jeanette
19 Burmeister, and nobody has paid for my expenses to be
20 here. I'm here to urge the FDA to play a more
21 proactive role in working with Hemispherx towards the
22 accelerated approval of Ampligen. Quite obviously, a

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1 subgroup of ME patients has been identified as a result
2 of being Ampligen responders, and a tremendous amount
3 can be learned from that, yet one gets the impression
4 that the Agency is not all that interested in the drug.
5 Ampligen is not even a topic at this drug development
6 workshop.

7 Dr. Peterson, the physician with the most
8 experience and success in administering the drug, and
9 many other treatments as well, has not even been
10 invited to one of tomorrow's panels. I'm happy to see
11 that he got at least a two-minute slot today.

12 At the Ampligen FDA Advisory Committee
13 meeting, the FDA stated that there is no path for an
14 Ampligen approval on an accelerated approval process.
15 No explanation was given for that. In contrast, the
16 FDA has recently developed new guidelines for an
17 accelerated approval process for Alzheimer's drugs for
18 patients who are not even sick yet. Why the
19 drastically different standard? I wonder.

20 Looking back at the approval of AZT as the
21 first drug to treat HIV and AIDS, it becomes clear that
22 the FDA does indeed have discretion to adopt looser

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1 rules if the circumstances warrant it. At the end of
2 last year, the FDA approved, again under accelerated
3 approval program, Sirturo, a drug to treat
4 tuberculosis, that is five times more likely to kill
5 patients than the standard drug treatment for the
6 disease without proof of increased efficacy.

7 I am not so convinced that the FDA's hands
8 are bound when it comes to an accelerated approval of
9 Ampligen. Instead, it seems that an unfortunate double
10 standard applied by the FDA to ME and Ampligen compared
11 to other diseases and other drugs has Ampligen headed
12 straight towards the cliff as Hemispherx as running out
13 of money and the drug is going away potentially
14 forever.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. TOIGO: Thank you, Ms. Burmeister.

18 And I have three more names that are not on
19 the slide, but Mindy Kitei, K-I-T-E-I? I'm sorry, I
20 don't know if I got that even close.

21 MS. KITEI: Kitei.

22 MS. TOIGO: Kitei, okay, Kitei.

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1 MS. KITEI: My name is Mindy Kitei, and I'm a
2 science reporter and blogger at CFS Central. In 1994,
3 I wrote an investigative piece for Philadelphia
4 Magazine called "The AIDS Drug No One Can Have," about
5 the experimental drug Ampligen. But I'm here today to
6 say that it's vital that the FDA understands one thing,
7 much of the data on this disease is useless because
8 CDC, and before that the NIH, have not been studying
9 patients with ME. They are not studying patients with
10 natural killer cell defects, VO2 max abnormalities, or
11 abnormal tilt table tests. They are not studying
12 patients who meet the Canadian Consensus Criteria for
13 the disease or the International Consensus Criteria.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. KITEI: While the different definitions
16 can get incredibly confusing, you need to know one
17 thing, the Fukuda and the revised Fukuda, also known as
18 the empirical definition, as well as the Oxford
19 definition, and the Holmes definition of this disease
20 are not accurate, yet CDC uses these definitions
21 instead of the Canadian Consensus and the International
22 Consensus, which are accurate.

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1 Dr. Leonard Jason, of DePaul University, has
2 shown in published studies that CDC, in employing the
3 empirical definition, is studying patients with major
4 depressive disorder, not patients with ME. That's like
5 doing an HIV trial and none of the people are HIV-
6 positive.

7 As a result of studying the wrong cohort,
8 doctors are misinformed. Dr. Lisa Corbin said recently
9 that she tells her patients that, "Monday is for
10 mending, Tuesday is ironing." I found her advice to
11 be, in a word, clueless, but typical of the help ME
12 patients receive. Imagine giving this hokey advice to
13 patients with HIV or MS. ME patients want and need
14 treatment, not patronizing bromides.

15 Five of the patients I interviewed in 1994
16 for the article on Ampligen have died, one of them a
17 good friend of mine, three of them in their forties and
18 fifties. Do you really think that these patients would
19 be alive today if only they had done their mending on
20 Monday?

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MS. TOIGO: Thank you.

2 Next is Mr. John Kalns, K-A-L-N-S?

3 DR. KALNS: Hi. I'm an owner of a small
4 company called Hyperion Biotechnology. I am not really
5 a CFS or ME person. We had this audacious idea in 2004
6 that we could measure fatigue by evaluating changes in
7 the composition of saliva. The Army was very
8 interested in this topic because a lot of folks that
9 were fighting over there were profoundly fatigued.
10 Since then, we published a number of papers about the
11 use of this biomarker. There are several small
12 peptides that are found in saliva that are quite
13 informative.

