

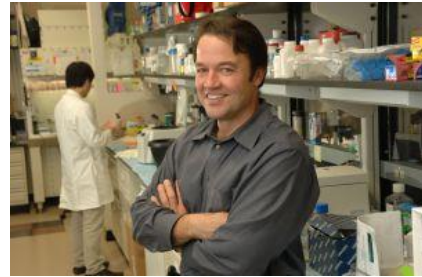


**Friends of Patients at the NIH** Many helping one. One helping many.  
The Friends of Patients at the National Institutes of Health provide Hope and Healing by giving emotional and financial support to patients receiving groundbreaking and life-saving treatments at the NIH.

## Meet Dr. John Tisdale...finding cures and saving lives.

*"Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) causes immense suffering in patients. When you see a patient in (sickle cell) crisis, you just want to do something."*

John Tisdale, MD, Senior Investigator at the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute



**Dr. John Tisdale, M.D.**

John Tisdale, M.D. is a physician scientist who has spent his career working with Sickle Cell Disease.

Rather than simply focus on seeing patients,

Dr. Tisdale splits his time between the lab and seeing patients. Working at NIH, Dr. Tisdale can work on something in the lab and then go straight to the clinic and see how it works in humans.

The clinical research that Dr. Tisdale conducts is multifaceted and intertwined. He has numerous different trials going on in his lab simultaneously. The results from one - positive or negative - often lead to the next set of questions and investigations.

Focused on the impact of stem cell transplant on Sickle Cell Disease, Dr. Tisdale and his team work tirelessly. Their active clinical trials include working to make stem cell transplants less toxic, determining the effectiveness of whole and half matches for transplants, developing gene therapy protocols and specialized harvesting of bone marrow. The opportunity that NIH affords to do this work is not found elsewhere.

For patients, having a dedicated NIH branch for Sickle Cell Disease is a minor miracle. In very few places around the globe is Sickle Cell Disease given this kind of attention. At NIH, there is a waiting list for Dr. Tisdale's clinical trials.

Dr. Tisdale says that there are "daily discouraging hurdles because most of the things you do in the lab don't work." But when it does work, when a patient is cured and their life is completely transformed, that is the joy and the energy that keeps him going day-to-day. During his career, Dr. Tisdale has cured over 50 patients with Sickle Cell Disease by using stem cell transplant. While born with the SCD genetic mutation, these people no longer have SCD and live normal lives.

*In last month's newsletter, you met Dixon, a child with Sickle Cell Disease.  
Dr. Tisdale's work makes Dixon's treatment possible.*

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## NIH Federal Credit Union raises \$8,500 to help the NIH Charities care for patients and families in need

The National Institutes of Health Federal Credit Union (NIHFCU) was proud to provide \$8,500 to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) charities by donating \$25 for every auto loan its members originated with them in October-December, 2016.

Funds will go directly to helping NIH Charities fulfill their goal of supporting patients and families struggling with the life-altering impact of significant illness and treatments. Friends of Patients at the NIH is very grateful for the thoughtful efforts by the Credit Union to help support our patients and families. The NIHFCU has been a dedicated sponsor of Friends at NIH for many years.



Steve Levin-VP, Marketing NIHFCU,  
Heidi Grolig-CEO, Friends at NIH and  
Rick Wiczorek-CEO, NIHFCU

Steven Levin, NIHFCU's Vice President of Marketing & Business Development states, "The NIHFCU thrilled to give back to the NIH community which, since 1940, has provided us with the privilege of serving their dedicated workforce." He adds, "Whether our donation helps to send young cancer patients to summer camp, delivers some financial relief for distressed families at the NIH for long-term stays, or contributes to providing a safe haven for ill children in between their NIH treatments and hospitalization, the NIHFCU is honored to support the incredible missions of these three fine organizations."

"Friends is incredibly grateful for the long and valuable relationship with the NIHFCU that has benefited thousands of patients over the years," said Jerry Sachs, President of the Friends of Patients at the NIH.

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## NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins to stay on!

"We just learned that Dr. Collins has been held over by the Trump administration," an NIH spokesperson said in a statement. "We have no additional details at this time."

This is wonderful news to everyone at the NIH. Dr. Collins has been a dedicated supporter of the NIH Charities.



Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the NIH

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. is the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In that role he oversees the work of the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world, spanning the spectrum from basic to clinical research.

Dr. Collins is a physician-geneticist noted for his landmark discoveries of disease genes and his leadership of the international Human Genome Project, which culminated in April 2003 with the completion of a finished sequence of the human DNA instruction book. He served as director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH from 1993-2008.

For more news from Dr. Collins, check the ["Directors Blog"](#)



*Friends of Patients* at the NIH provides support for patients at the NIH Clinical Center by offering financial assistance for housing and utility expenses, access to respite care and support for travel costs.

*Friends* champions NIH patients, helping to cover their essential needs so they can focus on recovery, healing and their unique role in health discoveries.

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