

NIH Grantsmanship Workshop for Research on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)

Where have we been and why
are we here today ?

Overview

- Brief account of NIH efforts
- How the new awards are important for the future of CFS funding
- Why and how we must work together to sustain and increase funding

Program History

- Through September 1999, NIAID had sole responsibility for the CFS program
- October 1999, Drs. Varmus and Fauci recognized the need for a multidisciplinary and integrated approach encompassing the missions of many ICs
- Program was incorporated into the Office of the Director and managed by Donna Dean until transition to the ORWH

Accomplishments since April 2001

- NIH pursues integrated, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary research efforts through a Trans-NIH Working Group for Research on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome chaired by me for Dr. Vivian Pinn, the Associate Director of NIH for Women's Health
- Working Group developed an action plan to enhance the status of CFS research at the NIH and among the external scientific community

Accomplishments, continued

- Program Announcement based on recommendations from State of the Science Symposium
- Scientific Workshop: *Neuroimmune mechanisms and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Will understanding central mechanisms enhance the search for the causes, consequences and treatment of CFS?*
- Establishment of Special Interest Group on Scientific Integrative Medical Research to promote intramural interest.

Accomplishments, continued

- Publication of Science Series, first issue of which is *Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Efforts by the NIH to understand CFS and plan for future research*.
- First integrated NIH CFS website explaining our mission, efforts, and containing information for both the public and scientists. Also includes a link to a pub med search on CFS that can be customized by the user.
- <http://orwh.od.nih.gov/cfs.html>

Accomplishments, continued

- *Neuroimmune Mechanisms and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Will understanding central mechanisms enhance the search for the causes, consequences, and treatment of CFS?* (NIH Publication No. 04-5497)
- RFA OD-06-002 to explicate how the brain as the mediator of the many systems involved in , fits into the schema for understanding CFS.
- Specifically solicited proposals from multidisciplinary teams of scientists to develop an interdisciplinary approach to this topic.



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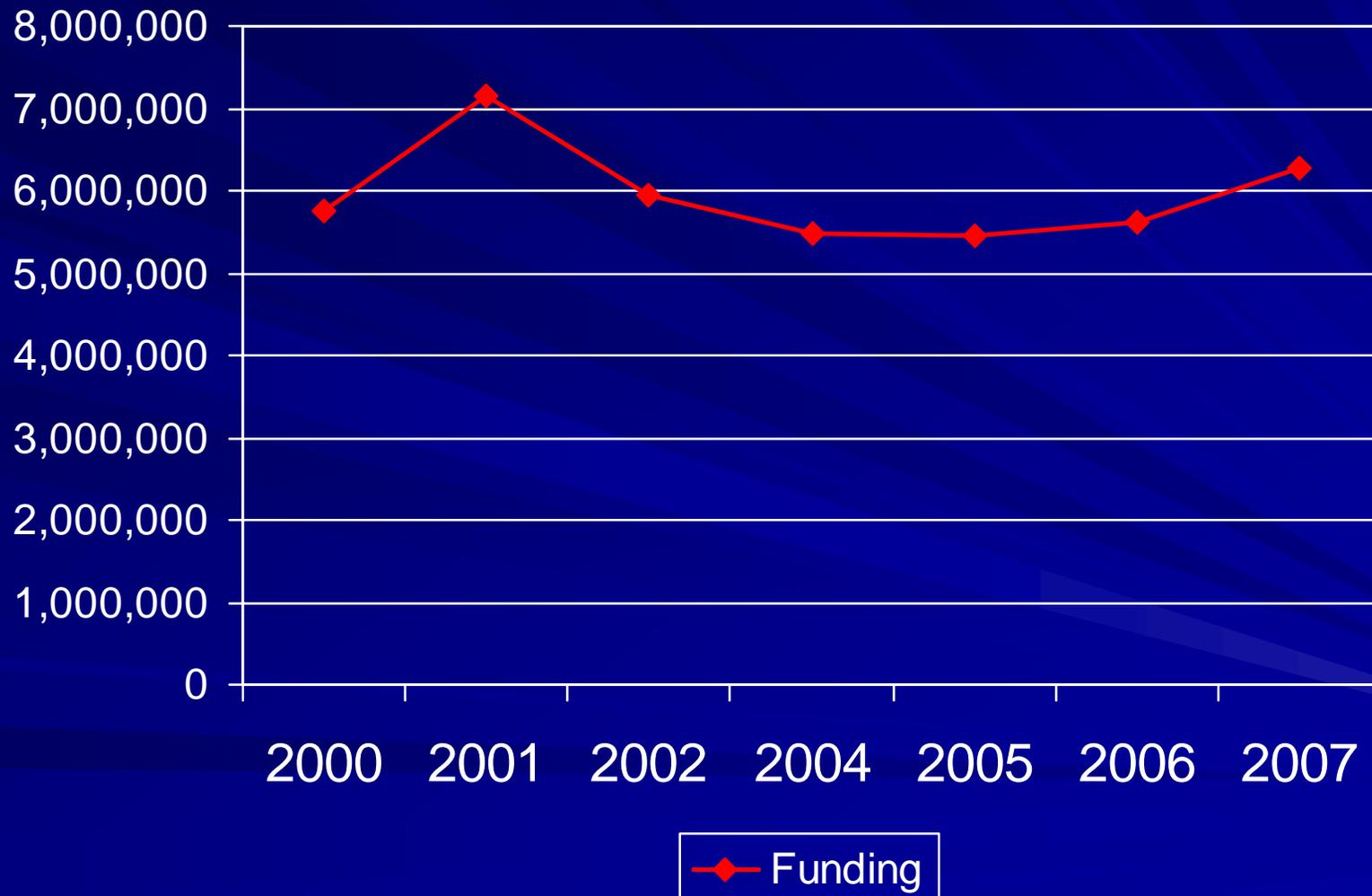
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NIH Announces Awards in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Research

