Working together to make a difference

When I joined the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation in November 2007, I was given the opportunity to use my business and leadership experience for the greater good. That experience was forged during six years as a U.S. Army officer and 10 years in the private sector as a manager in sales, logistics, and operations. During my corporate career, I managed millions of dollars in annual sales and profits.

However, I decided (as most of us eventually realize) that there exist in life some things that are bigger and more important than myself, my agenda, and my personal needs.

I have resolved to do my best to take the experiences and skills I acquired in my previous career and apply them as a leader and manager here at the PBTF.

Our staff and our volunteers understand this. We’re here to fight childhood brain tumors and bring an end to the suffering of families worldwide.

We realized many accomplishments in 2007 thanks to our partners in the fundraising and medical fields. Our PBTF Institute researchers came together for the first time to share results of their work. We funded prestigious scientific conferences around the world, and our research grants continued to grow.

These achievements would never have come to fruition were it not for the tireless fundraising efforts of our supporters and sponsors. Along with the children we serve, you are our heroes. Without you there would be no funding for a cure.

Our monetary contributions to science would be worthless if not for the medical professionals that have partnered with the PBTF and each other.

The innovations in the field of medicine would never have happened without the best professionals in the world collaborating with each other. Today we have the best and brightest doctors unselfishly working together. Our research institutes are comprised of the greatest minds in neuro-oncology.

This year has not been without its share of tears, as we said goodbye to far too many children, friends and family members who lost their battle with brain tumors.

The fight goes on. We will not rest until we beat this disease. I believe that I will see the cure for brain tumors in children in my lifetime. If it happens tomorrow it will not be soon enough.

God bless you all,

Brian Traynor
Our mission

Every day, nine families in the United States get the devastating news that their child has a brain tumor. Forty percent of those children die within five years.

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation’s mission is to change that dreadful outcome for the better.

We do that by funding the very best medical research into childhood brain tumors and by promoting collaboration between research scientists. In 2007 we funded more than 50 research laboratories in the U.S. and other countries, including our four Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institutes.

Because we believe that a cure will be found by working together, we are especially proud of our research institutes. More than 30 PBTFI researchers met to share their work in 2007, the first such gathering of its kind. Their meeting featured presentations on the evolving science of childhood brain tumors, as well as lively discussions about the biggest challenges to treating and curing the disease.

Family support is also a critical part of our mission. We continued to reach out to more patient families in 2007, through our website, educational materials and Internet conferences. More children than ever before applied for a PBTF college scholarship last year, an indication that outcomes are already changing for many patients.

We strive to bring the story of childhood brain tumors to the public in hopes of increasing funding and awareness. Whether sponsoring radiothons or addressing congressional briefings, we embrace the opportunity to speak out on behalf of the children.

Happily, we are not in the fight alone. Our partners include thousands of patients, family members, volunteers, fundraisers, researchers, and corporate sponsors. By working together, we are confident that we will cure the kids.

Mission statement

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, a nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3) organization, seeks to

• find the cause of and cure for childhood brain tumors through the support of medical research;
• increase public awareness about the severity and prevalence of childhood brain tumors;
• aid in early detection and treatment of childhood brain tumors;
• support a national database on all primary brain tumors; and
• provide hope and emotional support for the thousands of children and families affected by this life-threatening disease.

Board of Directors

Mike Traynor, President
Glenn Wilcox, Vice President
Chris Kernion, Treasurer
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2007 Grants & Programs

Working together through research collaborations

We have learned from our 25 years of success that we cannot accomplish our goals alone. It has been the work of volunteers, sponsors, patient families and PBTF staff that has moved us forward. We believe that the answers to stopping the devastation of brain tumors in children will come through collaborative research efforts.

In 2007 we held our first annual collaborative research meeting of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institutes in Asheville, N.C. It was with a great deal of excitement and exhilaration that we listened to 30 researchers share their scientific discoveries with one another and discuss how they could work together. This meeting was a great validation of the success that we are seeing from our $6.9 million commitment to this program.

Dianne Traynor
PBTF Co-founder,
Director of Research Funding and Advocacy
PBTF Institute Program

The PBTF Institutes continue to focus on basic and translational research in an effort to improve outcomes for children with brain tumors.

