

SUMMER 2019

THE INIM

AT NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



WELCOME

We are excited to launch our new quarterly newsletter, *The INIM*. The INIM is dedicated to sharing with you all things happening at The Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine from current research and newly awarded grants to past or upcoming conferences and new publications from our INIM team. We hope you find the information interesting, useful and informative.

We look forward to sharing the institute's continued efforts for advancing knowledge and care for people with complex neuro-inflammatory illness.



Thank you,
Nancy Klimas, M.D.
Institute Director



INIM AT IIMEC14

Presenters: Melanie Perez, Nancy Klimas M.D., Travis Craddock Ph.D., Lubov Nathanson Ph.D.

Back in May, INIM researchers attended Invest in ME Research Charity's annual research colloquium and conference on ME in London. Melanie Perez presented her collaboration in a newly published research article, *Genetic Predisposition for ME/CFS: a pilot study*, in the *Thinking the Future* conference for young/early career researchers. Dr. Travis Craddock, Dr. Nancy Klimas and Dr. Lubov Nathanson discussed current research and promoting better education about ME.



Research Spotlight!

GWI Survey Study:

The Chronic Multi-Symptom Illnesses (CMI): Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Clinical Research Study, also known as the GWI Survey Study is conducting a brief survey to learn more about certain unexplained illnesses that may be associated with the men and women in service during the Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Were you a veteran or contract worker during the Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield or Operation Iraqi Freedom or know someone who was? We'd appreciate your participation! For more information regarding this survey, please visit our research studies page or follow the link:

<https://redcap.nova.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=EHPDFDDRWY>



Nutraceutical Study for Gulf War Illness: CoQ10

The purpose of this study is to determine if treatment with ubiquinol, a form of coenzyme Q10, improves the physical function of men and women Veterans suffering from Gulf War illness. We are Located at the Miami VA Medical Center, VA Boston Healthcare System, Minneapolis VA Health Care System and the James J. Peters VA Medical Center. We are recruiting ALL Gulf War Veterans. For more information, please contact us at 305-575-7648 or email VHAMIAGWI@va.gov.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Genetic Predisposition for Immune System, Hormone, and Metabolic Dysfunction in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Pilot Study

By: Melanie Perez, Rajeev Jaundoo, Kelly Hilton, Ana Del Alamo, Kristina Gemayel, Nancy Klimas, Travis J. A. Craddock and Lubov Nathanson

The article investigates an assumed genetic predisposition to ME/CFS by conducting genome-wide single-nucleotide polymorphism, SNP, analysis to identify possible variants. 383 ME/CFS participants underwent DNA testing using the commercial company, 23andMe.

The results concluded that 5693 SNPs were found to have at least 10% frequency in at least one cohort (ME/CFS or reference) and at least two-fold absolute difference for ME/CFS. Functional analysis identified the majority of SNPs as related to immune system, hormone, and metabolic and extracellular matrix organization. Combined Annotation Dependent Depletion, CADD, scoring identified 517 SNPs in these pathways that are among the 10% most deleterious substitutions to the human genome.

