



**National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) established the Community Research Fund** to serve groups and individuals committed to supporting research on a specific type of brain tumor. This Fund allows contributors to pool donations and leverage a team of highly experienced, nationally recognized scientific experts, working with NBTS staff, to determine the best investment strategy for the Fund. The goal is to support and accelerate transformative research projects that hold the most promise of bringing new treatments to people with specific types of brain tumors.

National Brain Tumor Society's Community Research Fund Program allows donors to impact progress by funding research on a specific tumor type that directly affects their lives. This is especially important for brain tumors such as oligodendroglioma, hypothalamic hamartoma, mixed glioma, and many others that are rare and often do not receive as much attention from researchers and pharmaceutical companies.

NBTS can connect donors with related interests to help them make a real difference through the Community Research Fund. Donations large and small can be earmarked and combined to fund a two-year grant of \$300,000, the minimum grant amount necessary to conduct significant research studies. While one individual or family may not be able to fund a research grant in its entirety, combining their donations with others can make a meaningful impact.

### **The Innovation Research Grant Program**

Once NBTS is able to bring together donors interested in the same type of tumor research, who have raised a minimum of \$300,000, NBTS will announce a Request for Applications for its Innovation Research Grant. This program is designed to support catalytic research projects that will significantly move the field forward. These may include "out-of-the-box" projects or transformative research geared to driving development of new therapies. The applications will be assessed by our staff and formally reviewed by our nationally recognized Scientific Advisory Council – made up of 27 brain tumor experts from the country's leading research facilities.

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### **Benefits of the National Brain Tumor Society Community Research Fund Program:**

- gives donors the opportunity to support research on a specific type of brain tumor. This can facilitate and move forward an area of brain tumor research in need of greater attention.
- is the only vehicle for charitable giving in the country that allows contributors to earmark donations for study of a particular type of brain tumor and ensures the study meets strict scientific standards.
- allows donors to take advantage of the expertise of the NBTS Chief Scientific Officer and the NBTS Scientific Advisory Council – made up of 27 nationally renowned brain tumor researchers from the country's leading research facilities.
- ensures investment in catalytic research projects that meet the highest scientific standards possible and funds them at the level required to make an impact in the field of brain tumor research.
- allows funders to leverage the gold standard system and grant process already in place at NBTS and not have to manage the financial requirements of research institutions.

## An Overview of the Grant Process

Researchers working in academic or industry settings, at all stages of their careers, may be funded through the Community Research Fund. The funding mechanism will be the National Brain Tumor Society's Innovation Research Grant.

Here is how the process works:

- Funding of \$150,000 per year, for each of two years, is committed by the Community Research Fund donor(s) for a particular type of brain tumor research.
- NBTS announces a Request for Application for Innovation Research Grants focused on this specific tumor type.
- Letters of Intent (LOIs) are submitted electronically by interested researchers and are accepted on a rolling basis. Next, all LOIs immediately undergo an administrative review to ensure that application guidelines are met.
- LOIs are then reviewed by the review committee quarterly, on the following dates: March 18, June 17, September 16, and December 16. (LOIs submitted within five working days of the review dates will be applied to the next round of reviews).
- The review committee recommends promising projects and then NBTS invites the researchers to submit full applications. It is expected that not all review sessions will produce candidates for full applications.
- Application review is a two-step process built on standards set by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Members of the NBTS Scientific Advisory Council (SAC), led by the Chair and Vice Chair, oversee the review process for each NBTS grant program.
- Full applications will go through a peer review process by select SAC members, including a Primary and Secondary Reviewer. Careful consideration is made to prevent conflict of interest between reviewers and the applicants.
- Reviewers are responsible for scoring the application based on scientific merit and presenting the project during the review teleconferences with the SAC Chair and Vice Chair. The group then makes its recommendations to the NBTS Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer, who, in consultation with the Board of Directors, will award the Innovation Research Grant.

*For more information about the National Brain Tumor Society Community Research Fund, contact Renée LeBlanc, Director of Individual and Major Giving, at 617.393.2833 or [rleblanc@braintumor.org](mailto:rleblanc@braintumor.org).*

### About National Brain Tumor Society

Today there are over 600,000 people in the US living with the devastating diagnosis of a brain tumor and NBTS is fiercely committed to improving the lives of all those affected. Learn more about our comprehensive patient, family, and caregiver services, our targeted adult and pediatric brain tumor research programs, and our latest advocacy efforts at [www.braintumor.org](http://www.braintumor.org).



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