



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eskoo
Eighteenth District
California*

June 22, 2015

Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director
National Institutes of Health
1 Center Drive, Room B1-126
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-0001

Dear Dr. Collins,

Thank you for your continuing efforts to strengthen NIH's attention to Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, "Beyond Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Redefining an Illness", published February 2015, and the ME/CFS P2P workshop, both confirm that future research is paramount. According to the IOM report, this under-funded and under-researched disease affects up to 2.5 million Americans. I'm interested in knowing what the next steps are for funding research into this disease to support the efforts of the numerous scientific experts that are now engaged and collaborating.

I respectfully request your response to the following questions:

- What is the strategic plan for tackling this disease, and what steps will NIH take to ensure progress continues quickly?
- Could a new "home" within one of the well-established and well-funded institutes speed progress in funding?
- Because this is a multi-system disease and might require collaboration and funding from multiple institutes, could this be a project which you personally oversee and shepherd through the process?
- Is it possible that a newly funded institute to research multi-system disorders is necessary to oversee this type of research going forward?

Given the research conducted thus far, the engagement of the community and Congress, and with many of the most brilliant scientific minds ready for the challenge, it appears that solving the problem of ME/CFS is possible.

You are uniquely positioned to help move this forward. The time has come to act boldly and bravely and make use of the scientific firepower, Congressional willpower, and renewed support from the patient community.

Thank you for your continuing focus on this disease, and I look forward to your timely reply.

Most gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anna C. Eshoo', with a large, stylized flourish above it.

Anna C. Eshoo
Member of Congress