

BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY HEADS UP

Quarterly research & support for the brain tumor community

Annual Meeting: We are all here to find a cure

The BTS Annual Meeting and Dinner is a unique chance for all members of the brain tumor community – scientists and survivors, caregivers and donors, volunteers and corporate sponsors – to spend an evening together. It's a night that highlights the essential contribu-

tions of each aspect of the community and the meaningful results that are made possible through the support of friends like you.

BTS connects current research to the business and government partners who are essential to next steps beyond the lab, with the goal of speeding the process to bring improved treatments to patients. A key piece to developing and implementing this forward-looking strategy is

Mr. Pinkard has led the company in supporting the Race for Hope DC in memory of his business partner, Patrick Cassidy. Visit www.tbts.org to read more about Mr. Pinkard's history with BTS.



Abhijit Guha discussing his research. See page 4 for all of the 2007 Research Grant Awards.

DARELL BIGNER, MD, PHD

Dr. Bigner is a leading brain tumor scientist and clinician, and he was a founding member of the BTS Scientific Advisory Council – which he chaired for its first 15 years. Dr. Bigner presented the scientific keynote address and highlighted his certainty that brain tumor research will reach a new level of achievement in the next five to ten years. Bonnie Feldman, BTS Founder and Honorary Life Member, presented an award of appreciation to Dr. Bigner on behalf of BTS.

Continued on page 3



Ken Grey, presenting the "State of the Society"

Ken Grey, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, presented the "State of the Society" address to bring guests up to date on BTS programs and activities over the past year. He also explained that the success of the BTS Research Grant Program has led the Board to develop an updated research strategy.

the creation of a leadership staff position. Ken introduced the new Richard B. Ross Scientific Head, David R. Hurwitz, PhD. Learn more about Dr. Hurwitz on page 2.

ROCHE FAMILY AWARD

The exceptional volunteer recognized this year was Bob Pinkard, CEO of Cassidy & Pinkard Colliers, the title sponsor of the Race for Hope in Washington, DC.

All Annual Meeting photos by Pierre Chiha

*There is hope.
There will be a cure.*

MISSION

The Brain Tumor Society exists to find a cure for brain tumors. We improve the quality of life of brain tumor patients, survivors and their families by providing access to psychosocial support, information and resources. We raise funds to enhance treatments and to find a cure.

VISION

A world without brain tumors.

CONTACT US

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

HEADS UP is published four times a year by the Brain Tumor Society, a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to finding a cure for brain tumors and to improving quality of life for patients, survivors and families. BTS is a founding member of the North American Brain Tumor Coalition.

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N. Paul Ton That *Interim Executive Director*

Dawn Grenier *Director of Communications*

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Welcoming David R. Hurwitz, PhD

We are pleased to welcome David R. Hurwitz, PhD, as our Richard B. Ross Scientific Head. This new leadership position is part of the Brain Tumor Society's evolving research strategy, and Dr. Hurwitz brings an ideal combination of scientific expertise and business knowledge of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology worlds.

“We are very excited to have Dr. Hurwitz join us as BTS works to bridge the gap between today's research and tomorrow's treatments.”

- Mary Catherine Calisto, Chair of the BTS Board of Directors

“The Richard B. Ross Scientific Head is a key component of our updated research strategy. Dr. Hurwitz will help us to bridge the gap between academic research and the business community that can help us turn this knowledge into real-world treatments for patients and survivors,” said Mary Catherine.

The development of a dedicated, leadership-level staff position is a key component of the BTS commitment to funding the most promising research and to improving the lives of brain tumor patients, survivors and their caregivers.

Dr. Hurwitz has an academic background in genetics and molecular virology and has been a lead scientist at pharmaceutical and biotechnology laboratories and companies. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed research publications and is an inventor on several biotechnology patents. He also earned a Certificate of Special Studies in Administration and Management at Harvard University and spent several years as an independent organizational development consultant. This blend of experience is ideal for Dr. Hurwitz's new role as an architect of innovative approaches to scientific progress.

“I am thrilled to have joined an organization as influential as BTS, and I look forward to working with others to drive research forward in order to realize new brain tumor therapies.” - Dr. Hurwitz

Richard B. Ross was the father of a brain tumor survivor and a founding member of the BTS Board of Directors. Until the time of his death in 2001, he advocated for accelerated research and improved support services. His family has chosen to remember Richard by underwriting the current phase of our evolving research strategy, and BTS gratefully recognizes their commitment, in part, through this named position.

Annual Meeting: continued



DAVID M. BAILEY

As an 11-year brain tumor survivor, David Bailey is known for more than just his songwriting. In a brief set of songs and spoken-word pieces, David shared his journey with the guests – from the shock of being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor as a young adult to his continuing appreciation for each day.

RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

This year, BTS granted \$2.5 million to research projects across North America. This remarkable total includes several special programs, some of which are collaborative efforts with other brain tumor funders.

SPECIAL THANKS

2007 Annual Meeting & Dinner sponsors included:



IN MEMORY OF DENNIS ROTH



The brain tumor community lost a great patient advocate when Dennis Roth, Chair of the BTS Board of Directors, passed away unexpectedly in May 2007.

The Board of Directors dedicated the 2007 Annual Meeting and Dinner to Dennis, and this year's special program for SPORE projects is funded in his name.

Please visit www.tbts.org to learn more about the ways that BTS honors the memory of Dennis Roth.

2007 Research Grant Awards - Special Programs

SPECIAL PROGRAM: BRAIN TUMOR FUNDERS' COLLABORATIVE

Tumor stem cell-based drug discovery for adult and pediatric glioma

Sponsoring Institution:

Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins University

Project Manager: *John Laterra, MD, PhD*

Molecularly guided clinical trials for glioma

Sponsoring Institution: *David Geffen School of Medicine*

University of California, Los Angeles

Project Manager: *Paul Mischel, MD*

Identifying and overcoming resistance mechanisms in glioblastomas: a joint EORTC-RTOG effort

Sponsoring Institution: *American College of Radiology,*

Radiation Therapy Oncology Group

Project Manager: *Minesh Mehta, MD*

SPECIAL PROGRAM: GLIOGENE STUDY

Pathology review and molecular characterization of tumors in familial glioma

GLIOGENE is the largest epidemiology study ever to be conducted on familial gliomas, or primary brain tumors. Its goal is to identify genes that increase the risk of developing brain tumors in families with multiple cases of glioma.

This year, BTS is funding the use of cutting edge technology (Molecular Inversion Probe Assay) to characterize DNA mutations in the brain tumor samples.

See page 5 for our other special program:
SPORE Initiative



2007 Research Grant Awards

This year, BTS granted an incredible \$2.5 million to research, bringing our total research funding to more than \$13 million. Some grants are supported by Chairs of Research that honor or remember an individual. Many grants are made possible by other BTS fundraising initiatives, including special events and the individual gifts of supporters like you.

ANNE BRUNET, PHD

Stanford University

Defining the role of Foxo transcription factors and Sirt1 deacetylase in suppressing glioblastoma

JAMES CHEN, MD

Stanford University

Novel Hedgehog pathway antagonists as potential medulloblastoma therapeutics

JOSEPH COSTELLO, PHD

University of California, San Francisco

Evolution of a hypomethylator phenotype in glioblastoma

The Jeffrey Scott Roth Leadership Chair of Research

TOM CURRAN, PHD, FRIS

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Generation and characterization of conditional cancer mouse models for atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor and chondroid plexus carcinoma

JUAN FUEYO, MD

The University of Texas M.D.

Anderson Cancer Center

Oncolytic adenoviruses against brain tumor stem cells: the role of autophagy

RICHARD GILBERTSON, MD, PHD

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

The role of Notch cell signaling and INK4A/ARF deletion in the transformation of radial glia to ependymoma cancer stem cells

The Sydney Schlobohm Leadership Chair of Research

ABHIJIT GUHA, MD, FRCS, FACS

University of Toronto

Regional expression and functional role of inhibitors of apoptosis in human GBM

The James Ronan Leadership Chair of Research

GREGORY HANNON, PHD

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Genetic approaches to new therapeutic targets in brain cancer

The Daniel Paul Bogart Leadership Chair of Research

XIAOLIN HE, PHD

Northwestern University

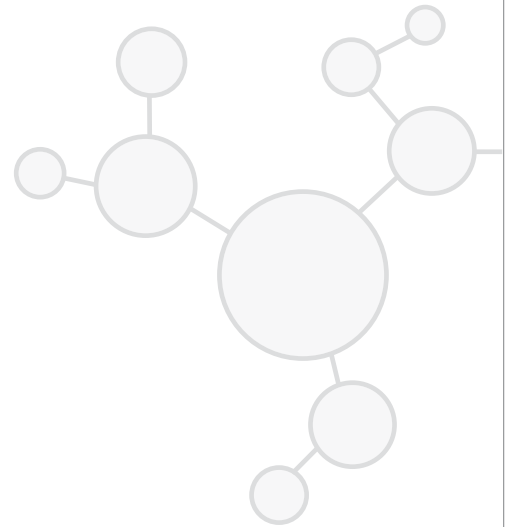
Structural mechanisms of receptor signaling in brain tumor angiogenesis.