14 More recently, we have published or given a
15 paper at the American Association of Clinical Chemistry
16 describing application of the technology to CFS
17 patients. I have to caution that these were archival
18 saliva samples. The providence was not absolutely
19 certain, but the poster presentation, as presented, got
20 an award at this annual meeting, and it's a pretty
21 well-attended meeting.

22 I guess why I'm here ultimately is to pose a

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1 question. I need spit.

2 (Laughter.)

3 DR. KALNS: I need spit from CFS patients, I
4 need spit from control patients or control people.
5 There are a lot of flaws, and I'll be the first to
6 admit that there are some serious flaws with the small
7 cohort that we looked at in CFS patients. And I don't
8 want to step on any toes or get anybody ruffled, and I
9 am very cognizant of the XMRV debacle.

10 I would say that if there are investigators
11 out there that have protocols that are ongoing, please
12 talk to me. I want to get that saliva. I would
13 require that the saliva samples, if sent to me, are
14 blinded; I don't want to have any bias, I don't want to
15 -- if it doesn't pan out, it doesn't pan out. The big
16 market for us is in assessment of fatigue in healthy
17 people, not in sick people, but I really think that
18 this technology might have a lot of applications in
19 terms of evaluating new drugs, in terms of efficacy,
20 maybe in predicting crashes. There could be a lot of
21 potential here. But come talk to me. I'll be here
22 tomorrow as well.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. TOIGO: Thank you.

3 And, Ms. Diane Lewis? Do you want a
4 microphone, Diane?

5 MS. LEWIS: I hope I can do this because my
6 laptop hasn't been working all day. I am Diane Lewis.
7 I'm a licensed certified social work clinical
8 therapist. I'm here to tell you, as a professional,
9 this disease does not benefit well from CBT. But from
10 a personal note, I want to say that the distance
11 between life and death is but one step, but the
12 difference between living a daily death is a life
13 sentence with this chronic disease. The experience
14 robs you of who you are, destroys your integrity,
15 personality, and the stigma and discrimination that
16 comes with this disease is uncalled for.

17 For every attempt to step forward, the slow
18 dying nature is no longer a step forward but stepping
19 backwards with each passing day. No having medical
20 parity means that we are nonexistent in life. I spend
21 most of 75 to 80 percent of most days in bed at rest,
22 and it was easier for me as a single parent working two

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1 and three jobs and earning my two master's degrees than
2 to be sitting on the beside.

3 So today is a choice, and I know that I will
4 suffer from this, and I want to let you know that when
5 I work, I do four clinical hours of work because I stay
6 within my boundaries. That's really taxing me. In
7 order to do that, I have to stay completely in bed rest
8 with no contact at all possible on Sundays. I will
9 work my 4 hours on Monday. It will take me a long time
10 to do my notes, but then when I do come home, I am in
11 bed Tuesday and Wednesday unless I have appointments,
12 and if that means I have appointments, that extends
13 that week.

14 So I actually am living to be able to help
15 people, but I am on a palliative care plan. Medications
16 that I get I've been told by our hospital administrator
17 that, "We don't treat that disease here." You know,
18 none of the doctors will consider this disease, and so
19 every single doctor I see or get referred to will only
20 treat just the symptoms that I would come in and say
21 that was most disturbing.

22 I invest a lot of my energy and my time and

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1 efforts into energy conservation, knowing myself,
2 trying to find out ways where I can actually achieve
3 something, but know that if I have to use the cane --
4 if anybody has ever seen a social worker in hospital,
5 you know we're on the fast draw. I have to have the
6 cane to slow me down; otherwise, I am going to burn
7 out. I can eat a meal and my body will just drain of
8 energy.

9 MS. TOIGO: So you've got about 10 seconds
10 left. Do you want to wrap it up for us?

11 MS. LEWIS: Okay. But I do use a lot of
12 hydrotherapy. I benefit from soaks. But other than
13 that, my medical interventions is a mockery. I have
14 been told to do so many things, and the best treatment
15 that I've gotten is because I have taken studies from
16 Dr. Peterson, Dr. Lapp, Dr. Klimas, and I've taken them
17 to the doctors, and if those doctors will respect that
18 research, then they will give me the medication I need.
19 Otherwise, I am waiting for the last stage.

20 MS. TOIGO: Thank you for your comments --
21 (Applause.)

22 MS. TOIGO: -- and for agreeing to be the

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1 last speaker, unless I think we covered everybody who
2 didn't get on this list but had signed up. Is there
3 anybody who thought they were going to speak in the
4 Open Public Session and didn't get a chance to?

5 (No audible response.)

6 MS. TOIGO: We haven't gone over our time, so
7 if there is anybody who didn't get an opportunity and
8 has a comment that takes less than 2 minutes? One
9 minute. Okay. That's it.

10 MR. MILLER: So I also would like to thank
11 the FDA for agreeing to this meeting. I would also
12 like to thank the advocates who helped to put this
13 meeting together.

14 What I would like to kind of reaffirm and
15 reconfirm is that FDA was willing in the days of HIV
16 and AIDS to work with companies and bend the rules,
17 change the rules, alter policy, try to figure out how
18 to get a medication to people to save their lives. We
19 now have what I'm referring to as the Alzheimer's plan,
20 which I would ask the FDA to allow for Ampligen. It's
21 changing policy for patients who aren't patients yet.
22 It is willing to give people who are not actually

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1 confirmed with Alzheimer's who knows what potent drugs
2 that are going to be coming out to treat these people,
3 but FDA is willing to bend.

4 It was mentioned that Sitro (sic) -- Situro,
5 excuse me, was fast-tracked December the 31st of this
6 past year, and that this drug kills five times more
7 patients than placebo does, but somehow policy was
8 altered because there is an unmet medical need. There
9 is an unmet medical need right here and there has been
10 for a very long time.

11 And so FDA is here and Ampligen's sponsor is
12 here. There's a gap. We've got to figure out how to
13 bridge that gap. We need to get the right people in
14 the room and figure out how to do that. How do we
15 bridge it? FDA, the sponsor, the expert clinicians
16 that you heard today, and there are other expert
17 clinicians who have given Ampligen that certainly can
18 sit down and help.

19 So thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. TOIGO: Thank you. Okay. I think that
22 closes the Open Public Session. You already spoke

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1 during the open -- we need to be fair here, so I think
2 it's time now that I turn it over to Dr. Mullin to
3 close the meeting. And if there are comments that
4 didn't get into the Open Public Session or if you gave
5 your presentation and neglected to add something that
6 you thought about later, please submit your comments in
7 writing to the docket. And I really applaud the
8 speakers for working with me, and doing this without
9 our timer. This session facilitated that. We can't
10 always do that in open public meetings, but it was the
11 right thing to do here, and you proved it, and you
12 worked with me. So thank you very much.

13 (Applause.) Closing Remarks

14 DR. MULLIN: Okay, well, I just want to close
15 by thanking you again for being here today. Thank you
16 for sharing your experiences with what life is like
17 living with ME and CFS, you know, the terrible
18 cognitive and physical impacts you have been telling us
19 about, the crashes you experience, and the fear of
20 crashing and the consequences of your just trying to
21 engage in daily life the way the disease has
22 constricted your life, and managing physical pain and

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1 other problems and challenges you've told us about
2 today.

3 And thank you for sharing your experience
4 with what you've been trying to do to treat the
5 condition as best you can and the range of therapies
6 that you've described and the things that have worked
7 well and what has worked better than other things.

8 I also want to finally thank you for being so
9 generous with your time, and after spending a few hours
10 with you today, having a much better -- I know I have a
11 much better appreciation of what a sacrifice you've
12 made and really how courageous you are to have come to
13 this meeting today, knowing full well, as I now
14 understand, that you're going to have some consequences
15 for even expending the energy to be here and tell us
16 about how you're doing. And so I think that that is
17 just a tremendous courageous contribution that you're
18 making on behalf of this disease and other patients who
19 couldn't be here, and I want to thank you so much.

20 And on behalf of this Patient-Focused
21 Initiative, I think you've really set us off to a very
22 challenging start because we have to do our best to try

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1 to meet the level of contribution that you've made to
2 us. This is, as I said, a first meeting, and this is,
3 I think, a first effort for us in this area to be
4 trying to do better with trying to capture and describe
5 these quality of life and life impacts. As I said,
6 we'll have that docket open to receive more comments
7 until August. We'll be producing a summary report
8 capturing the information and having available in fact
9 the transcripts and the raw materials so people --

10 (Loud noise.)

11 DR. MULLIN: Am I doing that? Maybe.

12 And we'll be posting that and sharing that
13 with the reviewers and others. And so this has been a
14 very rich and challenging start for us.

15 So thank you again. And I hope -- I know
16 you'll have a very good day tomorrow as well if you're
17 able to be there. And I hope you have a good night.

18 (Applause.) (Whereupon, at 5:10 p.m., Day

19 One of the Drug Development for Chronic

20 Fatigue Syndrome and Myalgic

21 Encephalomyelitis: Public Workshop, Patient-
22 Focused Drug Development Meeting, was adjourned.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2 I, NATALIA THOMAS, the Court Reporter before whom
3 the foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify
4 that the proceeding was recorded by me; that the
5 proceeding was thereafter reduced to typewriting under
6 my direction; that said transcript is a true and
7 accurate record of the proceeding; that I am neither
8 related to nor employed by any of the parties to this
9 proceeding; and, further, that I have no financial
10 interest in this proceeding.

11

12

13

NATALIA THOMAS
Digital Court Reporter

14

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

2

3 I, DEBORAH ARBOGAST, hereby certify that I am
4 not the Court Reporter who reported the proceeding
5 and that I have typed the transcript of the
6 proceeding using the Court Reporter's notes and
7 recordings. The foregoing/attached transcript
8 is a true, correct and complete transcription of the
9 proceedings.

10

11

12

Date

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