PBTF Institute investigators are working to
• understand the signaling systems of pediatric brain tumors involved in mitogenesis, survival and cell death in an effort to identify new targets for pediatric brain tumor therapy;
• characterize the phenotypic and genetic alterations that are unique to benign and malignant pediatric brain tumors;
• identify the genes and genetic variations that underlie tumor resistance to chemotherapy and radiation therapy;
• develop immunotherapeutic approaches aimed at improving control of localized and disseminated pediatric brain tumor disease;
• develop new, safer approaches to control CNS disseminated disease; and
• develop innovative biological-based treatments for childhood brain tumors.
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute Awards

PBTFI Program at Duke University
Director: Darell Bigner, M.D., Ph.D.
Establishment of Cell Lines, Xenografts and Monoclonal Antibodies, Pilot Project Core,
Darell Bigner, M.D., Ph.D.
Serial Analysis of Gene Expression of Childhood Brain Tumors, Hai Yan, M.D., Ph.D.
Altered Signal Transduction, Pathways and Small Molecule Inhibitors, Jeremy Rich, M.D.
Definition of Non-AGT/DNA Mismatch Repair Deficiency Mechanisms of Resistance to Temozolomide,
Henry Friedman, M.D.
Epigenic Regulation of Drug Resistant Genes in Medulloblastoma,
Francis Ali-Osman, D.Sc.
Tissue Bank Core,
Roger McLendon, M.D.
Investigational New Drug and Reagent Preparation Core,
Michael Granger, Ph.D.
Gene and Radiotherapy,
Michael Zalutsky, Ph.D.

Dr. Darell Bigner

PBTFI Program at the University of California, San Francisco
Director: Mitchel Berger, M.D.
Central Nervous System Development and Brain Stem Glioma Tumorigenesis,
David Rowitch, M.D., Ph.D., and Arturo Alvarez-Buylla, Ph.D.
Pediatric Brain Tumor Xenograft Panel,
C. David James, Ph.D.
MYCN and Medulloblastoma Tumorigenesis,
William Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.
Genome-based Marker and Therapy Development in Pediatric Brain Tumors, Graeme Hodgson, Ph.D.
Convection-enhanced and Intra-nasal Delivery of Therapeutic Agents, Natlin Gupta, M.D., Ph.D.
Administrative and Statistical Core,
Mitchel Berger, M.D.
Convection-enhanced and Intra-nasal Delivery of Therapeutic Agents to the Rodent Brainstem,
Krys Bankewicz, Ph.D.
Tissue Bank and Neuropathology Core,
Scott VandenBerg, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Mitchel Berger
PBTFI Program at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles

Director: Robert Seeger, M.D.
Microenvironment and Angiogenesis, Pediatric Brain Tumor Core,
Anat Erdreich-Epstein, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Director
Genomics, Robert Seeger, M.D.
Immunotherapy and Microenvironment, Leonid Metelitsa, M.D., Ph.D.
Cell Lines and In Vitro Pre-clinical Drug Testing,
Patrick Reynolds, M.D., Ph.D., and Nino Kesheselava, M.D.
Molecular Imaging, Stefan Blumi, Ph.D.
Biostatistics Core, Richard Sposto, Ph.D.
Pathology, Tumor and Nucleic Acid Bank, Shahab Asgharzadeh, M.D.
Associate Director for Clinical Translation, Jonathan Finlay, M.D., Ch.B.

Dr. Robert Seeger

PBTFI Program at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

Director: James Rutka, M.D., Ph.D.
Identification of Interstitial Germline Deletions in Children with Complex Clinical Syndromes that Include Medulloblastoma,
Michael Taylor, M.D., Ph.D., and Eric Bouffet, M.D.
High Resolution Genotyping of a Large Cohort of Pediatric Medulloblastomas,
Michael Taylor, M.D., and James Rutka, M.D., Ph.D.
Ultrahigh Resolution Genotyping of Highly Purified Medulloblastoma,
Peter Dirks, M.D., Ph.D.
Identification of Truncating Mutations in Pediatric Medulloblastoma,
Peter Dirks, M.D., Ph.D., and James Rutka, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. James Rutka
Building partnerships in research excellence

SNO meeting features pediatric session

The Society of Neuro-Oncology’s 12th annual scientific meeting offered its 900 attendees a novel experience: The opening plenary session was devoted to pediatric brain tumors.

