



## MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (ME)

ALSO KNOWN AS CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME (CFS)

ME/CFS is a devastating multi-system disease that causes energy depletion on a cellular level and severe physical and cognitive limitations.

The hallmark symptom is post-exertional malaise (a worsening of symptoms after activity), accompanied by cognitive dysfunction, unrestorative sleep, difficulty maintaining upright posture, profound cellular exhaustion or widespread chronic pain all made worse by exertion of any sort.

### 1-2.5 Million in the US

Significantly more prevalent than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy combined.



#### All of us

ME/CFS affects children and adults of all races, income levels, and geographic areas.



#### 25% are Severe

Severe patients are often bed-bound and unable to do basic activities like eat, shower, or even stand on their own.

### \$17-24 Billion Loss

The US economic burden is \$17-\$24 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity due to patients' inability to work.



#### Unable to Work

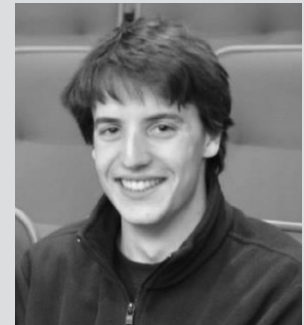
Up to 69% of people with ME/CFS are unemployed and up to 89% lost their job due to ME/CFS.



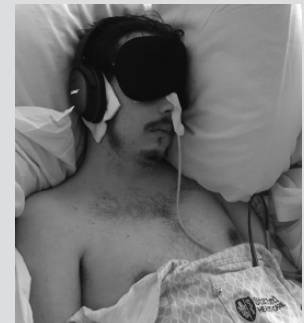
#### Very Low Quality of Life

People with ME/CFS have the lowest quality of life scores of any disease tested. Lower than stroke, heart attack, lung cancer, and renal failure.

*ME/CFS can turn a life of productive activity into one of dependency and desolation.*



Tom in 2015



Tom today

#### A STANFORD STUDENT

Tom was a healthy 19 year-old maintaining a 4.0 GPA at Stanford University when, during his sophomore year, he came down with a series of viral infections. Within eighteen months, Tom was unable to get out of bed. Now, Tom cannot tolerate any light or sound. His eyes and ears are covered 24/7. He can no longer move his body except for two fingers. He cannot speak or eat and is fed through a tube in his belly.

Help us end decades of poor funding.

#### 2014 FEDERAL RESEARCH SPENDING PER PATIENT PER YEAR

HIV/AIDS	1,200,000	\$2,450
Stroke	795,000	\$450
Multiple Sclerosis	400,000	\$350
Alzheimer's	5,000,000	\$100
Autism	3,500,000	\$80
ME/CFS	2,500,000	\$2

US Cases      \$0    \$500    \$1000    \$1500    \$2000    \$2500

Annual Federal Research Spending: Source: U.S. National Institutes of Health. "Estimates of Funding for Various Research Condition and Disease Categorization (RCDC). NIH, published March 7, 2014. IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2015. Beyond myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome: Redefining an illness. Washington, DC: The National Press

Michael Falk Hvidberg, Louise Schouborg Brinthe, Anne V. Olesen, Karin D. Petersen, Lars Ehlers. The Health-Related Quality of Life for Patients with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS), PLOS ONE, 2015, DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0132421