

ADAM SMITH  
9TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON  
2402 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-8901

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
3600 PORT OF TACOMA ROAD  
SUITE 106  
TACOMA, WA 98424  
(253) 896-3775  
TOLL FREE 1-888-SMITH09  
<http://www.house.gov/adamsmith/>

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4709

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN,  
TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS  
AND CAPABILITIES  
AIR AND LAND FORCES  
COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND  
THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT  
AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH  
VICE CHAIR,  
NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

October 4, 2007

The Honorable Elias A. Zerhouni  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
1 Center Drive, Room 126  
Bethesda, MD 20892-0148

Dear Dr. Zehrhouini:

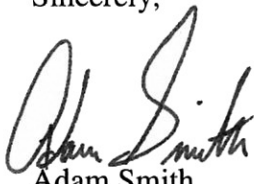
In June you received a letter from several Members of Congress requesting that you make Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) a higher priority at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). I write today to add my support for this request.

As you know, CFS, or Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction, is an illness with no diagnostic test. CFS is associated with exhaustion, widespread joint and muscle pain, problems with information processing, memory and concentration, and other debilitating physical symptoms. These symptoms vary over time and, further, researchers lack resources to find a cure or the medications necessary to treat CFS.

I would like to reiterate my colleague's support for CFS as an ideal candidate for research funding offered through the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI). Additionally, CFS seems to affect minorities in greater proportions and I would encourage the NIH to conduct research to address this issue.

CFS is increasingly prevalent and infrequently diagnosed. The illness warrants greater federal investment in research and education from the NIH. I urge you to make CFS a priority for research funding so that we can better determine the cause of the disease to create effective treatments and find a cure.

Sincerely,

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress