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Research Director

# Washington Hospital Center

Section of Rheumatology

**MedStar Health**

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Dear CFSupport Group Members,

I would like to introduce myself to the CFSupport group. My name is Brian Walitt. I am a rheumatologist at the Washington Hospital Center with an interest in understanding disorders of subjective perception, such as fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome. As you well know, these disorders can cause disabling pain, fatigue, change in mental faculties, insomnia, and a host of other symptoms that are more or less invisible to outside observers. This makes these disorders frustrating for those who suffer for them, their friends and families, and for the physicians that take care of them. My goal is to perform research that will provide a better understanding of what is actually happening in these disorders. For only when we understand what has happened to those whom suffer with invisible pain and fatigue can effective relief be developed.

I am currently organizing a number of research studies looking at various aspects of fibromyalgia in Washington DC area. Some of my studies are looking at changes in brain activity, others will use computers to follow your symptoms, and others will require blood samples. I am also working with a number of collaborators in the area, such as Georgetown and the National Institutes of Health, each with their own research projects in this field as well. Success in all of these endeavors is far from certain but will be impossible without your help. My hope is that you will consider volunteering for research studies, both those taking place now and those that will be coming in the future.

If you are potentially interested in volunteering for a research study, I implore you to contact our group. At this time, we will place your contact information in our database. As new research opportunities become available, we will contact you directly with information about them. We assure you that your personal information will be kept confidential and that you can be removed from the research database at any time. Please contact us at any time at (202) 877-0922 (for Martin Cota, Research Coordinator) or email me directly at [docwalitt@hotmail.com](mailto:docwalitt@hotmail.com).

Thanks for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Walitt', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

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