



SolveCFS BioBank

Like you, we've got big dreams.

A big vision ... A world free of the suffering caused by CFS.

CFS is a serious and complex illness, a puzzle that has defied being solved for a quarter of a century. So what's different now? What makes us think we can change the future?

We have **you**, and a lot of people like you, who want to be part of the solution.

Together we can solve CFS.

We're working hard to change the future for the millions of people affected by chronic fatigue syndrome, CFS. Like most complex puzzles, the more people working on the problem, the more rapidly the solution will be identified.

People with CFS, their families and friends can now be a part of the solution by becoming a participant in the **SolveCFS BioBank**. Our goal is for the **SolveCFS BioBank** to be the world's largest collection of CFS blood samples and associated clinical information that will be accessible to qualified researchers with well-designed studies. Establishing this BioBank is a crucial step to finding treatments and ultimately a cure for CFS.

With the support of the Association and my fellow PWCs, I have the strength to keep battling for my health and my life."

— Anonymous CFS patient

What is a BioBank?

A BioBank is a centralized registry and sample repository containing biological samples (such as blood, tissue, cells and DNA) and clinical information obtained from patients and healthy controls aged 10 years and older interested in participating in research. Individual privacy and confidentiality are protected and samples are only made available to researchers whose projects have been reviewed and approved by the Association's Medical Research Advisory Committee.

Why do we need a BioBank?

CFS has been derailing the lives of patients and families for too long. Much of the scientific research has taken place in large hospitals or universities where patients are recruited using varying enrollment criteria. The CFIDS Association is doing something different with the **SolveCFS BioBank**. By enrolling one time, your donor sample and clinical information can be used in multiple studies, allowing for a more standardized data set for CFS research around the world. The **SolveCFS BioBank** will help accelerate research and leverage investments made to find the answers to solve CFS.

How does it work?

The first step in becoming a participant in the **SolveCFS BioBank** is to contact our BioBank Coordinator. She will explain what you need to do so you can make an informed decision. If you decide to donate your sample, you will be asked to sign a consent form. Once we have received your signed consent form, a sample collection kit will be sent to you with detailed instructions and postage-paid return mailers. You will also be asked to provide information about your health history, medication usage, family health history and current symptoms. All identifying information is removed to protect your privacy and confidentiality.

You Can be Part of the Solution

*Help make CFS widely understood, diagnosable, curable and preventable by participating in the **SolveCFS BioBank**.*

*There is a huge gap between the CFS research taking place in laboratories around the world and the impact it has on the day-to-day lives of CFS patients. Most researchers do not have access to large, well-characterized samples and clinical information from CFS patients. The **SolveCFS BioBank** provides this much needed resource in a standard, secure and cost effective manner. The **SolveCFS BioBank** provides the opportunity for **you** to participate in research conducted anywhere in the world.*



OUR COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH

The CFIDS Association of America is dedicated to fulfilling its leadership role in CFS research. A network of investigators funded by the Association is already producing results and we are now taking the next step. The **SolveCFS BioBank** is an innovative research resource that will be used for validation of promising biomarkers, genetic studies, family studies and genomics research. It will be a resource for discovery, diagnostics and targeted treatments.