The PBTF, a SNO Platinum Supporter, was pleased to sponsor the session dedicated to reporting on the progress in the treatment of childhood brain tumors.

PBTF Scientific Advisory Board member Ian Pollack, M.D., of the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, gave the plenary keynote address on the “Molecular Biology of Pediatric Gliomas.” His talk was followed by presentations on the current standing of clinical trials and the possible use of targeted therapies for these tumors in children.

Researchers presented their pediatric research projects and posters in the afternoon session.

The PBTF was also honored to present the Society of Neuro-Oncology Outstanding Research Awards in Pediatric Brain Tumor Research to Michael Taylor, M.D., Ph.D., of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and to David H. Gutmann, Ph.D., of Washington University.

Mike and Dianne Traynor (center) at the SNO awards ceremony with SNO’s Executive Director Chas Haynes and President Abhijit Guha, M.D.
PBTF, NINDS co-sponsor Child Neurology Society symposium on pediatric brain tumor education

The PBTF co-sponsored a pediatric brain tumor educational symposium at the Child Neurology Society annual meeting in Quebec, Canada.

This educational symposium gathered an outstanding group of basic and clinical researchers from around the world to speak to the assembled pediatric neurology researchers about the disease of brain tumors in children.

The PBTF also provided funding support to more than 20 young investigators in the field of child neurology in an effort to encourage them to enter the field of pediatric brain tumor research.

Attendees also had an opportunity to learn about the devastation of childhood brain tumors on patient families in a presentation by PBTF President Mike Traynor.

Steck program showcases best, brightest

The annual Peter A. Steck Memorial Award and Lecture in Houston is sponsored by the PBTF in conjunction with M.D. Anderson’s Brain Tumor Center.

The award recognizes scientific excellence by a young investigator in a research area relevant to cancer of the central nervous system, while the lecture is given by a leading scientist whose work has made important contributions to the understanding of cancer biology.

Dr. Keith Ligon, a pathologist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, received the 2007 award for his paper “Olig2-regulated lineage-restricted pathway controls regulation competence in neural stem cells and malignant glioma.”

The lecture was delivered by Tony Hunter, Ph.D., of the Salk Institute for Biological Science.

Twenty young investigators received funding from the PBTF to attend the Child Neurology Society’s annual meeting in Quebec.

Steck honoree Dr. Keith Ligon with Dianne Traynor.
PBTF grant recipient wins Nobel Prize

The year ended with the exciting news that a PBTF grant recipient had won the 2007 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. Mario Capecchi, Ph.D., of the University of Utah School of Medicine, shared the award with Oliver Smithies, Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Sir Martin J. Evans, Ph.D., of Cardiff University, for developing “gene targeting” technology in mice.

The PBTF first supported Capecchi’s work in 2000 with a grant for “A Conditional Mouse Model of Medulloblastoma.” Medulloblastoma is the most common brain tumor of childhood and is associated with significant impairment and mortality.

The discoveries made by Capecchi and the other scientists are being applied to everything from basic research to the development of new therapies for a multitude of diseases, the Nobel Prize committee said.

Basic Research

- Orthotopic Pre-clinical Model for Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumor (AT/RT), C. David James, University of California, San Francisco
- Role of Micro RNA 124A in Medulloblastoma, Rajeev Vibhakar, M.D., University of Iowa Children’s Hospital
- In Situ Identification of Antibody Targets Expressed by Intracranial Germinomas, Simon Willis, Ph.D., The Brigham & Women’s Hospital
- Characterizing and Treating Cancer Stem Cells Isolated from a MYCN Medulloblastoma Model, Fredrik Johansson Swartling, Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco

Epidemiology

- Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States

Annual Meeting Sponsorships

- Society of Neuro-Oncology (SNO) Platinum Sponsorship
- SNO Pediatric Research Award of Excellence
- Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium Annual Meeting
PBTF Scientific Advisory Board

