

Massachusetts ME/CFS & FM Association Board of Directors (2020)

President (2019-2020): Leah Williams, Ph.D. (Physical Chemistry), is a Principal Scientist and Associate Director of the Center for Aerosol and Cloud Chemistry at Aerodyne Research, Inc. She has served on the board since 2014 and as Treasurer from 2016 to 2018, and was the Association's liaison to the federal CFS Advisory Committee for two years. She also served as Director at Large and as Treasurer of the American Association for Aerosol Research.

Treasurer (2020-2021): Susan Buckley, B.E.S., has twenty-five years of experience in publishing and bookselling, with the last fifteen years in scholarly publishing. She has held positions in sales, marketing, and acquisitions, and is currently Associate Acquisitions Editor for Education at The MIT Press. She has volunteered with the Association in event planning and held the position of Volunteer Coordinator.

Clerk (2020-2021): Alyssa-Rae McGinn, M.A. (English), is an investigations professional with expertise in responding to sexual misconduct and discrimination allegations at educational institutions, healthcare institutions, non-profit organizations, and private companies. She has served as Volunteer Coordinator of the Association since March 2019. Alyssa-Rae has also served in various capacities with community and non-profit organizations dedicated to immigrants' rights, LGBTQ+ safety, anti-racism, and education access.

Directors at Large (2019-2020):

Carol Isaacson Barash, Ph.D. (Philosophy), is Founder and Managing Partner of Helix Health Advisors, a boutique consultancy that works with both the private and public sector to integrate new genetic/omics diagnostics, and related information technology, into point of care, through creating strategic partnerships, clinician education, market research, launch strategies and handling bioethical issues, including but not limited to data ownership. She is widely published in peer reviewed journals and authored *Just Genes: The Ethics of Genetics Technologies*. She has served on several genetics education and scientific review boards at the national level and on the board of the local non-profit Self Esteem Boston.

Ken Casanova, B.A. (Government), has spent his career in community organizing and anti-poverty efforts; including serving as Welfare and Tenant Housing Development Organizer and Legislative Advocate for Children. Ken has been an active member of the Association Board since 1990, serving as President twice, Vice President, and Treasurer. In Patient Services he has served in physician referrals, disability counseling and wrote our Disability Handbook.

Phil Chernin, B.S. (Civil Engineering), is a professional engineer and management consultant who advised corporate, government and non-profit Boards of Director on best practices in environmental and infrastructure management at the local, regional and national levels. His expertise includes business process re-engineering and the development of policies and procedures to support risk-based decision-making. He is recently retired. He served as Treasurer in 2019.

Charmian Proskauer, M.S. (Cell Biology), began her career in medical research and after 15 years transitioned into financial services. She served as President of the Association from 2012-2018 and remains on the board. In addition, she chairs the U.S. Action Working Group, a collaborative group of ME/CFS organizations and advocates representing over 25 states across the U.S.

Patricia Woods, R.N., M.S.N., is a clinical research nurse manager at a major Boston teaching hospital. During her 40 years of practice she has been involved in research in the areas of cardiac medicine, Alzheimer's disease and spinal cord injuries. She is an experienced, successful grant writer, and has authored a number of peer-reviewed publications. In addition to her work with the Association, she currently serves on an institutional research review committee that provides scientific, ethical and regulatory oversight of human-subject research.

Ex-Officio:

Amy Proal, Ph.D. (Microbiology), is Chair of the Association's Medical Advisory Committee. She leads the PolyBio Research Foundation where she coordinates collaborative projects among research teams studying persistent infection as a driver of neuroinflammatory disease (with most ongoing collaborative projects based at Harvard of Massachusetts General Hospital). From 2008-2019, she served as Autoimmunity Research Foundation's Research Team Coordinator, where she authored papers examining how persistent infection and microbiome dysbiosis contribute to conditions like ME/CFS, fibromyalgia and Alzheimer's disease.

Directors Emeriti:

Ann M. Bodio, R.N., began her career in medical and surgical nursing at the Milford Regional Medical Center, and then worked in school nursing for 15 years. She has been an active member of/advocate for the Association for more than twenty years, serving on the board, on the patient services committee, as newsletter author, and as content provider for the Association's social media.

Robert F. Bodio, B.S. (Accounting), is a retired senior banking executive. During his 42 years in banking, Bob managed operations and the branch network for a community bank with four branches. He was on the Association's Board from 2012 to 2019 and served as the Treasurer for 5 years.

Alan Gurwitt, M.D. (Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry), is a retired child psychiatrist. He served as President of the Association from 2008 to 2012 and as Chair of the Association's Medical Advisory Committee from 2008 to 2019. While still in practice, he saw nearly 100 adults and children referred for evaluation for ME/CFS. In 1992 he helped write the first primer for ME/CFS (then called CFIDS) which was published by our Association. He was the initiator and an author of the 2012 and 2014 adult primers published by the International Association for CFS/ME and the pediatric primer published in 2017 by Frontiers in Pediatrics.

** Each member of the board has a personal connection to ME/CFS.

Updated 02/10/2020