



AFL Great Jonathan Brown has been appointed as our Ambassador.

"Brown has a strong personal connection with the little known, but devastating condition, Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). Close family friends Nina and Otto (mother and son) have the mutated genes, which cause Epidermolysis Bullosa. The families formed a strong bond since the Brown's arrival to Melbourne. Otto is at school with Jonathan and Kylie's daughter, Olivia.

"Olivia used to come home from school and tell us about her day," he said. "She told us she had a friend who wore bandages and white cotton shoes who spent lots of time in a wheelchair. She'd tiptoe out of her classroom to go and check on him to make sure he was ok. When he'd be away from school she'd get worried about him. They're great mates and they have a special friendship. Solid connections are really important for both us and our kids."

Brown has witnessed first-hand how much lives are impacted by Epidermolysis Bullosa. Otto can't play a regular game of footy without being wheelchair ridden the following day. Brown sees this regularly at school pickup and reflecting on his own sporting success empathises with how hard it must be not to just get out and kick the footy, like a regular kid.

Wife Kylie attended The Cotton Ball, a fundraiser in April this year, where the EB Research Foundation was launched. Upon her return, she suggested Jonathan consider getting involved. The connection to the condition was clear to Brown who approached the Foundation.

The EB Research Foundation Board is delighted to have Jonathan Brown as Ambassador. Corey Wilkes, Board Member of the Foundation said. *"To have such a high profile and well-respected bloke with a personal connection to the disease is just fantastic. We are looking forward to sharing this journey with him and working together to raise awareness and cure Epidermolysis Bullosa."*

For more information about Epidermolysis Bullosa and the EB Research Foundation visit www.ebresearchfoundation.org

