



Dear Dr. Mark Berry,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's ME/CFS program is embarking on a collaborative process to assess and revise existing educational materials and create new materials to incorporate the recommendations of the 2015 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *Beyond Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Redefining an Illness*. This report proposes new diagnostic criteria that are more focused on the central symptoms of ME/CFS and designed to increase the likelihood of timely recognition and diagnosis by healthcare providers. We would like to invite your organization to participate in this collaboration by nominating a representative to serve as a member of the Technical Development Workgroup (TDW).

The role of the TDW will be to participate in a process to help identify needs and priority topics for ME/CFS information and educational materials. We anticipate that your involvement on the TDW would require about 50 hours during the next 16 months, primarily through telephone interviews, review of brief documents, and possibly one in-person committee meeting.

CDC is committed to ensuring that any educational materials are evidence-based, understandable, and useful to stakeholders. For this reason, the process for designing these materials must be a transparent collaboration that involves healthcare professionals, patients and advocates, medical educational organizations, and federal agencies. A one-page overview of the project is attached to provide you with additional information.

Thank you for helping with this much-needed effort. Please send the name, title, and contact information for your organization's nominee to our contractor support staff (Ariel Weiss, [aweiss@secure.mcking.com](mailto:aweiss@secure.mcking.com)). I am also available to answer any questions you may have. We would appreciate your response by January 4, 2016. We are confident that, with your organization's involvement, the products that emerge will have tremendous value in improving the lives of people with this serious and complex chronic disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elizabeth R. Unger".

Elizabeth R. Unger PhD, MD  
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