Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) or ME/CFS, is a devastating multi-system disease that causes dysfunction of the neurological, immune, endocrine and energy metabolism systems.

**DID YOU KNOW**

- ME/CFS affects an estimated 1 to 2.5 million American children and adults of all races, income levels, and geographic areas.
- 75 percent of patients are women.
- There is no diagnostic test, no FDA-approved treatment, and no cure.
- At least 25 percent of ME/CFS patients are home or bed-bound.

- People with ME/CFS have lower quality of life measurements than any other disease tested.
- 84-91 percent of ME/CFS patients either are not yet diagnosed or are misdiagnosed.
- Symptoms typically persist for years; recovery is rare.
- ME/CFS costs our economy $17 to $24 billion annually.

**AND YET**

- Multiple Sclerosis receives $115 million per year in public research funding in the United States (Source: National MS Society), while ME, which affects over one million Americans and is three times as common as MS, receives $6 million a year.

- In actual dollars, government spending on ME/CFS is less than is spent on hay fever.

- ME/CFS faces a crisis in clinical care and patients are adversely impacted by poor medical education. Fewer than 12 ME/CFS specialists are available to treat up to 2.5 million patients nationwide. Fewer than 30% of medical curricula address ME/CFS.

*Information courtesy of MEAction and SolveME/CFS Initiative. Learn more at www.timeforunrest.org.*