

Lend us your voice!

Make your opinions count!

Participate in CFIDS Lobby Day!

Most doctors agree that chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome (CFIDS) is as **disabling** as multiple sclerosis, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, but CFIDS is among the **lowest-funded** diseases by the federal government. By lending The CFIDS Association of America your voice, you can help **fight more effectively** for increasing the amount and quality of CFIDS research.

Arrangements for Lobby Day 2003 are now being made — make sure your Congressional representatives hear the message about CFIDS — that it is **real**, it is **serious** and it needs increased **attention** — by participating in this year's event.

A mandatory, detailed training session on Wednesday, **September 17th** will get you prepared to effectively share your CFIDS experience — or that of a friend or family member — with Congressional staff members so that they can share the message with other Congressional leaders.

On Lobby Day, Thursday, **September 18th**, we will work in small, geographically determined groups to carry our message through the halls of Congress and into the offices of key legislative decision-makers — the people who determine how the federal health agencies divvy up their annual budgets.

Please help to make your Congressional representatives more responsive to CFIDS as an important public health concern by participating in Lobby Day 2003 in Washington, DC. Full details and a registration form are enclosed. For further information, contact The CFIDS Association of America (telephone: 704-364-0016, e-mail: LobbyDay03@cfids.org, fax: 704-365-9755).

The day before I went to Congress, The CFIDS Association and The Sheridan Group gave us a tremendous amount of guidance and assurance for our important day. The reference sheets that The CFIDS Association compiled were both educational and gave ease to the task at hand (portraying our life and needs to Congress).

— Ruth Pfeiffer,
Alexandria, Virginia

The attention that we were given in all of the Congressional offices, and the camaraderie with other sufferers was incredibly uplifting. Those of us who battle this illness everyday, sometimes think we are the only ones.

— Sharon Greenspan,
Chicago, Illinois

I can't tell you how attending Lobby Days changed my life. Your commitment and heart is truly appreciated.

— Elizabeth Hood-Lockhart,
Danville, California

Lobby Day 2003 Information

Please join The CFIDS Association of America for the 2003 Washington, D.C. CFIDS Lobby Day on Thursday, September 18th, with a mandatory training session on September 17th. To register, please complete and return the enclosed registration form *no later than August 1, 2003*.

We'll make appointments for you with Members of Congress and staff and we'll train you to be an effective lobbyist — all you need to do is come!

Dates & Information to Remember

- | | |
|--|--|
| Friday, August 1 | Registration form due at The CFIDS Association of America
Your timely response helps us better utilize your time while in DC. |
| Friday, August 15 | Deadline for making hotel reservations at the Wyndham City Center
(see below) |
| Wednesday, Sept. 17
1:00-5:00 pm | Mandatory Lobby Day Training Session
Wyndham City Center Hotel, 1143 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC |
| Thursday, Sept. 18
All Day | Capitol Hill Visits (Lobby Day)
Schedules will be distributed at the afternoon Training Session.
<i>Please do not make your own appointments -- we will contact Members of Congress on your behalf to arrange meetings.</i> |
| 5:30 pm | Lobby Day Wrap-Up Party
Lobby Day participants are invited to a post-Lobby Day celebration at Tom Sheridan's home to share the day's experiences and achievements. |

Hotel Information

Wyndham City Center
1143 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202-775-0800 or 800-526-7495

Room rate: \$150 (plus tax) per night. This is a group rate; when making reservations mention that you are with the **CFIDS Association Event** to receive the special rate.

Group rate reservations must be made by **August 15**. To make your reservations, call the hotel at **202-775-0800 or 800-526-7495**; you must provide a credit card to guarantee your room.

Additional preparation materials will be mailed to Lobby Day participants approximately two weeks before Lobby Day.

Please note: We will be scheduling meetings with Members of Congress on behalf of participants, so having an accurate list of attendees is important. Since illness and other complications sometimes require unexpected cancellations, we ask that you notify us at the earliest opportunity if you, or someone you have registered, will not be able to attend.

Please complete and return the attached Registration Form no later than August 1, 2003 to the mailing address or fax number below.

The CFIDS Association of America, Inc. • PO Box 220398; Charlotte, NC 28222-0398
Phone: 704-364-0016 • Fax: 704-365-9755 • E-mail: LobbyDay03@cfids.org • Web: www.cfids.org

2003 Lobby Day Registration Form

Please note: We will be scheduling meetings with Members of Congress on behalf of participants, so having an accurate list of attendees is important. Since illness and other complications sometimes require unexpected cancellations, we ask that you notify us at the earliest opportunity if you, or someone you have registered, will not be able to attend.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail (if applicable): _____

I am: a person with CFIDS a family member or friend other _____

In Washington, I will be staying:

At the Wyndham City Center (call **800-526-7495** by August 15 to make reservations)

At home or other accommodations:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Local phone: _____

Special needs (please check all that apply):

I will be participating in a wheelchair and will bring someone to help me get around.

I will be participating in a wheelchair and need a person to push my chair. (While we try to recruit healthy volunteers to push wheelchairs, *there is no guarantee that we will have enough helpers for everyone*. If you plan to use a wheelchair, please try to bring an able friend or relative to help.)

Other: _____

Meeting preferences and information:

Each meeting typically lasts 10 to 20 minutes. We will assign appointments based on advocates' home states and Congressional committee assignments. *Please do not schedule your own appointments*. We will try to accommodate your preferences (noted below), but we can't guarantee them, as we are dependent upon the availability of Congressional Members and staffers on Sept. 18.

Please schedule me on September 18 for (please check all that apply):

Morning appointments on Capitol Hill

Afternoon appointments on Capitol Hill

A maximum of 3 meetings

In addition to my home state, I have personal connections and would be willing to meet with Congresspersons from the following state(s) (if needed):

State: _____ Connection: _____

State: _____ Connection: _____

(continued)

The following CFIDS advocate(s) will be attending with me:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail (if applicable): _____

This person is: a person with CFIDS a healthy family member or friend other _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail (if applicable): _____

This person is: a person with CFIDS a healthy family member or friend other _____

Media contacts:

The CFIDS Association of America will send press releases about your participation in Lobby Day only to the members of the media you specify below. *Please note this is a change in procedure.* Political and health reporters would likely have the greatest interest in receiving this information. Call your local TV and news radio stations, newspapers, and magazines and ask for the name and address of the health or political reporters. (You may attach additional names, if you wish.)

Reporter's Name: _____

Station or Publication: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail (if applicable): _____

Reporter's Name: _____

Station or Publication: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail (if applicable): _____

Reporter's Name: _____

Station or Publication: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail (if applicable): _____

Return this form no later than Friday, August 1, 2003 to:

The CFIDS Association of America, Inc.

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