

THE INIM



• FALL 2020 •

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY



INIM COVID-19 Update

The Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine is taking actions to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19, while continuing to offer care and resources to our community. We want to thank each and every one of you for your patience and understanding during this uncertain time.

We have begun seeing patients at our Davie and Kendall clinics on a case by case basis and will continue to conduct Telehealth appointments.

Continue to visit our website and check our social media channels for ongoing updates.

If making a campus visit:

BE A SMART SHARK.

MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE.  <i>Handshakes and hugs aren't a good idea, but a wave and a "Fins Up!" are!</i>	USE A FACE COVERING.  <i>Cover your mouth and nose and avoid touching your face.</i>	WASH YOUR HANDS, PLEASE.  <i>Spend at least 20 seconds and use plenty of soap and water.</i>
DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME.  <i>Monitor your symptoms and call your doctor early on.</i>	KEEP IT CLEAN.  <i>Clean and disinfect all surfaces and objects you frequently touch.</i>	STAY INFORMED.  <i>Visit nova.edu/coronavirus and cdc.gov for updates and to keep yourself safe.</i>

NSU Florida

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In the News!



Dr. Nancy Klimas co-authored an article with Dr. Ana M. Palacio that was featured in *U.S. News and World Report* - "Help Is Out There for COVID 'Long Haulers'."

The article discusses the similarities between individuals with ME/CFS and COVID 'long haulers', specifically, the lack of research and ongoing challenges from providers to fatigue-related test results.

Both authors share their experience, knowledge and suggestions on how to

best handle the challenging landscape of an unresearched syndrome.

Team Members at Speaking Engagements

Dr. Nancy Klimas spoke at the Bipartisan Women's Caucus on Wednesday, August 12th for an online education roundtable, "Women's Chronic Illness During a Pandemic."

"Through the lens of ME/CFS and Migraine Disease, this virtual roundtable explored the increasing economic burden, lagging clinical care, and potential scientific opportunity of women's chronic illness during the current crisis."

A promotional graphic for a roundtable discussion. The title "WOMEN'S CHRONIC ILLNESS DURING A PANDEMIC" is prominently displayed in large white letters. Below it, smaller text reads "ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BIPARTISAN WOMEN'S CAUCUS". Underneath, the word "PANELISTS" is written in large white letters. At the bottom, there are six small portrait photos of the panelists, each with their name and affiliation listed below it.

WOMEN'S CHRONIC ILLNESS DURING A PANDEMIC
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BIPARTISAN WOMEN'S CAUCUS
PANELISTS

Jedediah Bila, TV Host & Author	Nancy Klimas, MD, Nova Southeastern University	Jaime Sanders, The Migraine Diva	Dawn Buse, PhD, Yeshiva University	Ashanti Daniel, BSN, RN, Disabled Registered Nurse	Joanna Kempner, PhD, Rutgers University



Wednesday Aug 12, 2020 | 2:30PM EST - 4:00PM EST

Visit <https://bit.ly/30ctcdx> to find our event registration link.





**IACFS/ME 2020 Virtual Conference - Friday, August 21, 2020
10 AM to 3:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time
(EDT, New York City, USA)**

In Joint Providership with



And with the Support of



Nurse Practitioner, Violetta Renesca, DNP, APRN, NP-C, IFMCP, presented "The effect of self-management group program on health status, fatigue severity, and self-efficacy in patients with ME/CFS" at the IACFS/ME Virtual Conference on August 21st.

Click on the image to access the recording. *The cost of access is \$40 USD.*

On August 18th and 19th, a number of our team members presented at the 2020 Gulf War Illness State of the Science Virtual Conference, co-hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Research & Development (ORD) and the Department of Defense (DoD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) Gulf War Illness Research Program (GWIRP).

Click on the image to access the presentation and poster session.

CDMRP Department of Defense

Gulf War Illness
2020 State of the Science Virtual Conference

Veterans Health Administration
Research Development
Improving Veterans' Lives — www.research.va.gov

Meeting Information | Post-Meeting Documents and Links | Contact Us

Gulf War Illness State of the Science Virtual Conference

The **Gulf War Illness (GWI) State of the Science Virtual Conference** is co-hosted by the [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Office of Research & Development \(ORD\)](#) and the [Department of Defense \(DoD\) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs \(CDMRP\) Gulf War Illness Research Program \(GWIRP\)](#).

The purpose of the conference is to present and advance the state of the science regarding GWI, raise awareness of the federal research funding landscape related to GWI, and to encourage collaboration and enable idea exchange among research groups and across disciplines.

The conference will include virtual research poster sessions, live oral presentations, and a Gulf War Veteran panel.

Virtual Poster Sessions

Virtual Poster Sessions: [Link to prerecorded poster sessions](#)

