



# Tonight is a Good Night:

An Evening of Hope for Progress  
in Brain Tumor Research  
with the Sharpe Family  
and National Brain Tumor Society

JULY 2022

# A Letter from the Sharpe Family and the National Brain Tumor Society

## Dear Friends and Family,

Together, we are breaking down barriers and forging opportunities to transform brain tumor research. Projects funded by the National Brain Tumor Society, the Sharpe family's Today Is a Good Day Foundation, and friends like you are accelerating the breakthroughs we need.

The Sharpe-NBTS Brain Cancer Research Awards were formed in 2016 to inspire a group of the world's leading neuro-oncology researchers to stretch and innovate. The awards were also designed to recognize "Bob's doctors" who were instrumental in Bob's care and quest to find a cure. Since its inception, our partnership has funded more than \$2 million in research projects.

During these last five years, our collective philanthropy has been highly leveraged as the funded researchers maximized the awards to discover and develop new research tools, new drug targets, new applications for immunotherapy, advance research toward clinical trials, and develop new hypotheses for future research.

To those who have given to this partnership, we deeply appreciate your support to fund projects that we believe will ultimately lead to better treatments. To Bob's doctors and their teams, the brain tumor community thanks you for the important work you're doing to better understand glioblastoma and help make lasting change. It is through the power of teamwork that we will more rapidly advance new potential therapies for individuals with brain cancer.

The Sharpe-NBTS partnership continues this important mission in Bob's memory. His indomitable spirit and vision as well as his infectious optimism to advance brain tumor research helps to fuel this important work. Together, we can conquer and cure brain tumors – once and for all.

With best regards,

**Deborah Sharpe**

**David F. Arons, JD**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Brain Tumor Society

## About Sharpe-Funded Research

Thanks to the generosity of Bob Sharpe and his Today is a Good Day Foundation, the National Brain Tumor Society has been able to fund more than two dozen projects to help better understand, target, and treat GBM over the past seven years. When Bob passed away in 2019 after his four-and-a-half-year battle with glioblastoma (GBM), his wife Deborah, his children, and their friends and family continued this mission in his memory.



*Bob and Deborah Sharpe*

Not only have these projects been highly innovative, they are poised to translate research into new treatment with better outcomes – sooner – for patients.

GBM is the most common, complex, treatment resistant, and deadliest type of brain cancer, accounting for 49.1% of all brain cancers, with more than 13,400 men, women, and children expected to be diagnosed in the U.S. this year.

"By partnering with NBTS to direct our funds to groundbreaking research," Sharpe said of the awards at their genesis in 2016, "I'm hoping to inspire world-class neuro-oncology researchers to generate new and exciting ideas and projects aimed at improving treatment options for glioblastoma patients. Based on the research that we are currently funding, I'm optimistic that we can make an impact now that will contribute to prolonged survival."

Tonight's program expresses our gratitude for the Sharpe family's fundraising efforts, and highlights significant outcomes and advances as a result of these projects.



*All figures as of May 2022*

# NBTS Summary of Sharpe-Funded Research

## CURRENT AWARDS

### 2021-2022

#### **Therapeutic Approaches that Target Apoptotic Blocks in Glioblastoma**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Elizabeth Fernandez, Timothy Cloughesy, and David Nathanson  
Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

#### **Targeting Lipid Metabolism in Glioblastoma**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Paul Mischel  
Institution: Stanford University

## PAST AWARDS

### 2019-2020

#### **Targeting IL-6 to Improve CAR T Immunotherapy of GBM**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Yi Fan and Steven Brem  
Institution: University of Pennsylvania

#### **Defining and Targeting Pro-tumoral Effects of CD97 in Glioblastoma**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Susan Chang and Manish Aghi  
Institution: University of California, San Francisco

#### **Development of a Brain-penetrant EGFR Inhibitor for Malignant Glioma**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Timothy Cloughesy and David Nathanson  
Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

#### **PDL1 and PD1 Interaction in Glioblastoma Growth**

Lead researchers: Drs. John de Groot and Veerakumar Balasubramanian  
Institution: MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Establishing a Rationale for PVSRIPO Immunotherapy in Newly Diagnosed GBM**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Matthias Gromeier and Annick Desjardins  
Institution: Duke University

