Stalled Research, Lagging Advancements & Increased Fatality Rates

Tissue donation is a contribution that improves outcomes for children with brain cancer that only families can make.

Brain cancer has overtaken leukemia as the leading cause of cancer-related death for children. The reason children succumb to their cancer will remain a mystery until researchers are able to study the diseased tissue of those children who do not survive their disease.

Gift from a Child’s mission is to increase postmortem pediatric brain tissue donations through advocacy as well as the education of families enduring the worst … the loss of a child.

We have formed partnerships with the best researchers and medical providers who value information and data sharing. These strategic partnerships will accelerate breakthrough cancer research, improve treatments and ultimately find cures for childhood brain cancer.

Donating Michael’s tissue was one of the few positive things we were able to do during those final tragic days of his life. Knowing his tissue may save another family from suffering the loss we have endured has consoled us as we continue to grieve and miss our Michael.

— Patti Gustafson, Michael’s Mom
The Children’s Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC) is currently the planet’s largest pediatric brain tumor database, including tissue and genomic data. It offers open-access, freely available data to researchers around the world. Tissue donated through the Centers of Excellence is stored at both the Center as well as the CBTTC bio-repository. CBTTC provides logistical and operational support for Gift from a Child.

The Centers of Excellence are:
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
  Philadelphia, PA
- New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medicine
  NYC, NY
- Children’s National Hospital
  Washington, DC
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
  Chicago, IL
- Stanford University Medical Center
  Palo Alto, CA

To learn more
Call 844-456-GIFT
info@GiftfromaChild.org
GiftfromaChild.org

Brain Cancer is Complex

Brain cancer is not a single disease. It consists of a dozen types and countless subtypes. Researchers need a critical mass of tissue samples to fully understand the pathology of each type and to better predict how tumors will behave and respond to targeted treatments.

How do we treat a tumor that keeps changing? Researchers need to study a child’s tumor at diagnosis, recurrence—and if necessary, after death. Only then will we understand why treatments work for some children and not for others.

Who is Gift from a Child?

Gift from a Child is a national initiative supported by families who have lost children to brain cancer, private foundations, researchers and medical professionals. It currently receives the majority of its funding from the Swifty Foundation.

Gift from a Child has developed strategic partnerships with regional Centers of Excellence across the country and the Children’s Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium to ensure the very best stewardship of the precious gift of a child’s donated tissue.

The Centers of Excellence are regional sites for coordination, processing and storage of donated tissue. The centers work as a collaborative, are an example of best practice in family and patient care, sharing biospecimens and data widely across the international research community.

Each regional center is supported by a Tissue Navigator trained to companion families through the donation process and will coordinate all aspects of the donation.

Why Donate Tissue?

Autopsy tissue donation is absolutely critical if we want to cure more children with pediatric brain tumors. The biology of the tumor changes over time, and quite obviously the tumor at the time of death is the tumor that evaded therapy. It’s this tumor we need to learn about in order to treat it.

— Michael Taylor MD, PhD Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

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