

# Young Inventors: Jack Andraka

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Jack Andraka is a 16 year old who is changing the world. How is he doing that? He's helping doctors identify, or diagnose, diseases. He recently

invented a way to test for cancer.

Jack understands that the human body is made up of billions of cells, or the units that create life. Our cells are constantly replacing cells that have died. This keeps our body healthy.

But sometimes cells reproduce when they shouldn't. This is one thing that cancer cells do: They multiply quickly and crowd out healthy cells. There are hundreds of types of cancer. Some are more common and more dangerous than others.

Jack became interested in how cancer is diagnosed after his family lost a close friend to the disease. He focused on pancreatic cancer, which is one of the deadliest types of cancer. One reason it's so deadly is that doctors can't identify it when it first appears. Another

reason is that tests to find the disease cost a lot of money. Jack's test fixes both of these problems. It can accurately identify cancer cells, and it costs only about three cents a test.

Jack thinks that his test could change how cancer and other diseases are found. Because it uses only a drop of blood and a special paper, testing could be done in any doctor's office. He hopes that his findings could also be used to detect other diseases early, when they are easiest to cure.

Jack's discovery has changed his life. He has won more than \$100,000 and has spoken at conferences. In addition, he has started his own company and is patenting his invention. Jack believes that his invention will be used in hospitals around the country within the next 10 years. He also hopes that people may live longer because their cancer is found early, when it's easiest to cure.



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