The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) and the Trans-NIH Working Group for Research in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFSWG) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are pleased to announce seven (7) awards in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) research. The proposed studies will help researchers understand how the diverse symptoms in CFS are related to the interactions between the immune and neurological systems — an important step towards developing effective treatments for a disabling condition.

The awards were funded by ORWH, Office of the Director, and four member institutes: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the National Institute of Arthritis Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

CFS Funding at NIH, 2000-2006



Impact of the RFA Awards

- Funding for CFS has remained relatively stable at an average hovering at 5.5 million a year
- The new awards will increase this amount for the next 2-4 years, assuming applications remain stable or increase
- We must work collaboratively to ensure that the momentum continues

In What Context Will this Occur?

- As you know, the NIH budget is constrained and the NIH is in the process of reorganization. increases for NIH are unlikely as demand for science dollars to be spent on the physical sciences increases(NYT 1-7-07)
- Applications have increased dramatically across the NIH with success rates averaging 22% (CFS has been 24%)
- The payline is not funding the cut-off line meaning that as a percentile score moves above 1.5, the going becomes exceedingly difficult

How can these Obstacles be overcome?

- Learn as much as you can about the overall changes in the NIH structure
- Take advantage of every funding opportunity available, especially those geared toward interdisciplinary research teams
- Submit innovative work that is grounded in the advances of basic science and that holds some promise of giving new insight into CFS
- Do not get discouraged; resubmit truly innovative proposals after attending carefully to the pink sheets

How will this meeting help

- This meeting is a continuation of NIH efforts to increase researcher interest in and NIH funding for CFS. From this point on, we must work together to maintain and to exceed this new level of funding
- January tips on how to approach the grants process will be fully explicated and expanded in this meeting

How will it help after today?

- We will revise the Research Section of the CFS web-page to include this information
- The videotape of this meeting will also be placed on the website
- You will learn of new funding opportunities and have an opportunity to network today
- You will be given a tool kit to take home from the meeting

What else is planned?

- Annual meetings of Investigators as a base to build future alliances and interdisciplinary efforts
- Standing Program Announcement on CFS and send us your ideas for its reissue
- Working Group is considering sponsoring another meeting focusing on alternative treatments for CFS
- Continue to work collaboratively within and outside of NIH, especially with all of you, to encourage new research and interest in other NIH funding opportunities

ONWARD AND UPWARD

424 Conversion of Program Announcement

- [PA-07-263](#) Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Pathophysiology and Treatment (R03)
- [PA-07-264](#) Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Pathophysiology and Treatment (R21)
- [PA-07-265](#) Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Pathophysiology and Treatment (R01)
- A new program announcement will be forthcoming in time for the May 2008 Council Reviews.