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Dr. Benjamin Natelson, M.D., professor of neurosciences at the University of New Jersey Medical School, is a highly respected Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalopathy (CFS/CFIDS/ME) researcher. He recently, using a new technology called proteomic profiling, has found abnormal proteins in the spinal fluid of CFS/CFIDS/ME patients.

The purpose of his research is to seek possible causes and diagnostic markers for CFS/CFIDS/ME.

In the early stages of this research, he has already found at least 5 "CFS-related alterations... in both the high and low molecular weight ranges." One of the proteins "that is present in all healthy controls... appears absent or reduced in 81% of CFIDS patients." Dr. Natelson, in the next phase of his research, is seeking to identify this protein. Likely candidates are a thyroid hormone transport protein and a brain-derived neurotrophic factor. The protein alterations could explain various CFS/CFIDS/ME symptoms, including exhaustion, cognition and memory problems, and neural aberrations.

Dr. Natelson wishes to continue and broaden his research to test the spinal fluids of more CFS/CFIDS/ME patients and controls to determine if a CFIDS-specific altered protein profile exists and if such a profile can be used as a diagnostic marker.

Although his work is in its early stages, it seems like a valuable line of research since the spinal fluid may provide access to determining organic changes in the brain.