



K. Kimberly McCleary
President & CEO
The CFIDS Association of America

Kimberly McCleary is president and CEO of the CFIDS Association of America, the oldest and largest organization dedicated to the CFS research, advocacy and education. McCleary is a national player in the field of CFS, having worked directly with CDC Director Julie Gerberding, Assistant Secretary for Health John Agwunobi, Senators Ted Kennedy and Harry Reid, and many other national figures on CFS initiatives.

Since 1991 McCleary has led the CFIDS Association of America's education, public policy and research programs, which seek to bring an end to CFS and the suffering it causes. She is a well-known advocate for CFS and frequently travels to Capitol Hill, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other government agencies to build alliances for CFS research, funding allocations and public policy changes. She has worked closely with the CDC to build internal support and define priorities for its CFS research program and has developed and managed CDC-sponsored activities to educate health care professionals and the public about CFS. McCleary also worked closely with the Social Security Administration to develop a policy ruling identifying CFS as a potentially disabling condition, making it easier for disabled CFS patients to gain access to federal disability benefits. McCleary has also served on the Department of Health and Human Services CFS Coordinating Committee from 1996 until 2001.



Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. John Agwunobi, CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding and CFIDS Association CEO Kim McCleary

McCleary's long list of achievements includes:

- Chairing congressional briefings about CFS and testifying before Congress.
- Leading a six-year effort to hold the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) accountable for funding earmarked for CFS research. (The resulting federal investigation proved that the CDC had misallocated \$12.9 million earmarked for CFS, and it led to restoration of those funds. A real David vs. Goliath story!)
- Working closely with the Social Security Administration to develop a policy ruling identifying CFS as a potentially disabling condition, making it easier for disabled CFS patients to gain access to federal disability benefits.
- Winning *Redbook* magazine's Mothers and Shakers Award in 2001, given to 12 women who have made substantial contributions to health care.
- Being featured in *Association Management* magazine in 2002 as an individual who led an organization through tumultuous times.
- Writing scores of articles about chronic fatigue syndrome and public policy related to this illness.