March 1, 2018

Sorenson Legacy Foundation

Dear Sorenson Legacy Foundation:

I’m writing to endorse the Bateman Horne Center’s (BHC) application for your organization to support them in the ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia Flow Cytometry Research Project. BHC has been providing exemplary services to patients suffering from ME/CFS and/or fibromyalgia for several years now, and I wholeheartedly support their mission to empower patients, advance research, and improve clinical care for these patients.

As a fellow researcher, I fully support BHC’s vision of a world where patients with ME/CFS and fibromyalgia are readily diagnosed, effectively treated, and widely met with empathy and understanding.

BHC is committed to bringing these diseases into the mainstream of clinical and medical science. It is a unique example of an independent non-profit integrative health center where medical care informs research, and research informs medical care. Estimates by the CDC state that there are roughly 4,000,000 adults with ME/CFS in the US. The burden of ME/CFS is severe with up to 65% of patients unemployed or receiving disability. The majority of patients manifest one or more comorbid conditions, and many have multiple medical and psychiatric diseases that have not been diagnosed and not treated properly. Healthcare utilization costs are estimated at $14 billion nationally with an additional $37 billion in lost productivity. This profound morbidity and impact on the individual, family, society, and economy underscores the need for research to objectify ME/CFS and for quality medical care. BHC has set the goals of tripling research capacity to find biomarkers and other definitive ways of diagnosing ME/CFS, doubling clinical capacity, and increasing educational opportunities for healthcare providers, patients, family members, and the community at large about ME/CFS and fibromyalgia.

I have been a research partner of BHC on past projects, and it is uniquely qualified to perform this type of research with a stellar research team and a group of highly motivated participants already in place. This project will add information to fill a gap that currently exists in the ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia research world and will further BHC’s mission of advancing research in this area.

In summary, I believe that BHC is in a unique position to carry out this research. I highly recommend that you award the requested funds to BHC to carry out this project, which will help patients with these debilitating diseases worldwide.

Sincerely,
Alan R. Light, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
University of Utah