

Medical Research: It's About John



“Why in life would I have to be tortured like this, when everybody else has happy lives?”

11-year-old John Hudson Dilgen was born with a painful, disfiguring genetic skin disease called Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), which results in fragile skin, blisters, and open wounds all over his body. His condition makes it difficult for John to get to school, participate in sports, or even play with other children. For thousands of children like John, EB means continuous medication and wound care. Bandages alone can cost a family up to \$14,000 per month. Approximately 50% of all children with EB are in a constant state of pain, and some types of EB can even be fatal.

Due to federally and privately funded work, researchers now know exactly what causes EB and have a good idea of treatments that could make the disease livable, and ultimately curable, according to the Jackson Gabriel Silver Foundation (www.jgsf.org). However, more funding is needed to help alleviate the suffering caused by this horrific disease.



Each year 10,000 kids die – and countless more suffer – from diseases that research can cure.
We’ve made progress. But the funding to sustain it is eroding.
Congress: harness your compassion, gather your will, and fund the National Institutes of Health at \$32 billion in FY15.
Do it for John.