



Key Updates

Unlocking A Mystery, Increasing Survival and Hope



Executive Sponsor's Message



We hope everyone's new year is off to a great start. We expect 2008 to bring great things in our community, from research advances and breakthroughs, to greater community support and resource sharing. We expect to play an important role and contribute in each of these areas.

Earlier this month, I underwent my 4th brain tumor surgery; this procedure was a Gamma Knife Radiosurgery, and I'm following up with Temodar. This powerful treatment has proven highly effective for other brain tumor patients, and is illustrative of the kinds of solutions that your research dollars can lead to. Once thought of as a palliative treatment, continued research has shown its effectiveness in halting tumors and extending lives. There's a lot going on at UBT, so while I'm concentrating on a full recovery, I'm also working to further our mission. We appreciate your support, your assistance in raising awareness about our site, and your contributions.

-Steve Coffman,
Survivor since 2005



UnlockingBrainTumors.org News

- In between the holidays, UnlockingBrainTumors.org continued to stay busy. We are continuing to add new documents to our site, including press releases and articles, and we are happily adding reader-submitted brain tumor stories. We've also entered the blogosphere with a goal of 3-4 blog entries per week. Board advisor Andrew Wicklander (and CEO of Ideal Project Group) cites a statistic that the average blog has 1 reader – we're looking to do much better than that!

- With our new look, created by Susan Smith, DesignSmithStudios.com and web site (by Julie Abel of Jabberdesign.com), we're actively reaching out to the community; since December, we have sent nearly 6000 targeted mail pieces to prospective donors; we have also surpassed our first \$50,000 in funds raised!



Medical Updates

VirtualTrials.com links to a report by Dr. Henry Friedman of Duke University that appeared in a recent issue of *Touch Briefings*. The piece highlights a shift in traditional thinking around treatment of GBM patients, namely to challenge the assumption that only palliative care can be achieved by treatment regimens. With growing evidence that multiple-agent therapies can have an impact on survivability, Dr. Friedman's piece makes a compelling case to reconsider traditional approaches and treatment strategies in GBM patients. Indeed, he says that anything less is inappropriate when the possibility to increase survival appears to exist. The report can be read at <http://virtualtrials.com/pdf/Friedman.pdf>

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Around The Community

- **The International Brain Tumour Alliance** has launched a channel at YouTube – take a look and subscribe at <http://www.youtube.com/theibta>
- Register for **ABTA's Brain Tumor Path to Progress 5k Run/Walk** (Chicago, IL 4/26/08) at www.abta.org or for **Angels Among Us's 5k and Family Fun Walk** (Durham, NC, 4/26/08) at www.angelsamongus.org. To get involved or sponsor one of our teams, contact us.
- **The Tug McGraw Foundation** will be hosting the first ever *Brain Tumor Quality of Life Research Summit* in conjunction with the involvement of the Neuro-Oncology Quality of Life Research at Duke University Medical Center and The Brain & Spine Center at M.D. Anderson, among other institutions. The Summit will take place from March 16-18 at the Citizens Bank Ballpark in Philadelphia. Share your input by completing a survey at <http://www.tugmcgraw.org/survey/questions.html>

Beneficiaries

The Musella Foundation For Brain Tumor Research & Information, Operated by Al Musella, is our organization's lead beneficiary. The Musella Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and survival times for brain tumor patients by using computer technology to index brain tumor clinical trials, streamline the flow of information, organize the brain tumor community and raise money for brain tumor research. It operates www.virtualtrials.com, and has worked tirelessly and successfully to bring attention to clinical trials, patient outcomes, research, letter writing campaigns for expanded treatment options, and a great many other contributions to the community.



Partners

UnlockingBrainTumors.org Executive Sponsor Steve Coffman had the opportunity to get to know the Angels Among Us program at The Preston Robert Brain Tumor Center at Duke last fall, and is investigating ways that we can continue to be involved with this excellent team. Angels Among Us shares a mission with our team, noting on its site that "one out of ten or less grant applications to NIH's National Cancer Institute (NCI) are accepted. Those that are, may not be at the funding level needed (currently there is a 29% administrative reduction), and the process for grant approval can be long and arduous.

Through philanthropic events, such as Angels Among Us, funds raised can be quickly delivered where they are needed most in the fight against brain cancer". Coming up on their calendar is the Angels Among Us 5k and Family Fun Walk You can visit the Center at <http://www.cancer.duke.edu/btc/>

Medical Updates *continued from page 1*

Last month in this space, we mentioned research that Musella Foundation is hoping to help fund: a combination therapy of Avastin and CPT-11. Al has posted an informative and compelling article on this therapy at <http://virtualtrials.com/avastin.cfm>, written by James Need, Ph.D. VirtualTrials.com links to a fascinating article at PhysicsToday.org on the use of electricity in cancer treatment; specifically, that "Low-intensity alternating fields can hinder or destroy dividing cells and slow the growth of brain tumors in cancer patients". The researchers, led by Yoram Palti, of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, are The idea is that the technology may be able to limit cell division and thus tumor growth; because healthy adult cells do not divide, there would not be a negative effect on healthy cells. This would be an advancement from traditional chemotherapeutic treatments, in which cells both cancerous and healthy are destroyed; the destruction of healthy cells limits the tolerance for treatment that a patient may be able to endure. The article can be found at http://ptonline.aip.org/journals/doc/PHTOAD-ft/vol_60/iss_8/19_1.shtml



Feedback/Contact Us

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How To Support Us

We are very pleased to report that stories about Tommy, Sandro and Rocky have been posted to our site. Please log on to read their poignant and inspirational stories. UnlockingBrainTumors.org is soliciting your stories of survival, of hope, or of memories of a loved one who lost their brain tumor battle. Our goal is to continue to bring a human face to this disease by sharing inspiring stories and personal remembrances of our community members. Please visit www.unlockingbraintumors.org and click on "Stories" to submit your story.



How To Support Us

UnlockingBrainTumors.org will be organizing a team for ABTA's Path To Progress 5k Walk/Run in Chicago this April. We're looking for walkers, runners and donors! If you have any interest in these areas, please contact Mike Tancredi at mike@unlockingbraintumors.org. As always, we can use your support in a variety of ways. Your financial support, either one-time or ongoing, or helping to arrange for UnlockingBrainTumors.org to become a corporate beneficiary, is invaluable to our core mission to raise funds and redistribute them to our beneficiaries, and therefore, directly to research.

We also have a need for volunteers who can support UnlockingBrainTumors.org in any number of ways, including fulfillment of fundraising campaigns, event support, marketing, speaking events and other channels.

Even linking to www.unlockingbraintumors.org from your site will help to raise awareness for our organization and support our community. For more information, please contact Steve at (616) 335-9050 (office) or (312) 375-8346 (cell).



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