

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter to encourage support for research and clinical trials to obtain a cure for Blue Cone Monochromacy (BCM). I have experienced the trials and problems of having BCM for 67 years. The cure will help me, but for my 2 grandsons this cure can truly "change their life." The cure is important to their generation and all future generations of BCM boys and their families.

The cure will greatly enhance educational opportunities, ability to play sports, available job opportunities, socially awkward situations, recreational sports (i.e., golf, snow skiing, etc.) and ability to get a driver's license.

Here are a few personal experiences:

- At preschool, other kids laughed as I could not see red or correctly identify other colors.
- In middle school, I could not play baseball in P.E. because I couldn't see the ball.
- At 12, I was the bat bot for our Little League Baseball team because I couldn't play a position.
- In high school, I could not play on the golf team because I couldn't find the ball after I hit it.

The difficulty of not getting a driver's license is probably the biggest issue, both socially with peers and dating and logistically with college, work, and daily living. Lack of driving ability severely affects college choices, career choices, and employment location.

A cure would allow all BCM boys to change their lives forever as BCM affects almost all aspects of life. Some examples include seeing the board or presentation in school or college, major and minor appliance or machinery usage, seeing red lights and reading road signs, seeing LCD screens, using ATM machines or retail payment equipment, and seeing charging light indicators or LED clocks or screens that use red text on a black background. (Red is indistinguishable from black.) Using a computer is made difficult due to color issues, brightness and contrast, and the need to enlarge text so much that you can't see much of the page at a time.

I ask you to give these BCM boys, including my two grandsons, a chance to have a normal life and not experience life as I did. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Mark Young
Fayetteville, GA