Darell D. Bigner, M.D., Ph.D., (Chair)  Duke University Medical Center
Francis Ali-Osman, D.Sc.  Duke University Medical Center
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Peter Houghton, M.D.  St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Mark Israel, M.D.  Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
C. David James, Ph.D.  University of California, San Francisco
Larry E. Kun, M.D.  St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Bartlett D. Moore, Ph.D.  M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Roger Packer, M.D.  Children’s National Medical Center
Peter Phillips, M.D.  Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Ian Pollack, M.D.  Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
Ralph A. Reisfeld, Ph.D.  Scripps Research Institute
James T. Rutka, M.D., Ph.D.  The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
Philip J. Tofilon, Ph.D.  Moffitt Cancer Center
Bert Vogelstein, M.D.  Johns Hopkins University
W.K. Alfred Yung, M.D.  M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Family Support Programs

When a family receives the horrifying news that their child has a brain tumor, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is there to provide support. Our informational and educational resources are available at no charge in doctor’s offices and hospitals around the world, as well as by Internet, phone and mail to patient families.

2007 Highlights

- We funded 94 college scholarships for brain tumor survivors, supported by the Cycle World Joseph C. Parkhurst Education Fund Silent Auction (see following pages).
- Our Family Support Program is managed by a social worker.
- Online services include our website, www.curethekids.org, which focuses on resources for families and survivors.
- We sponsored the Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers’ (APOSW) Annual Meeting Education Day.
- A PBTF grant enabled a social worker from the Children’s Cancer Association of Japan to come to the U.S. Akiko Higuchi worked with our Family Support Program Manager, shared her expertise, and attended the APOSW meeting.

Educational resources

- The Caring Hand national newsletter provides researchers and caregivers with the latest information on grants, funding and advances in pediatric brain tumor research. It also includes stories of hope about survivors.
- The Helping Hand national newsletter focuses on the Ride for Kids® program and includes stories about patients and their families.
- We offer English and Spanish versions of seven educational brochures that contain in-depth information about the many different types of pediatric brain tumors, their treatments and post-treatment issues.
- Broadcasts of our Informed Parent and Survivor Internet Conference audio programs are available at www.curethekids.org or on CDs.

In Memoriam

Survivors’ stories fill us with hope, but the fact remains that brain tumors are the number one cause of pediatric cancer deaths. The PBTF is working hard to change that reality, but sadly, children are still dying. In 2007, we said goodbye to:

Advocacy: Speaking for the Children

The journey of a patient family is a lonely one. An unbelievable diagnosis hits the family like a steamroller. The reality that has been forced upon them leaves them in a foreign land where strangers speak an unfamiliar language of medical terminology. It fills the hearts of parents with fear, and siblings with confusion and alienation.

It is the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation’s role to speak for these families. We educate the public and elected officials about the devastation of the disease and the need for more research funding. We advocate for those who will have to deal with the disease for the rest of their lives.

The PBTF is a member of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, which held a congressional briefing in June 2007. “From Bench to Bedside and Beyond” educated lawmakers about concerns of the childhood cancer community.

We stressed that two-thirds of childhood and adolescent survivors are faced with serious, long-term side-effects from their treatment. Legislators heard that we need to identify new molecular targets for potential drugs that are less toxic and may improve treatments by more effectively attacking cancer cells.

The Alliance had the opportunity to provide input on the Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivorship and Quality of Life Act of 2007, introduced in December by Reps. Solis and Mack (Bono) of California.

The PBTF also began a new advocacy effort in 2007. We brought together members of the childhood brain tumor community, including parents of children no longer with us, to share their experiences with the public during a two-day radiothon broadcast in Asheville, N.C. The weekend was one of joy, sadness and celebration as people with no connection to this terrible disease showed their support by donating time and money and expressing their love for these families and individuals.
College Scholarship Program

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation research funding has led to improved treatment techniques, which have helped more brain tumor survivors reach adulthood. However, living with a life-threatening disease can create a substantial financial burden on families.

The PBTF helps by offering scholarships to students who wish to attend a technical or vocational school, junior college or four-year college or university.

Last year, 94 young people achieved their dreams of higher education with the help of the PBTF Scholarship Program, which is funded in part by the Cycle World Joseph C. Parkhurst Education Fund Silent Auction.

New Scholarships

Adam B.  Allie S.  Amanda V.  Amy E.  Amy S.  Andrew P.  Bayleigh J.

Benjamin D.  Brian G.  Brielle R.  Catie D.  Daniel H.  Danielle I.  Davina W.

Jacob R.  Jesse L.  Jessica H.  Keith T.  Kristen S.  Lauren K.  Leah G.

