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.

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

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

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.

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

Help us end decades of poor funding.

2014 FEDERAL RESEARCH SPENDING PER PATIENT PER YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>$2021</th>
<th>$2022</th>
<th>$2023</th>
<th>$2024</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>$450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>795,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple Sclerosis</td>
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<td>Alzheimer’s</td>
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<td>Autism</td>
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<td>ME/CFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Cases</td>
<td>9,000,000</td>
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<td>$2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

Michael Folk-Herberg, Louise Schaefer-Brinth, Anne V. Olesen, Karen D. Petersen, Lars Elders. 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