



Key Updates

Unlocking A Mystery, Increasing Survival and Hope



Executive Sponsor's Message



I hope this finds everyone well and enjoying the summer weather. This month we are pleased to announce that we have redesigned our home page to highlight the impact we are making, with your help. UnlockingBrainTumors.org felt that with our ongoing efforts, it was time to shift from who we are, to what we are doing. Specifically, the redesigned home page will now show you Dollars Raised Directly, Dollars Raised Indirectly for Other Organizations (e.g., where our efforts facilitated a gift directly to a beneficiary), Research Projects we have helped to fund, and Key Activities. We feel it is critical to let you know exactly how many of your dollars we are putting to work, and how we are using them, so that we may continue to earn your trust and support for our important work.

-Steve Coffman,
Survivor since 2005



UnlockingBrainTumors.org News

- We are pleased to announce several donations we've made toward brain tumor research. On July 12, we will be making a \$10,000 donation to the **Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation**, in support of one of our fellow members in **United Front Against Brain Tumors**. **Brown Bag For A Cure** has set a goal of \$25,000 for a donation to PBTfUS, and we are pleased to help support it. The \$10,000 was raised by John Coffman, Steve Coffman's brother, through neighborhood fundraising in their hometown of Urbana, OH. We've made other donations of late, including a \$10,000 contribution to vaccine therapy research, and a \$6,667 contribution for Pan PI3 Kinase Inhibitor research at the **Emory University School of Medicine**.

- We are still looking for golfers for our First Annual Charity Golf Outing, to be held August 18, 2008 at **Highland Park (IL) Country Club** benefiting pediatric brain tumor research. Please consider joining us, and taking a friend, client or someone else who might support our cause. We still have sponsorship opportunities and *In Memory Of* and *In Honor Of* signs. To register, please visit www.golfinvite.com/ubt.



Medical Updates

- **VirtualTrials.com** shares a news release reporting that Erwin Van Meir, PhD, professor of neurosurgery and hematology and medical oncology, **Emory University Winship Cancer Institute** has been awarded a three-year, \$600,000 research grant from the Goldhirsh Foundation to help fund his research into the role of Galectin-3 (Gal3) in brain cancer. Gal3 is a protein that binds certain sugar molecules onto other proteins; the news release indicates that in unpublished studies from Van Meir's lab, activation of p53, a major tumor suppressor gene, induces Gal3 secretion, and that the release of Gal3 can induce the death of a variety of tumor cells, including brain tumor cells through apoptosis, a cell suicide program. **The Goldhirsh Foundation** was established in 2000 and is devoted to providing support for innovative brain tumor research.

- **According to VirtualTrials.com, Oncolin Therapeutics, Inc. announces that** "a team of scientists supported by an Oncolin Sponsored Research Agreement (SRA) and lead by Professor Waldemar Priebe from **The University of Texas M. D. Anderson**

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Around The Community

The National Brain Tumor Foundation and The Brain Tumor Society have announced a legal merger to form the largest organization that funds innovative brain tumor research and provides support services to patients and families.

According to a news release, the new organization, National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS), will continue to work from both existing locations, just outside of Boston and in San Francisco. The news release indicates that “leaders of the two legacy organizations agreed that collaboration is essential to progress on brain tumor issues – both to the development of research into new treatments and to assist patients, survivors and families who are coping with this devastating diagnosis”.

Beneficiaries

UnlockingBrainTumors.org is contributing \$10,000 to a *Pilot Study to Evaluate the Effects of Vaccinations with HLA-A2-Restricted Glioma Antigen-Peptides in Combination with Poly-ICLC for Adults with WHO Grade II Gliomas Status*. Grade II gliomas, a form of brain tumor, are slow-growing glioma with an intrinsic tendency to progress to aggressive malignant glioma. The study’s researchers indicate that there are no standard radiation therapy regimens that can improve the survival and quality of life of these patients; the focus of their efforts is the development of novel immunotherapy approaches for patients with gliomas with a goal of improving the ability of the immune system to attack and destroy glioma cells.

If you have recommendations on foundations that we might approach and who you feel might be interested in our efforts, please contact steve@unlockingbraintumors.org



Partners

We are pleased to announce that **United Front Against Brain Tumors**, also known as The Grey Ribbon Crusade, and launched in conjunction with **The Brad Kaminsky Foundation (tbkf.org)** and **The Musella Foundation For Brain Tumor Research & Information** now has more than 100 members nationwide! Just a few states remain without representation; please take a look and feel free to make a referral to help us reach one of our goals – member individuals or organizations in all 50 states. Then click on the “Research” tab to see the growing list of research projects that have been funded or are searching for funding. To join the group, please visit <http://greyribboncrusade.org/join.cfm>. To contribute funds that can be pooled with other donations to more quickly help fund research, contact Lisa Kaminsky-Millar at DNL1231@aol.com.

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Cancer Center (UTMDACC) has discovered a new inhibitor of glycolysis, which is superior to the other known inhibitors. These results were confirmed both in vitro as well as in vivo brain tumor models. These new results have demonstrated that the compound that Oncolin in collaboration with UTMDACC are currently developing clearly displays significantly better pharmacokinetics, increased potency and efficacy”.

According to the news release, The founding scientists at MD Anderson have designed a drug that passes through the Blood Brain Barrier (BBB), a protective tissue which prevents most other drugs from entering the brain, where this drug is then retained in brain tumor cells selectively blocking the tumors metabolic machinery. This compound class also provides higher drug uptake and a longer drug half life, and this drug class can also be used to treat other cancers that depend on glycolysis for survival such as breast and pancreatic cancers”.

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Feedback/Contact Us

For more in-depth discussions or to get involved in this very important cause, please call, write or visit us. You'll find that it's easy to help, and that your help will quickly be operationalized.

We'll soon be expanding our volunteer opportunities, to reflect a growing area of needs as we ourselves grow, launch more fundraising events and need to continue expanding our reach.

Whether you have a preferred beneficiary or project, level of involvement, or simply want to help our team in whatever area possible, we'll make it easy for you to do just that. *We're looking to expand our use of volunteers and partners, so if you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know!*

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How to Support Us

This summer, please consider supporting our golf event, either through participating, a memorial or tribute sign, or becoming an event sponsor. Please visit our site for more details or register directly at www.golfinvite.com/ubt.

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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Newsletter content submission is due the 1st of each month. Send content to Mike Tancredi, Mike@unlockingbraintumors.org

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