Luke M.  Madeline Z.  Margaret S.  Marie D.  Matthew S.  May M.  Meagan B.
“I have been the beneficiary of the wonderful philanthropy of others, and would like to continue fundraising and helping increase social awareness for children who have to fight the battle of cancer. Whether this is in politics, business or psychology, college will provide me with the skills and opportunity to pursue my goals.”

—Bayleigh J.

Not pictured
Hannah W.
Houston H
Julianne K.
Kelly M.

Renewed Scholarships (not pictured)
Adam S.
Alexander A.
Amanda Y.
Anneld M.
Ashleigh R.
Ashley A.
Aubrey C.
Austin L.
Bailey F.
Ben F.
Bethany C.
Brystal B.
Carra K.
Catherine H.
Cayce S.
Corey N.
Dana S.
Daniel D.
Daniel M.
Darla T.
David G.
Devin O.
Gary L.

Hannah W.
Houston H
Julianne K.
Kelly M.

Leah B.
Matthew P.
Nicholas K.

Peter Y.
Phillip W.

Rachel T.
Sara S.

Steven S.
Trina B.

Tyler G.
Yaakov H.
The Ride for Kids® program is the backbone of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation’s funding for medical research and family support programs. Working together, motorcyclists at Ride for Kids® events in 37 cities generated $4.5 million to help cure the kids in 2007. The PBTF Ride for Kids® is like no other charity ride. Bringing together thousands of motorcyclists, fundraisers, brain tumor patients, their families, members of the medical community and many others, the events are an enormous support program. The highlight of each event is a joyful “Celebration of Life” that honors the Ride for Kids® “stars” of the day. These young heroes are the reason we ride, and this ceremony is a unique opportunity for riders and families to express love and thanks.
“As I look back over the past two decades of Ride for Kids events, I recall how in 1984 my wife, Dianne, and I just wanted to do something to stop the immense loss of life that we were seeing in children with brain tumors. Never did we envision that the tremendous power of caring people and their efforts to raise funds would make the PBTF the world’s largest non-governmental funding organization for childhood brain tumor research. We are forever grateful to all who have joined in this quest to save the children.”

— Mike Traynor, PBTF President and Ride for Kids® Founder
Corporate partnerships

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation receives contributions from many companies that support our mission to find the cause of and cure for childhood brain tumors. The Ride for Kids® program is generously supported by the motorcycle division of American Honda Co., Honda of America Manufacturing, Honda of Alabama, other Honda companies, and hundreds of Honda motorcycle dealers and their employees.

Since 1991, the Honda Rider’s Club of America has been the program’s presenting sponsor. The enthusiastic commitment of the HRCA and its members has been invaluable to our success.

Ride for Kids® is also fortunate to benefit from the generosity of a multitude of individuals, other motorcycle dealerships, and other companies, including Cycle World magazine, the Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows, Advanstar Communications, Dailey & Associates, AGV Helmets, Dunlop Tires, Roland Sands Design, Cobra Engineering and many others.

Brain tumor patient Shelby helps custom motorcycle designer Roland Sands unveil “The ConqueRR” at the Phoenix Cycle World International Motorcycle Show. The record-setting motorcycle giveaway raised more than $84,000 for the PBTF.
Where your money goes

We rely on the generosity of our donors, fundraisers and corporate partners to help fund our mission. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the money entrusted to us, and we work diligently to uphold that trust.

To that end, we are grateful to have once again earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation’s premier charity evaluator. We are also a proud participant in the Combined Federal Campaign.

2007 Financial Statement

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation’s independently audited Revenue and Expense Statement for the year ending Dec. 31, 2007, is reflected below. The programs of the PBTF are explained in the preceding pages of this report. Totals agree to the audited statement of activities for the year ending Dec. 31, 2007.

Source of Funds
Total: $5,941,956
- Direct public support: $3,894,373 (65.5%)
- Corporate support: $1,043,920 (17.6%)
- Honor, memorial donations: $137,468 (2.3%)
- Non-cash, other: $866,195 (14.6%)

Use of Funds
Total: $5,737,212
- Program funds: $4,685,100 (81.7%)
- Management, administration: $470,642 (8.2%)
- Fundraising costs: $581,470 (10.1%)