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March 2010

Dear Hunter-Hopkins Patient, .


I am excited to tell you about an opportunity to participate in CFS research. Hunter-Hopkins Center is collaborating with the CFIDS Association of America and Genetic Alliance in the effort to identify biomarkers and treatments for chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). Because you are my patient, you are eligible to participate in a new repository of blood and tissue samples and clinical information known as the **SolveCFS BioBank**. The first studies being planned for the SolveCFS BioBank will advance our understanding of the role of XMRV in CFS. You can contact the SolveCFS Biobank Coordinator who will provide you with more BioBank details. Interested persons must have a doctor's diagnosis of CFS, be at least 10 years old to participate, and must give informed consent.

As a BioBank participant, after giving informed consent you will be mailed a coded kit that you can bring to our office or take to any clinical laboratory to draw blood according to specific procedures described in the instructions. The kit will also contain a swab for you to rub against the inside of your cheek to collect cells. Both items will be returned by postage paid mail to the processing facility and will be stored until approved for shipment to qualified researchers studying CFS. You will also be asked to complete a series of confidential questionnaires about your health history, medication use, past and current symptoms and level of physical function. Throughout the entire process, your privacy and security will be protected through the use of coded materials under guidelines that have already been approved by the Genetic Alliance Institutional Review Board. You can withdraw from the SolveCFS BioBank at any time.

It's important to keep in mind that the collection of these samples and this information is being done to advance research. Therefore, you will not receive personal results about any tests performed using your samples (and neither will I). The CFIDS Association of America will periodically inform the community about how BioBank samples are being used and the results of research conducted. You may be re-contacted from time-to-time to update your information, provide additional samples as new studies are approved, or participate in other types of follow-up research.

I hope that you will take advantage of this exciting opportunity to participate in ground-breaking CFS research. For more information or to enroll, please contact the BioBank Coordinator, Gloria Smith, at 704-365-2343 or [biobank@cfids.org](mailto:biobank@cfids.org). All inquiries will remain completely confidential.

Yours truly,



Charles W. Lapp, MD

For more information about the **SolveCFS BioBank**, please contact:

Gloria Smith, BioBank Coordinator

The CFIDS Association of America

Phone: 704-365-2343

Email: [biobank@cfids.org](mailto:biobank@cfids.org)

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