



A New Year

By Brandi Felser, CEO

As the new year begins, I want to extend our gratitude to you. Your commitment to our mission and those diagnosed with sarcoma continues to inspire our work. We could not fulfill our mission without your support and partnership. You play a significant role in SFA's ability to fund research, advocate on behalf of the sarcoma community, provide education and resources to support sarcoma patients, and to build awareness so others can learn about and join our shared goal: to end sarcoma for everyone.

As the largest private funder of research in the sarcoma community, SFA stays abreast of research happening in sarcoma. That means we attend meetings, we fund and work with industry and others on clinical trials, and we provide support directly to patients to offset their expense associated with participation in trials.

This past year, I traveled to many research and patient meetings. I learned about promising sarcoma research some of which SFA financially supported. I also stayed on top of current and new clinical trials in sarcoma. Unfortunately, some of these trials did not progress. While we know that a large percentage of trials don't succeed, it is still disheartening when it happens, especially in sarcoma. With so few treatment options, hope always rises each time a new trial opens.

In his book, *Chasing My Cure*, David Faigenbaum, SFA's 2024 Vision of Hope Honoree, says "Hope should inspire action. And when it does inspire action in medicine and science, that hope can become a reality, beyond your wildest dream." This has stuck with me since I read it.

Hope should inspire action....

SFA is the largest sarcoma group in the sarcoma space. We are a pan sarcoma organization. This means we fund research in, and support patients diagnosed with all sarcoma subtypes. SFA's work to fund research, advocate on behalf of patients, provide education to empower patients to make decisions for their treatment, and grow awareness requires hope. Hope that we can change outcomes for people diagnosed with sarcoma. And that hope inspires our action.

This year, SFA has made the commitment to increase our efforts to bring the sarcoma community together, engage in strategic partnerships that can alleviate issues that impact sarcoma patients regardless of subtype, advance and advocate for public policies and issues that affect people diagnosed with sarcoma, and increase our research support.

Our vision is a world where no one dies from sarcoma, and we are hopeful and determined to make it a reality. Soon you will see a new look, a new website, and a new mission statement that embody our renewed purpose and passion. We hope you will continue to join us on this exciting journey.

On behalf of all of us at SFA, we wish you a 2024 filled with peace and good health.

Happy New Year and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Brandi

Research Roundup

by Dean Frohlich, PhD

To start the new year, I am highlighting three papers that demonstrate the variety of research that is being done in the sarcoma field. First, Ewing Sarcoma is the second most common bone cancer in kids and is known to be not very immunologically active. Research published last month in a paper titled "[Engagement of CD99 activates distinct programs in Ewing sarcoma and macrophages](#)" indicates that in mouse models that antibodies against a protein called CD99 inhibit tumor growth by two mechanisms in Ewing Sarcoma (EWS). First, blocking CD99 on tumor cells alters the expression of a second protein that influences whether the immune system attacks the tumor cells or not. Therefore, blocking CD99 leads to increased destruction of the tumor cells by immune cells called macrophages. Second, blocking CD99 on the macrophages increases their inflammatory response and increase their anti-tumor response. This study provides early indications of a new macrophage-based therapy for Ewing sarcoma.

Next, in a paper describing small early clinical trial in advanced sarcomas "[Toll-Like Receptor 4 Agonist Injection With Concurrent Radiotherapy in Patients With Metastatic Soft Tissue Sarcoma](#)", investigators injected an investigational drug directly into sarcoma tumors. This drug activates the innate, or non-specific immune system (IT GLA-SE). They concurrently treated the patients with radiation therapy and found that this combination provided a more durable local control of the tumors than radiation therapy alone. Patients with durable local response demonstrated an increased immune cell population. Additional studies are needed, but these findings suggest that this is a promising combination in advanced STS.

Lastly, to better stratify osteosarcoma patients, investigators developed a new personalized method using circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) quantification which is obtained from a blood sample. In the publication "[ctDNA quantification improves estimation of outcomes in patients with high grade osteosarcoma: a translational study from the OS2006 trial](#)," plasma from patients was tested for the amount of ctDNA at diagnosis, before surgery, and at the end of treatment. The different levels of ctDNA were then used to develop a prediction tool that includes the ctDNA quantification in addition to known clinical parameters to estimate patients' individual risk. The ctDNA quantification at diagnosis (diagCPA) was found to be a strong prognostic factor of relapse risk. An additional trial is currently being conducted to confirm these results.

Clinical Trials Corner

by Kristi Oristian, PhD

This month SFA is highlighting a study investigating [Mipasetamab Uzoptirine \(ADCT-601\) in Participants With Solid Tumors](#). This is a phase Ib study for patients with certain advanced solid tumors, including leiomyosarcoma, liposarcoma, undifferentiated pleomorphic, synovial sarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, osteosarcoma, and chondrosarcoma. This study, sponsored by [ADC Therapeutics](#), is open to adults ages 18 and older, or 16 and older in the United States. In the first part of the study, Mipasetamab uzoptirine will initially be given with or without gemcitabine in escalating doses to determine the safe, tolerable, and effective dose of Mipasetamab uzoptirine. This portion of the study will only be open to patients who have not received prior treatment with gemcitabine. In a second part of the study, patients with or without prior treatment with gemcitabine will be given Mipasetamab uzoptirine at the determined dose with or without gemcitabine combination therapy.

