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.

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

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

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

25% are Severe
Severe patients are often bed-bound and unable to do basic activities like eat, shower, or even stand on their own.

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.

Help us end decades of poor funding.

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.

Michael Falk Hvidberg, Louise Schooberg Brinth, 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