

Dr. Ronald W. Davis is optimistic at the 2017 Invest in ME Research Conference

(Transcript generously provided anonymously for OMF.)

Hello, I'm Ron Davis. I'm here in London at the Invest in ME conference.

This has been a pretty exciting conference. There's been a lot of progress since last year. A lot more data has been presented, about what happens with the,... with ME patients.

But what I was strictly impressed with is an effort now to try to find a treatment for this disease. It's in the early stages, and some of them are just a possibility. But it shows a real drive towards finding some treatment.

In the past it's been a usual character of compounds that people have tried over the years, without much success. And now, it's really focusing on what *really* might make a huge impact in the patients. And I was impressed with that.

A lot of effort in Norway. Excellent talks from Norway. I think they've been a phenomenal partner in this whole endeavor.

I also thought the patient day was quite good. The talks there were tailor-made for the audience, not so scientific.

But I am very optimistic that we are making great progress.

There are now sort of three areas of possible intervention. Drug intervention that people have come up with. These all have to be tried, not necessarily in patients at first, but we have to explore them extensively. And those trials might then lead to further ideas that will come up with some drugs.

So, I'm impressed with people really focusing on what's needed in the community. These are not about just getting some publications and doing the usual kinds of research. It's been very focused on 'how do we help the patients?'

And so, I think the patients should be thrilled with having these changes go on. I wish we could accelerate the pace.

NIH was represented here. Talking about their new efforts and their increased funding, and that's a great sign. We really need NIH involved in this.

There were a bunch of proposals submitted to NIH. More than they expected to get. I'm heartened by that, because I think that will show NIH that there's a real drive to work on this disease. And I think that will help to increase the funding, although there's a lot of difficulty doing research funding at the NIH at the current time.

But I think even next year we'll see some even ever-increasing progress. New people are entering the field. Young people are entering the field. It doesn't seem like the field is a dead field scientifically. It seems like an incredibly active field, with a lot more enthusiasm and desire to work in this, and to find a treatment for this disease.

Thank you very much.