RAKESH JAIN, PHD

Massachusetts General Hospital

Targeting stromal and tumor compartments in glioblastomas

The Sam Gerson Leadership Chair of Research



PAUL KNOEPFLER, PHD

University of California, Davis

Functional genomics analysis of primitive neuroectodermal tumors

The Steven C. Higgins Leadership Chair of Research

LAWRENCE LAMB, PHD

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Feasibility of $\gamma\delta$ T cell immunotherapy for glioblastoma multiforme

The Sam Gerson Leadership Chair of Research

ZHIMIN LU, MD, PHD

The University of Texas M.D.

Investigation of the mechanisms underlying chemoresistance of glioblastoma multiforme to platinum treatment

Anderson Cancer Center

DUANE MITCHELL, MD, PHD

Duke University Medical Center

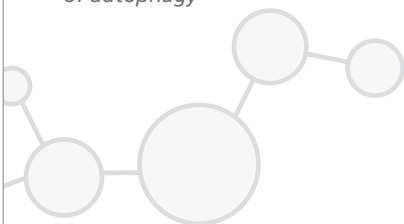
Clinical development of dendritic cell vaccines targeting brain tumor stem cells

The Billy Grey Chair of Research

JEREMY RICH, MD

Duke University Medical Center

Glioma cancer stem cells in tumor angiogenesis



JOSHUA RUBIN, MD, PHD

Washington University (St. Louis)
Defining the basis of enhanced CXCR4 signaling in brain tumors

JOHN SAMPSON, MD, PHD

Duke University Medical Center
Inhibition of regulatory T cell recovery with an IL-2 receptor blocking antibody
The Patty Roche Chair of Research

IAN POLLACK, MD

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Molecular prognostic markers for low-grade gliomas

URI TABORI, MD

University of Toronto
The biologic and prognostic role of replicative and oncogene induced senescence in pediatric low-grade gliomas

Continued from page 3

SPECIAL PROGRAM: SPORE PROJECTS

The National Cancer Institute funds Specialized Programs Of Research Excellence (SPORE) for specific cancer types. At the four fully-funded brain tumor SPOREs, researchers have met the challenge to advance their collaborative research to the point of clinical trials. Two top peer-reviewed projects were identified and sat poised for clinical trials-but could not advance due to limited funding. BTS and other leaders combined their research funding power to bring these two immunotherapy projects to clinical trial.

BTS is honored to offer its funding in honor of the late Dennis Roth, former Chair of our Board of Directors. Other collaborators for this undertaking are Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure, American Brain Tumor Association and the National Cancer Institute.

ANDREW PARSA, MD, PHD

This project is an effectiveness study of heat shock protein peptide complex-96 vaccine (HSPCC-96), a vaccine based on an individual patient's own tumor cells. This agent has shown success in other tumor types and may provide a good immunotherapy option for a newly diagnosed GBM patient with a near complete resection.

JOHN SAMPSON, MD, PHD

This investigation will evaluate the effectiveness of the proven vaccine PEPvIII-KLH with a human antibody that blocks CTLA-4 antigens. This combination may improve immunoreponse in patients with residual tumor after concurrent radiation and temozolomide therapy.



The 2007 Research Grant recipients. This year's recipients represent 9 research institutions in 6 states and 2 countries.

ROBERT SOBOL, PHD

University of Pittsburgh
PARG regulation of temozolomide induced mitotic checkpoint activation
The Seth Harris Feldman Chair of Research

KWONG KWOK WONG, PHD

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Development of permanent juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma cell lines for preclinical trials

PEDIATRIC LOW-GRADE GLIOMA (LGG) INITIATIVE

JEFFREY LEONARD, MD

Washington University (St. Louis)
Controlling pilocytic astrocytoma growth: Effects of location, age and telomerase

DAVID GUTMANN, MD, PHD

Washington University (St. Louis)
and

TOBEY MACDONALD, MD

Children's National Medical Center
A joint investigation of Identification of key genetic and growth control pathway changes in pediatric fibrillary astrocytomas (PFA) that represent potential molecular targets for therapeutic intervention





For brain tumor patients of all ages, a return to school after diagnosis can be both exciting and nerve-racking. Many look forward to getting back into their normal routine, seeing friends again and getting a chance to focus on something besides their brain tumor and related treatments. Others feel anxious about people's reactions, how to answer questions or whether or not they are going to be able to keep up with school work. Most experience a mix of feelings. This is completely normal. A return to school after a brain tumor diagnosis is a big change.

Patients, families and school staff should start planning for the return to school as soon as possible. Obviously, taking time to understand the diagnosis and making treatment

Returning to School after a Brain Tumor Diagnosis

decisions are top priorities. But the sooner the conversation about returning to school starts, the better. This allows for time to plan around the return, identifying possible problem areas and setting up necessary supports.

