“Advancing Discovery: The Role of NIH Research in Fighting Diabetes: The Patient’s Perspective”

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The Diagnosis

- Our daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on April 28, 2002
- She was 16 months old
- In the ICU, we were told there is no cure
Our first experience with NIDDK research was the SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth Study.
The changing epidemiology of type 1 diabetes: why is it going through the roof?
We are grateful to the people who participated in NIDDK research before us.

The insulin pump and other advances make a “normal” life almost possible.

Nonetheless, Cassidy has pricked her fingers over 24,000 to check her blood sugar since she was diagnosed.
In 2005, our son was born

• We agreed to participate in a new study that was screening newborns for genetic risk for type 1 diabetes

• Scientists supported by the NIDDK had identified specific genotypes with higher risk for diabetes
The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young

✓ Over 425,000 neonates were screened
✓ Approximately 7000 children are participating in the study
✓ 92 have been diagnosed with diabetes
15 year commitment by families in TEDDY

- water samples
- toenail clippings
- diet records
- vaccine history
- stool samples
- nasal swabs
- blood samples
Cassidy tells us that she wants to protect Jackson from diabetes.

My husband and I do, too.

And we want our daughter to have the best possible chances.

But sometimes we feel helpless …
So, we got involved in research, too, by enrolling in the TrialNet type 1 study. (And fundraising, and advocacy.)

Without research, there is no hope of prevention, or a cure, or better treatments for our children.

Research = Hope
The Scope of the Epidemic

- Nearly 26 million people in the United States have diabetes and 79 million have prediabetes
  - There is an epidemic in both type 1 and type 2 diabetes

- 1,406,000 adults in Florida, or 8.6% of the adult population, had diagnosed diabetes in 2009

- The CDC predicts one in three Americans will have diabetes by 2050
  - That is, one in three children born after the year 2000

- The current total annual cost of diabetes and its complications was estimated at $218 billion in 2007
Thank you for the opportunity to share our family’s story with you.

We are counting on your support.