#### **Optimizing OLIG2 Inhibition for GBM Treatment**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Santosh Kesari  
Institution: John Wayne Cancer Institute

#### **Biomarkers for Precision Neuro-Oncology**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Ingo Mellinghoff  
Institution: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

#### **Adenovirus Expressing the Co-stimulatory Molecule CD40L as a Novel Immunotherapy for Glioblastoma**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Richard Vile, Aaron Johnson, and Brian O'Neill  
Institution: Mayo Clinic

#### **Integrating CDK4/6 Inhibition and Immunotherapy for Glioblastoma Using Humanized Mouse Models**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Jose McFaline-Figueroa, Patrick Wen, and Jean Zhao  
Institution: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

#### **Developing Innovative and More Effective Combination Therapies for GBM Patients**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Paul Mischel  
Institution: Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research

### 2018

#### **Developing CDK4 Inhibitors for Glioma Therapy**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Ingo Mellinghoff  
Institution: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

#### **Testing a Pharmacological Inhibitor of Plasma Membrane Organization for the Treatment of Glioblastoma Patients**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Paul Mischel  
Institution: Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research

#### **A 3-Dimensional Approach to Selecting Precision Combination Therapy**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Joseph Costello and Susan Chang  
Institution: University of California, San Francisco

## 2017

### **Targeting the Glioma Immune Environment by Creating Tertiary Lymphoid Organs**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Hideho Okada and Susan Chang  
Institution: University of California, San Francisco

### **Elucidating the Dynamics of Immune-reactive Signatures in Glioblastoma**

Lead Researchers: Drs. David Nathanson and Timothy Cloughesy  
Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

### **PDL1 Expression and Regulation in Glioblastoma Stem Cells**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Veerakumar Balasubramanian and John de Groot  
Institution: MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **Combining PVSRIPO Immunotherapy with Lomustine for the Treatment of Recurrent GBM**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Annick Desjardins and Matthias Gromeier  
Institution: Duke University

### **Targeting the IL-6 to Strengthen Immunotherapy for GBM**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Steven Brem and Yi Fan  
Institution: University of Pennsylvania

### **Pritumumab Immunotherapy for Glioblastoma**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Santosh Kesari  
Institution: John Wayne Cancer Institute

### **In-situ Mapping of GBM Tumor Microenvironment**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Ingo Mellinghoff  
Institution: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

### **Identifying and Targeting Metabolic Co-dependency Pathways in GBM: An Unbiased Systematic Approach**

Lead Researcher: Dr. Paul Mischel  
Institution: Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research

### **Immunotherapy for Brain Tumors Through APOBEC3B-induced Neo-epitope Generation in Combination with Immune Checkpoint Blockade**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Brian O'Neill and Richard Vile  
Institution: Mayo Clinic

### **Developing Effective Therapeutics of Targeted and Immunotherapy in GBM**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Jean Zhao and Patrick Wen  
Institution: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

## 2016

### **SPORE Collaborative: Targeting EGFRvIII with Vaccines and CTLA-4 Immunotherapy in Newly Diagnosed GBM**

Lead Researcher: Dr. John Sampson  
Institution: Duke University

### **Response-based Imaging Endpoints for Recurrent Glioblastoma Clinical Trials**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Ben Ellingson and Timothy Cloughesy  
Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

### **Evaluating Imaging Data from a Leading Clinical Trial with Avastin**

Lead Researchers: Drs. Patrick Wen and Ray Huang  
Institution: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

## About National Brain Tumor Society

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Building on over 30 years of experience, the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) unrelentingly invests in, mobilizes, and unites the brain tumor community to discover a cure, deliver effective treatments, and advocate for patients and caregivers. Our focus on defeating brain tumors and improving the quality of patients' lives is powered by our partnerships across the science, health care, policy, and business sectors. We fund treatments focused research and convene those most critical to curing brain tumors — once and for all. Join us at [BrainTumor.org](http://BrainTumor.org).



Community here. Breakthroughs ahead.™

[BrainTumor.org](https://www.brainumor.org)