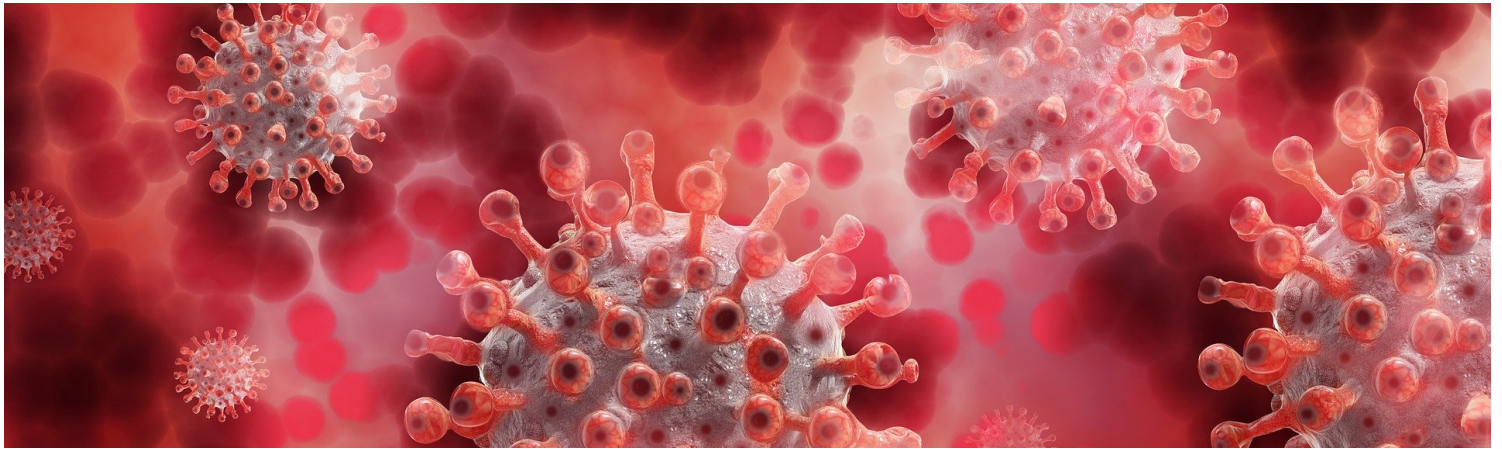
Virtual Oral Slide Presentations

Virtual Oral Slide Presentations: [Link to oral slide presentations](#)

Planner
Heather Leonard

Contact Us

New Study: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS): A Sequelae of COVID-19 Infection



As the rate of COVID-19 infection progresses in many regions of the United States, many patients, after experiencing an acute infection, continue to experience debilitating symptoms that result in a viral-induced fatigue syndrome with similar symptomatology to ME/CFS. It is well understood that viral or bacterial insult combined with other factors likely contribute to the onset of ME/CFS. However, the rate of post COVID-19 ME/CFS could drive these numbers up to staggering proportions, with one million ME/CFS cases in the U.S. today, prior to the pandemic.

Study Design

This study surveys a community-based epidemiologic population in sufficient numbers to estimate the risk of long-term after effects of post-COVID-19, following an acute infection. This part of the study will utilize two components: a longitudinal survey population and a clinic-based assessment/phenotyping population. The longitudinal survey population will comprise of a large online survey component involving the study populations and the clinic-based assessment/phenotyping population consisting of a smaller on-site component to phenotype the ME/CFS-like illness.

Two main cohorts will be used for recruitment which includes Florida Department of Health (FDOH) surveillance data and Community Health of South Florida (CHI), a federally qualified health center for a broad demographic of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. Participants cannot self-refer to this study. However, in addition to the previously mentioned cohorts, we will be working with five community-based physicians to refer participants to this study.

***Participants cannot self-refer to this study. Eligible participants will come from COVID-19 positive lists provided by the Florida Department of Health and Community Health of South Florida.**

The longitudinal survey population will be contacted at least four times a year for health and trajectory assessment over a three-year period. In the phenotyping/clinical assessment, additional survey questionnaires will be administered, along with a physical examination, echocardiogram, spirometry, laboratory testing and expert clinical examination.

Recent Publications

Obesity Worsens Gulf War Illness Symptom Persistence Pathology by Linking Altered Gut Microbiome Species to Long-Term Gastrointestinal, Hepatic, and Neuronal Inflammation in a Mouse Model

- Bose D, Saha P, Mondal A, Fanelli B, Seth RK, Janulewicz P, Sullivan K, Lasley S, Horner R, Colwell RR, Shetty AK, Klimas N, Chatterjee S. *Nutrients*. 2020 Sep 10;12(9):E2764. doi: 10.3390/nu12092764. PMID: 32927823.

Plasma proteomic profiling suggests an association between antigen driven clonal B cell expansion and ME/CFS

- Milivojevic M, Che X, Bateman L, Cheng A, Garcia BA, Hornig M, Huber M, Klimas NG, Lee B, Lee H, Levine S, Montoya JG, Peterson DL, Komaroff AL, Lipkin WI. *PLoS One*. 2020 Jul 21;15(7):e0236148. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0236148. PMID: 32692761; PMCID: PMC7373296.

Using Plasma Autoantibodies of Central Nervous System Proteins to Distinguish Veterans with Gulf War Illness from Healthy and Symptomatic Controls

- Abou-Donia MB, Lapadula ES, Kregel MH, Quinn E, LeClair J, Massaro J, Conboy LA, Kokkotou E, Abreu M, Klimas NG, Nguyen DD, Sullivan K. *Brain Sci*. 2020 Sep 5;10(9):E610. doi: 10.3390/brainsci10090610. PMID: 32899468.

POST COVID-19 CARE



Dr. Nancy Klimas, Director of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, addresses what post COVID-19 individuals can be doing if they are still not back to their usual self.

INIM WEBINAR RECAP:

- Veterans Helping Veterans Mid-Day Talk: Gulf War Illness & Research
July 10, 2020 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 - On July 10th, we hosted a webinar for Gulf War Veterans - Veterans Helping Veterans Mid-Day Talk: Gulf War
 - Illness & Research. Participants got to meet the Gulf War Illness Research Team, learn about the ease of participating in research, hear from veterans who have participated in research and learn about the various studies currently available. Click on Read More to view the slides and webinar.

[Read More](#)

Connect with us on social media to get the latest about what's happening at the INIM:

