

# Together we WILL cure Juvenile Huntington's Disease

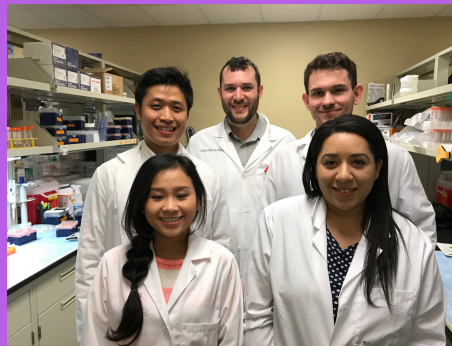


Byron Anthony Hare

## Juvenile Huntington's Disease Research "JHD Research Assistance Fund"

WeHaveAFace.org is dedicated to funding research for Juvenile Huntington's disease. It is paramount that our amazing researchers receive every penny that is raised towards research.

WeHaveAFace.org supports the efforts of Dr. Kyle Fink, and the entire team at UC Davis, as well as Dr. Peg Nopoulos of the University of Iowa - Kids-HD and Kids-JHD.



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Erin Wade

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Juvenile Huntington's Disease



# Huntington's Disease

Huntington's disease (gene found in 1993), is a hereditary, degenerative, and terminal brain disease for which there is no cure. Huntington's disease is caused by a genetic mutation on chromosome 4. Huntington's disease abbreviated—HD, or Juvenile Huntington's disease—JHD, is an autosomal dominant disease. This means that only one parent must have the mutated gene for a child to inherit the disease. Every child of a person with Huntington's disease has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the fatal gene. Huntington's does not skip generations. This disease slowly diminishes the affected individual's ability to walk, move, talk, and reason. In the end, the person with HD relies completely upon others for their personal care.

HD affects the lives of entire families — socially, psychologically, and economically. HD affects males and females, and knows no ethnic or racial boundaries. Many of us within the international community describe the symptoms of JHD/HD as having, ALS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Dementia, Bipolar disorder, and Schizophrenia — all at the same time. Simply, Huntington's disease is more than a physical disease. Often, the individual with HD might seem to be (or act) "drunk" to the on-looker, due to the physical attributes of the disease.

Juvenile Huntington's disease (JHD) affects children before the age of twenty. If the father is the affected parent, his children can show symptoms much earlier in life than the father — (JHD). Upwards of 10 percent of known cases of Huntington's disease is the Juvenile form. Individuals who suffer with JHD experience seizures and many other horrific attributes of this disease earlier in life. Diagnosis of JHD usually happens when symptoms manifest before the age of twenty, and in many cases is often delayed by a false diagnoses such as ADHD.

## Resources

### Kids-HD and Kids-JHD Research Studies:

"The Kids-HD Study and the Kids JHD Study are both brain imaging studies run by researchers in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Our research is about kids who have a parent or a grandparent who has Huntington Disease. Huntington Disease (or HD) is a brain disease that is passed through families, so someone with a parent who has it is at risk of having it someday, too. This study will try to find those early, small problems and measure them."

Visit: <https://medicine.uiowa.edu/psychiatry/research/kids-hd-and-kidsjhd>

# JUVENILE HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

## Symptoms of JHD:

- Stiffness of arms and legs
- Clumsiness of arms and legs
- Slowness in movements (bradykinesia)
- Decline in cognitive functions (learning ability)
- Changes with behavior
- Seizures may occur
- Speech / Communication problems
- Obsessive compulsive behaviors
- Sleep disturbances
- Itching / scratching
- Trouble chewing / swallowing / choking
- Sexual promiscuity
- Irregular eye movements

## Testing for JHD

Sadly, the current testing process (genetic blood test) for JHD is too difficult. Why? The debate among medical professionals is that many youths may have ADHD, depression, juvenile variations of bipolar disorder, mild cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, thyroid disease, and not JHD. In addition, laws restrict a minor (under age 18) from genetic testing unless a thorough neurological exam takes place. Families with history of Huntington's disease are battling these challenges. The process to have a child diagnosed with JHD can take years — time families just don't have.

Listen to Dr. Herwig Lange on WeHaveAVoice Radio  
[www.WeHaveAFace.org/Radio](http://www.WeHaveAFace.org/Radio)



Dr. Herwig Lange  
Neuropsychiatrist

George Huntington Institute - Germany  
WeHaveAFace Medical Advisor



Erin Wade  
Brockville, Ontario Canada

Erin Wade is twenty-five years old and was diagnosed with JHD at age eighteen, however symptoms began earlier. Erin enjoyed playing rugby in school prior to the onset of JHD symptoms. Currently, Erin stays very active: swimming, exercising, and enjoys community outings. Each year Cindy Moore (Erin's mom), holds the largest Juvenile Huntington's walk in honor of Erin. Cindy is a very active advocate for Erin and the entire international community. .

## JHD Warriors



Byron Anthony Hare  
Hallsburg, Texas

Byron is twenty-four years old and was diagnosed with JHD at age seventeen. Byron enjoys participating in horseback riding competitions, and has captivated the community with many of his videos. Traci Pratt, (Byron's mom), is a very active advocate for Byron and the entire international JHD community.