



# SARCOMA SPOTLIGHT

*March 2021*

## SFA and the Sarcoma Community's Priorities

Last month SFA highlighted the organization's priorities for the year ahead and asked the sarcoma community for feedback on their ideas of what the priorities for the community should be.

We want to share those results with you and how SFA is addressing these priorities.

We asked community members to rank the most important priorities for the community and the top three were:

- Sarcoma Research - Efforts to find new therapies and ultimately the cure for sarcoma. This includes basic research as well as clinical trials.
- Sarcoma Awareness - Increasing public knowledge of sarcoma and the needs of the sarcoma community.
- Sarcoma Advocacy - Influencing change on issues that impact the sarcoma community. Advocacy can include taking action and using your voice to make change related to policy and research efforts.

We asked what the community thought were the greatest needs in sarcoma and 60% said more research and increased research funding. This was followed by more awareness about the disease. We also asked topics respondents would most like to learn about and sarcoma research and current treatments were the most selected.

The sarcoma community continues to tackle the same issues. The need for more research funding, lack of awareness and more and better treatment options. SFA is committed to working with the community to make progress on these issues in 2021 and beyond.

## Research Roundup

The heart of SFA is research. And partnering with researchers working to advance science for new therapies and an end to sarcoma is the core of our research goals. Dr. Brian Van Tine not only partners with SFA on the St. Louis Race to Cure Sarcoma event which raises money for local research but has also received funding through SFA's grant program.

This month we highlight Dr. Van Tine's research.

Dr. Van Tine is an associate professor of medicine at the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Van Tine's research focuses on sarcoma tumor metabolism in bone and soft tissue sarcomas. His goal is to find druggable tumor driving pathways for treatment. He is a multiple SFA grant awardee one of which has culminated in the publication of a recent [paper](#).

In the paper, Dr. Van Tine and his colleagues found that overexpression of a protein (PHGDH) is a marker of poor prognosis in osteosarcoma. Although further studies are required, results also indicate that inhibition of PHGDH and another protein called mTORC1 is a possible combination therapy for osteosarcoma tumors with a high expression of PHGDH.

To view the article about his paper, please visit <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-01-nixing-bone-cancer-fuel-treatment.html>

To learn more about Dr. Van Tine and his research please visit his [webpage](#).

## Rare Disease Twitter Chat

In recognition of Rare Disease Day, February 28, SFA hosted a live Twitter chat to answer questions and foster a discussion among the sarcoma community.

Rare Disease Day is an observance held on the last day of February to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families. As you know, sarcoma is a rare cancer.

The questions ranged from "Were there any new drugs approved for sarcoma in 2020?" (there were several. For example, Ayvakit and Qinlock were approved to treat gastrointestinal stromal tumors and Tazverik was approved to treat epithelioid sarcoma) to Are there any new cities joining the lineup for the Race to Cure Sarcoma series to raise money for sarcoma research? (there are – San Diego and Los Angeles and perhaps Washington, DC).

The chat will remain open and is ongoing to post any question at any time and SFA or someone else can answer the question or join the discussion. You can read the chat log or even post a question by using the hashtag #curesarcomachat.

## Advocates Raising Funds for Research





The Beth Ball Golf Tournament was started in memory of Bethany Huseman who passed away on August 25, 2018 after a hard fought 3-year battle with angiosarcoma. Bethany was only 36 years old.

“She had a great smile, made friends easily, and had a positive impact on the many lives she touched. She enjoyed life and was loved by everyone around her.”

Bethany loved to golf and loved spending time with her family. After her passing, her family couldn't think of any better way to honor her memory than by getting together to enjoy her favorite past time. This impromptu golf outing with friends and family to honor Bethany's memory soon launched into something that would make a significant impact on the sarcoma community.

Roger Huseman, Bethany's father, as well as her other family members launched the first annual Beth Ball Golf Tournament in August of 2019.

It started as a small gathering at a local golf club but it has now expanded into an annual event that brings in over 200 participants each year. Last year alone, it raised over \$15,000 and is setting their sights even higher for this year.

Roger and his family decided to partner with the Sarcoma Foundation of America because cancer research was so important to Bethany. He mentioned that as a result of her illness as well as her many years with the American Cancer Society through the Relay for Life, they felt Bethany would be proud of this endeavor.

Bethany's passion and legacy is living on through this event. Her family hopes that this event will help others like Bethany and help find a cure for sarcoma in our time.

Find out more about Bethany's story and the Beth Ball Golf Tournament on their [website](#).

## Race to Cure Sarcoma



**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Atlanta- June 12  
Milwaukee - July 10  
National Virtual - July 24  
San Francisco - August 1  
Louisville - August 14  
Denver - August 28  
Baltimore - September (TBD)  
Houston - September 4  
San Diego- TBD

Kansas City - September 18  
New Jersey - September 19  
Philadelphia - September 26  
Chicago - October 16  
Richmond - October 23  
Cleveland - October 30  
Tampa - November 6  
Los Angeles- November 7  
Nashville - November 20

For more information please visit <https://www.curesarcoma.org/race/> or email [events@curesarcoma.org](mailto:events@curesarcoma.org).

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