

{One Face, One Story}

Each face is one story or one facet of mitochondrial disease. It's a complex, underdiagnosed disease that may appear anytime – at birth, in the teen years or, as an adult. To help you understand, here's the story behind the face of our local ambassador.

{Abby, 3}

Three year old Abby Sauerhoefer attends preschool at Broad Brook Elementary. Abby has struggled with breathing and feeding issues from birth. By two months, we knew something was terribly wrong when she started having frequent, uncontrolled movements of her arms and legs. We learned that these episodes were infantile spasms or seizures. Extensive testing and treatments led to a diagnosis in July 2009 of a mitochondrial disorder. Along with daily seizures, this disorder does not allow her to walk, speak, or sit up, and her only means of nourishment is through a feeding tube. Seizures are managed, but not completely eliminated, with medication and diet. Although Abby is not able to talk, she expresses her emotions through “Abby songs”. She loves music and enjoys the company of other children. She moves around by rolling or using a stroller. We are hopeful that the foundation will find new treatments to help Abby and appreciate your support in finding a cure!



We pledge to support the development of the most promising research and treatments of the many, many forms of mitochondrial disease. We're funding the cures. Period.

The Foundation for Mitochondrial Medicine

Atlanta, Georgia 501c3 • www.foundmm.org • 1-888-448-1495

A cure for mitochondrial disease could impact cures for Autism, Alzheimer's, Muscular Dystrophy and Parkinson's. [Learn More >](#)



Understand: The Foundation for Mitochondrial Medicine

Our Mission and Priorities

Simply put, our purpose is to support the development of the most promising research and treatments of the many, many forms of mitochondrial disease. We're funding a path to the cure, making connections to other related diseases and leading our stakeholders to the right information and the best answers.

Ways to Help

DONATE: Helping us helps so many others.

MAKE THE CONNECTIONS:

1-in-3000 people have mitochondrial disease. And a cure for this disease could impact cures for **Autism, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Lou Gehrig disease, and muscular dystrophy.** And it's

this web of complexity and connectivity that makes mitochondrial disease research valuable to so many.

LEAD THE WAY: We are supporting the first step approved by the FDA to investigate mitochondrial disease treatment, eventually leading to full clinical drug trials. Your support means momentum to accelerate entry into the clinical trial phases, which will in turn propel research faster toward the cures.

Join our mailing list for more information

Contact us via email at: info@foundmm.org

Visit our website at: www.foundmm.org

Donate at: www.foundmm.org/donate.php



Understand: Mitochondrial Disease

Mitochondrial disease is an energy production problem. Almost all cells in the body have mitochondria, which are tiny "power plants" that produce a body's essential energy.

Mitochondrial disease means the power plants in cells don't function properly. When that happens, some functions in the body don't work normally. It's as if the body has a power failure: there is a gradation of effects, like a 'brown out' or a 'black out.'

Scientifically, it is actually a category or group of diseases. That's why mitochondrial disease takes many different forms and no two people may look alike.

It can look like any number of better known diseases: Autism, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's disease, muscular dystrophy and, chronic fatigue. Power plants provide energy to a large community with each part of the community requiring varying degrees of power; in the same way, mitochondria provide energy to various organs of the body. So, when there is a malfunction, a "black out" looks like Leigh's Disease, severe and fatal, while a "brown out" might be severe, but not lethal.

Treatments and Cures

Currently there are no highly effective treatments. Though related symptoms, such as seizures or attention problems can be managed with various medications, the mitochondrial disease itself is unchanged. Unfortunately, supplements such as CoQ10 and L-Carnitine have little to no effect on most patients.

Many drug trials take years — and treatment advances happen one small step at a time.

Compounding this challenge is the fact that mitochondrial diseases have many, many causes and will have many, many cures. One cure, one timeline, simply does not exist but with your help we will move forward faster.