



Bright Light Foundation

Jason Bergeron

2014 BLF Recipient



Jason Bergeron, 46, of Bourg, Louisiana has been married to his wife, Jill for 26 years. They have two children, daughter Jordan, who is 22 years old and son, Cullen 19 years old.

In June of 2013, Jason was diagnosed with Cystic Lyme Disease, Protomyxzoa Rheumatica (a mosquito-borne parasite) and extreme Tricothecene (Black Mold), benzene and toluene toxicity. All of these afflictions can cause severe neuro-muscular disorders. To further complicate this diagnosis, he also has two double genetic mutations. One of these mutations prevents his immune system from producing the antibodies required to fight the Lyme bacteria, parasites and mycotoxins. The other mutation prevents his body from producing antibodies and chemicals required to detoxify the body.

Jason has been searching for answers to his declining health for approximately 12 years. Some of the most renowned medical facilities and doctors in the country, including LSU Medical Center, Baylor College of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic have evaluated his condition. All of these facilities diagnosed Jason with a progressive upper motor neuron disease. Jason suffered from extreme muscle fatigue, muscle spasticity / rigidity, spasms and hyperreflexia which were progressing. Initially, LSU diagnosed the condition as one of four following diseases (ALS, Primary Lateral Sclerosis, Stiff Person Syndrome or Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis). Baylor College of Medicine diagnosed the condition as Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis or Stiff Person Syndrome. Baylor referred Jason to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota who initially diagnosed the condition as Stiff Person Syndrome. After multiple visits to the Mayo Clinic, the team of doctors ultimately diagnosed the condition as a Progressive Upper Motor Neuron Disease of Unknown Etiology, Myoclonus, Hyperreflexia and positive Acetylcholine Antibody Receptor Antibodies. The Acetylcholine Receptor Antibodies are only present in the body when a neurological disease named Myasthenia Gravis or a Paraneoplastic Syndrome exists. A Paraneoplastic Syndrome occurs when the nervous system is responding to the presence of a small cell cancer. Both of these conditions were ruled out through testing however it must be monitored.

Basically, Jason was advised that his condition would deteriorate at an unknown pace and that the only treatment was to address the symptoms. Jason was advised that there was a significant chance that his upper motor neuron disease would eventually be accompanied by lower motor neuron involvement. Jason's condition deteriorated to a point where Baylor referred him to a movement disorder specialist at Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX. A team of doctors and physical therapists evaluated Jason's reflexes, muscle spasticity and range of motion. After extensive testing it was determined that Jason needed surgery.



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The surgery was going to involve permanently implanting two intrathecal baclofen pumps into the abdomen with catheters being run into the intrathecal space of the spinal cord. This would allow the anti spasm medication baclofen to be delivered 24 hours a day via the pumps. The surgery was scheduled in April of 2013.

Due to the persistence of a close friend who felt Jason had Lyme disease all along, Jason cancelled the surgery. He travelled to the Sponaugle Wellness Institute in Palm Harbor, Fl. for an evaluation by the renowned Lyme Doctor, Marvin Sponaugle. Dr. Sponaugle was able to successfully diagnosis him with late stage Cystic Lyme Disease, multiple parasites and toxins. Dr. Sponaugle advised Jason that had he not intervened he would have lived less than two years. The bacteria, parasites and toxins were literally eating Jason from the inside out. Jason underwent 24 weeks of intense IV treatment. Dr. Sponaugle wanted him to undergo an additional 12 to 24 weeks of treatment however he needed to return to work. During Jason's treatment it was learned that his daughter, Jordan, who had been experiencing health issues for over three years was afflicted with Lyme Disease, parasitic infections and mold / benzene toxicity. She was also affected by the same genetic mutations as Jason. Jordan underwent 15 weeks of treatment at the Sponaugle Wellness Institute. While Jason and Jordan were in Florida undergoing treatment, Jason's wife, Jill was hospitalized. Jill was diagnosed with a rare disease, Stills Disease, which is similar to Rheumatoid Arthritis. As a precaution Jason had his son, Cullen, tested for the genetic mutations. Cullen tested positive for the mutations as well as an active Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever infection. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is a co-infection of Lyme Disease. At this time, Cullen's immune system is fighting the infection.

At this point, the hope is that Jason and Jordan's immune systems can fight the disease to keep it under control. Blood work is being conducted every 90 days to monitor the status of the immune system. It is unknown at this time if or when Jason or Jordan will need to return to the Sponaugle Wellness Institute. Jason has experienced permanent damage to his spine and brain as a result of the disease. The damage to his brain affected his cognitive function which made it difficult to maintain a position in upper management. There is the possibility that Jason will need back surgery and/or still need the intrathecal baclofen pumps in order to manage the irreversible damage to his body. The treatment, maintenance medications, colonic therapy, lymphatic massage and natural supplements are very expensive. Due to the governmental controversy surrounding Lyme Disease, mold toxicity, parasitic infections and Dr. Sponaugle's aggressive naturopathic treatment the great majority of the expenses aren't covered by insurance.

Jason served his country for four years in the United States Marine Corps, worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office for three years and a Louisiana State Trooper for 6 years which brought him to the oilfield. Jason started in the oilfield as a Safety Manager for Trico Marine where he spent three years. He then joined Superior Energy Services, Inc., where he worked his way up to Vice President & General Manager of the Marine Services Division. He was employed with Superior for ten years. Jason joined Shamrock Energy Services as the Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. He recently moved into Business Development for Shamrock Energy Solutions.



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Jason hopes that the Bright Light Foundation will help him spread the word about how prevalent and serious Lyme Disease has become. Lyme Disease is extremely hard to diagnose because the testing is inaccurate and the disease mimics hundreds of illnesses. If caught early, the disease can be treated easily with oral antibiotics. Just a little over one year ago the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) stated that there were only 30,000 cases of Lyme Disease in the United States. About seven months ago the CDC stated that there were probably 300,000 cases of Lyme Disease. Recently, the CDC stated that there could be as many as 1,000,000 cases of Lyme Disease.