

NEW FEDERALLY FUNDED GRANT: A Brain Problem is the Cause of CFS for some Patients.

For the past 12 years, Dr. Natelson and his colleague have been doing one study at a time looking at the brain as the cause of CFS. Very importantly, the group has found that some CFS patients have abnormal spinal fluid, problems doing neuro-psychological tests of cognitive function, and abnormal brain imaging studies. Dr. Natelson's group has been approved to do all these studies on the same patients. If Dr. Natelson and his colleagues find that some patients have abnormalities on all of these brain-related dimensions, that will mean that a brain problem is the cause of CFS for those patients. That will make a giant step forward in understanding the cause of CFS – at least for these patients. Finding the cause is step #1 toward developing new treatments. To allow us to move ahead, we are looking for CFS patients who either are on no brain-active medicines or are willing to come off these medicines with guidance from their doctor for a 2 week period. The research consists of neuropsychological testing, brain imaging at the Cornell Imaging Center on 71st St., and lumbar puncture.

Again, the way to participate is to fill out and send in the health screen form at our website and/or call 212.844.6747. We also need healthy control volunteers for the same studies. We reimburse healthy volunteers over \$400 to participate in the entire study, including spinal tap. By healthy we mean a person who reports being in good or excellent health and takes no meds other than birth control pills or thyroid medication for a stable thyroid inactivity.

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