Start by notifying the school of the diagnosis, preferably in writing, and set up a time to meet with relevant school staff. Ask the school to identify a point person for exchanging information about changes in condition, the treatment process and the time frame for return. This individual, often the school nurse, will be responsible for keeping the appropriate people updated on the patient's situation.

Generally speaking, it is a good idea to keep copies of all communications with the school. Jot down notes during phone calls and keep copies of emails and letters.

This will help in tracking problem areas and proposed solutions, and it may be helpful to refer back to these exchanges if any issues arise.

Patients should be encouraged to express their concerns or feelings about going back to school. They should also identify who at their school they are comfortable going to for support during the school day. This may be a teacher, nurse or guidance counselor. Open discussion at all stages of the process will increase the likelihood of a successful return.



For more information on helping brain tumor patients of all ages return to school, request a copy of the Brain Tumor Society's newly revised resource guide. Our 5th edition of *Color Me Hope* provides information on how to plan for a successful transition back into school.

New Color Me Hope available now!

We're excited to launch the newest version of our *Color Me Hope* resource guide! For over a decade, *Color Me Hope* has armed patients, survivors and caregivers with the information and resources they need to make informed choices.

The comprehensive nature of this 5th edition reflects the involvement of brain tumor professionals, patients, caregivers and family members. It is infused with the perspective of first-hand experience.

ESSENTIALS

- Brain anatomy
- Tumor types
- Treatment options
- Integrative medicine

...AND MORE

- Coping & relationships
- Daily living
- Health insurance
- Employment & educational issues
- Finances

It is our belief that useful resources empower patients, survivors and their families. Get your copy of *Color Me Hope* today!



Download chapters or the entire guide at www.tbts.org, or request a printed book through our website or at 800.770.8287.



Fall Fundraising Events

By the time you read this, thousands of participants and countless volunteers will have just completed the Race for Hope-Philadelphia and the Have a Chance Walk To Fight Brain Tumors in New York City. Please be on the lookout for highlights of these events in the next edition of Heads Up, or visit www.tbts.org to see the latest news today.

A few highlights of note include public service announcements for



Go to www.tbts.org to see how many dollars were raised.

the Race for Hope-Philadelphia by 67-year-old Harry Kalas, the golden voice of the Philadelphia Phillies since 1971. His familiar tones grabbed the attention of many new participants. For those of you

who know Philadelphia, the route began and ended at the renowned Philadelphia Museum of Art; a kids' race was included in the event—with all the kids receiving medals for participating and being off to a great start by supporting BTS.

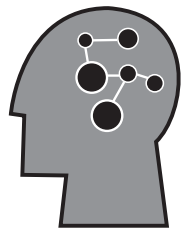
Founded in 2006 by the late Dennis Roth, BTS's former board chair, New York's inaugural Have a Chance Walk raised more than a million dollars, and with donations



still coming in, we hope to have topped that this year. The Walk had a new and exciting route—beginning and ending at Battery Park, where on a clear day, participants can see the Statue of Liberty

welcoming them to the finish line. Dennis would have been proud of his family and friends who have grown this event into a remarkable fundraiser that benefits both the Brain Tumor Society and the Have a Chance Foundation.

Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research in Arizona



Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research (SSBTR) is excitedly planning for their 7th annual walkathon to be held on February 23, 2008. Plan to attend this student-organized event if you are in Phoenix, Arizona! Enjoy the live music, the delicious food and be part of a great cause. Proceeds from this event benefit brain tumor research through the Brain Tumor Society, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix Children's Hospital, and TGEN.



Arizona will also host the second annual Celebrate Hope dinner and auction in Carefree, Arizona this winter. Please visit www.tbts.org for more information.

SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008. STATE ROOM, BOSTON

In April of 2008, Richard Ross would have turned 65 years old. On the occasion of his birthday, we invite you to join the Brain Tumor Society and the Ross Family to remember Richard and to honor his leadership as a founding member of the BTS Board of Directors.

For questions, sponsorship opportunities or tickets contact BTS: 617.924.9997 or gala@tbts.org.





BTS Research Grant Program

ATTENTION RESEARCHERS!

Visit www.tbts.org for important news about the 2008 Research Grant Program, including updated guidelines and other details about the applications process.

DEADLINES

Letters of Intent deadline
January 16, 2008

Pediatric Low-Grade Glioma
(LGG) Initiative
Application deadline
February 15, 2008

QUESTIONS?

Contact Carrie Treadwell at
617.924.9997
or treadwell@tbts.org

CURRENT RESEARCH

See page 4 for the 2007
Research Grant Awards

NEW Color Me Hope out now

SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS



Save the date! One Day Seminar on March 8th

This seminar is a partnership between BTS, Sutter Medical Center and the National Brain Tumor Foundation.

When: March 8, 2008, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Where: Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento, California

BTS BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY
● ● ● Research ♦ Education ♦ Support

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