



**Suzanne D. Vernon, PhD**  
**Scientific Director**  
**The CFIDS Association of America**

Suzanne Vernon, PhD, is the scientific director of the CFIDS Association of America, the nation's leading nonprofit group for education, research and public policy initiatives related to chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). Vernon leads the CFIDS Association's research program, fosters opportunities for data sharing and collaboration among CFS researchers worldwide and oversees Association-funded research grants. She is pioneering a new framework for accelerating the pace of CFS research through multidisciplinary, translational research.

Vernon has 17 years of experience as a microbiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, where she helped identify viral markers that predict cervical cancer before moving into the CFS research group at the agency in 1996. During her tenure at the CDC, her Molecular Epidemiology Program team was one of the first research teams in the world to apply human genomics and genetics to identify biologic and diagnostic correlates of CFS, helping establish Vernon's team as one of the premier CFS research groups in the world.

Vernon has considerable experience in public health service, including research in infectious diseases, chronic diseases, human genomics and state-of-the-art molecular technologies. She has managed multidisciplinary teams, resulting in the successful initiation and deployment of emerging molecular and computational technologies in government, academic and commercial settings. Vernon has earned a reputation as an expert communicator on complex scientific topics, often serving as a translator between public, medical and research audiences. This skill as a "scientific diplomat" will be needed as she takes on the enormous task of building a new model for bridging the gap between science and medicine in CFS.

Vernon's list of achievements includes:

- Leading an international, multidisciplinary team of investigators in the CFS computational medicine challenge to identify markers and empiric classification approaches for CFS. This effort resulted in the publication of 14 peer-reviewed scientific papers in a dedicated issue of the journal *Pharmacogenomics*.
- Leading a laboratory effort and being part of the first team to apply microarray technology to population-based blood samples and demonstrate that peripheral blood could be used for biomarker discovery and differentiation of people with CFS.
- Organizing and managing several international scientific workshops at the Banbury Center of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Duke University and the CDC.
- Authoring or coauthoring more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific publications (including one ISI citation classic) and six book chapters
- Contributing to the news sections of science magazines, including *Science*, *Nature* and *Science News*.