

## Why is skin disease research important?

Serious diseases of the skin affect thousands of American children each year. These diseases cause discomfort, pain, disfigurement, disability, dependency, even death. They affect not only the children, but their entire families.

Even worse, the physical and emotional hurt caused by childhood skin diseases may last a lifetime.

Many skin diseases are caused by a breakdown of the autoimmune system or other mechanisms shared with other diseases. In the fight against autoimmune diseases like AIDS and lupus, skin disease research offers a unique opportunity to observe the cellular progression of the mechanisms of disease without invading or damaging the body.