

Help Win US\$900,000 for ME/CFS Research on Facebook:

(if you are not on Facebook, perhaps you could give this to somebody who is?)

How to do it:

Do the following sometime between Thursday May 19 and Wednesday May 25, 2011 Eastern Time, USA (so people in Europe can still vote after midnight on May 26)

Step 1: When you are logged into a Facebook account, go to:

<http://apps.facebook.com/chasecommunitygiving>

Step 2: Click the "like" button near the top of the page

Step 3: Type "Whittemore Peterson Institute" in the "Search for charities" box further down the page

Step 4: Find the info on the page about "Whittemore Peterson Institute" and click on it

Step 5: Click on "Vote now"

Step 6: Go up to the "Find Charities" box and type in the "CFIDS Association of America".

Step 7: Find the info on the page about "CFIDS Association of America" and click on it

Step 8: Click on "Vote now"

**Charities only get one shot at Round 2 - they won't be eligible ever again
- so let's make the best of it**

There's also a video explaining how to vote at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0tikeIGtc4>

The CFIDS Association of America have made a video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpbWknMYw6s>

Follow the leaderboard at: <http://apps.facebook.com/chasecommunitygiving/> to see the positions – it can get exciting especially near the end when groups tend to get lots of votes.

Problems? If you have any problems voting, post on the Whittemore Peterson Institute and CFIDS Association of America Facebook pages and I and others will try to help you out.

Note: only people on Facebook can vote. It doesn't matter if you didn't vote in Round 1

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See overleaf for instructions on how to vote

Background:

A company in the US gives out millions of dollars to charities each year. One way it decides which charities should get the money is by voting competitions and see which charities get the most votes.

It has been doing this for a few years. If a charity wins money, it is not eligible to win again so a lot of the charities who are very good at getting votes have already won. However, it means we only have one shot at this.

At the moment it is running a competition just for charities that have turnovers of between US\$1m and US\$10m.

Two charities that fund ME/CFS research are in the running. They are the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro Immune Disease and the CFIDS Association of America (CFIDS = Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome). The CFIDS Association of America do various activities but have said that the winnings in this competition "will support research aimed at better diagnostics and treatments for CFS." The Whittemore Peterson Institute is a relatively new institute. It was researchers from that Institute that published the paper in 2009 linking ME/CFS with the retrovirus, XMRV.

They both came in the top 100 in round 1 (April 21-May 4) so they each have already won \$25,000.

The prizes in round 2 are:

\$500,000 to the Charity receiving the most votes (rank 1);
\$400,000 to the runner-up Charity (rank 2);
\$300,000 to the next runner-up Charity (rank 3);
\$200,000 to the next two runner-up Charities (ranks 4-5);
\$100,000 to the next five runner-up Charities (ranks 6-10);
\$40,000 to the next five runner-up Charities (ranks 11-15); and
\$20,000 to the next ten runner-up Charities (ranks 16-25).

If the placings in Round 1 were to be repeated, the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease would get \$200,000 and the CFIDS Association of America \$20,000 on top of the \$25,000 they each won in Round 1.

It is unclear how many votes will be required to get prizes. Round 2 is half as long as Round 1 so it could be a smaller amount or it could be more.

We are trying to get as many people as possible to vote. People anywhere in the world can vote. If you can get others to vote in also, it would be brilliant. In Round 1, people contacted all sorts of people to try to get extra votes.