

Team 12, Bloomfield

The effects of medicine on the nervous system

This project specifically targets Genetically Acquired disorders

Executive Summary

About 50,000 people are diagnosed with Parkinsons disease every year, and science still fails to unravel the true nature of Parkinsons. Symptoms include tremors or trembling at rest, (especially of the hand) problems starting body movements, odd posture including leaning forward, a rigid body, and depression. Parkinsons is an awful disease, and we hope that our project may, at least, educate individuals on the true nature of Parkinsons and to dispel common myths that are present with many diseases. Our program looks at the relationship of the human timeline and the death of dopamine production centers.

Statement of Problem

Steve Johnson was an average American who had inadvertently inherited something at birth. Something, of course, that he wished he had not. I was 36-years-old when I started to notice the problem. Steve inherited a genetic sequence that overproduced specific proteins, which then clogged dopamine-producing cells in his Substantia Nigra and killed them. Steve has Parkinsons. My father was diagnosed with Parkinsons disease at 50-years-old. When my family spotted my hand shaking, they knew right away I had Parkinsons. Steves symptoms began with tremor in his left hand. Soon, his whole body began to shake as the disease continued to progress. He would often fall, as his body would stiffen up and he would lose balance. By age 44 he was incapable of performing basic tasks.