

# Miami

## Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Support and Advocacy Group

*Join us by attending our live meetings and by registering at our Yahoo site.  
You will receive a warm welcome!*

### **Mission:**

- **Educate** patients, family members, and healthcare providers about Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS), also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).
- **Advocate** at the local, state, and national levels to push for research and funding to discover a cause, treatment, and ultimately a cure for this illness.
- **Support** the research efforts of Nancy Klimas, M.D., by participating in her research studies and through tax deductible donations. Checks should be made payable to "Nova Southeastern University" with "Klimas-Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine" noted in the memo section on the check, and mailed to Nova Southeastern University, Institutional Advancement, 3301 College Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314.

### **Background:**

- The Miami CFIDS Support and Advocacy Group (formerly known as Miami Coral Gables CFIDS Support Group) was established in 1988, making it one of the oldest CFIDS support groups still in existence today. While we currently choose to have no "official" group leader, everyone who is capable pitches in with whatever needs to be done. Everything we do is a team effort.

### **Live Meetings:**

- Meetings are normally held once a month in the conference room at the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine (INIM) Kendall Drive site in Miami or occasionally at the INIM Nova site in Broward. The dates are flexible, and are based upon Dr. Klimas' and/or Dr. Rey's schedules and their availability to attend. The meetings are informal discussions with Dr. Klimas or Dr. Rey.
- Advance notices of the meetings are posted on our online Yahoo site.
- There is no charge for the meetings, and we welcome anyone who is interested in CFS or related illnesses. Meetings have a positive focus. Confidentiality is respected.

### **Online Community Site:**

- Many of our members are long-distance members from other areas, and many of our local members are too ill to attend live meetings. We have formed an online community site to provide everyone the opportunity to participate.
- We post information about meetings, share information, update members on the latest developments in treatment and research, and let members know quickly when advocacy issues require prompt responses. Members also post questions that other members try to answer. This site serves as an informational site, not as a forum.
- To join the online community, create a username and password at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MiamicoralGablesCFIDS> .

### **Contact People:**

- Meeting Coordinator: Barbara Soliday – [bsoliday1@gmail.com](mailto:bsoliday1@gmail.com)
- Community Moderator: Pat Sonnett – [psonnett@bellsouth.net](mailto:psonnett@bellsouth.net)