Mipasetamab uzoptirine is an experimental new medicine called an antibody-drug-conjugate (ADC) that targets the protein AXL. Researchers believe that treatment with this ADC may increase tumor cell death because the AXL protein is overexpressed in many solid tumors, like sarcomas.

There are additional eligibility and exclusion criteria, including minimum organ function requirements and exclusion of certain prior treatment in some groups. Patients interested in this study should review these criteria with their doctor. To learn more about this study, patients can talk to their doctor, contact the investigator at the [site](#) nearest you or your primary treatment center, or contact the [study sponsor](#).

Still Time to Register for a live webinar TODAY at 1pm EST

There is still time to register to learn more about a project that delves into the potential of repurposing existing medications for the benefit of sarcoma patients. The objective is to shed light on cost-effective treatments by leveraging the power of proven-safe drugs, requiring further evidence to support their novel application in sarcoma therapy.

SFA is dedicated to advancing more and better treatments options for people diagnosed with sarcoma. To that end, we are hosting this webinar as an information session for patients to learn about a potential project that may advance research for sarcoma patients.

This is an education webinar only. Registration is for the webinar. The webinar is an information webinar. SFA does not share registration information with third parties and we do not use registration lists for recruitment or outreach purposes. We provide education to empower patients to make the best decisions about their treatment.

[Register Here](#)

We are cordially inviting you to our Patient Engagement Webinar



Hosted by:
Brandi Felser, SFA CEO

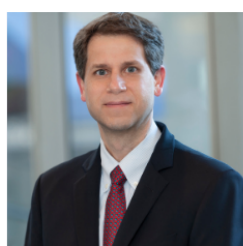
Take Part in this Sarcoma Patient Partnered Research Webinar

Our goal is to better understand the current therapies being used for rare and ultra-rare sarcomas.

Presented By:



Marco Schito, PhD
Executive Director of C-Path's CURE Drug Repurposing Collaboratory (CDRC)



William D. Tap, MD
Chief of the Sarcoma Medical Oncology Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Tim Stuhlmiller, PhD
VP of Scientific and Medical Affairs



Lennie Woods
Executive Director and co-founder of the Clear Cell Sarcoma Foundation (formerly Sara's Cure)



DATE

January 18th
1:00 - 2:30 EST

LOCATION

This will be a virtual webinar

Registration



PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



REGISTER NOW



Know an outstanding *sarcoma patient navigator* you'd like to honor? Thank them for their dedication and valuable contributions to the sarcoma community by nominating them for the 2024 SFA Compassionate Care Award!

Nurses, community health workers, and social workers who assist sarcoma patients with care, support, and education are eligible for the award. The selected nominee will be honored at our 2024 Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala held in New York City on October 1st!

Deadline for nominations is February 9. [Learn more](#) about the award and how to nominate a navigator who has made a difference in your life.



HELP US IMPROVE
OUR SOCIAL MEDIA
TAKE OUR SURVEY
TODAY!

CLICK HERE

SFA Events



OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER



2024 United Airlines NYC Half One Spot Left!

We're thrilled to announce that we're an official partner for the 2024 United Airlines NYC Half! This iconic race takes place on March 17th, 2024, and winds its way through the heart of New York City, from Brooklyn to Central Park.

We have one spot left for someone who is passionate about wants to raise awareness about sarcoma and help advance sarcoma research. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just starting out, this is a great opportunity to challenge yourself, support an important cause, and be part of something special. You can learn more and register by clicking [HERE](#).



REGISTER NOW!
BIRMINGHAM - MARCH 23
ATLANTA - APRIL 5
SOUTH FLORIDA - APRIL 20
BOSTON - APRIL 21
NEW YORK - APRIL 27
SAN FRANCISCO - MAY 11
SEATTLE - JUNE 22
CLEVELAND - JUNE 22
MILWAUKEE - JULY 13
NATIONAL VIRTUAL - JULY 20

WASHINGTON D.C. - JULY 20
LOUISVILLE - AUGUST 10
PHILADELPHIA - SEPTEMBER 14
SAN DIEGO - SEPTEMBER 21
CHICAGO - SEPTEMBER 28
NEW JERSEY - OCTOBER 6
ST. LOUIS - OCTOBER 12
LOS ANGELES - OCTOBER 12
DENVER - OCTOBER 26

REGISTER NOW for the 2024 Race to Cure Sarcoma series! The series kicks off in March with our inaugural Birmingham, AL race. These events not only help raise funds but also unite the sarcoma community across the country and help to raise awareness about the needs of sarcoma patients. Check out the list of locations and [register now!](#)

Our Contact Information
{{(Organization Name)}}
{{(Organization Address)}}
{{(Organization Phone)}}
{{(Organization Website)}}



{{(Unsubscribe)}}