



## Sarcoma Awareness Month Resolution S. Res. 319

***The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) commends the Senate for passing S. Res. 319, a resolution highlighting sarcoma awareness and supporting sarcoma patients. SFA would like to especially thank [Senator Johnson](#) (R-WI) for his leadership on this [resolution](#).***

This resolution has been a top priority for SFA and the sarcoma community. In an effort to generate increased attention, the sarcoma community united to designate July as Sarcoma Awareness Month. However, despite community recognition of Sarcoma Awareness Month, there had not been an official designation by the Senate. The official recognition of July as Sarcoma Awareness Month can aid in raising awareness about sarcoma and this increased awareness can lead to earlier diagnoses and better treatment options.

For many years, SFA has worked to secure federal recognition designating July as Sarcoma Awareness month. SFA led the sarcoma community in a campaign directed at the White House. SFA also worked with Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL-14) to introduce a resolution in the House of Representatives, H. Res. 78. For years, SFA worked with advocate Brendan Locke from Wisconsin to advance a resolution in the Senate. Brendan was instrumental in working with Senator Johnson's office to get this resolution passed. This would not have happened without Brendan's perseverance and dedication to growing sarcoma awareness in memory of his wife Melissa and for his two young sons.

***"It's been over 2,000 days since a doctor told Melissa she had synovial sarcoma. It's been over 1,400 days since her fight ended and my life and our kids' lives changed in a way I never thought would happen. Having July be recognized on a national level as Sarcoma Awareness Month, puts it on the same platform as October (breast cancer) and March (colon cancer). This recognition and platform allow so many hospitals, doctors, and patients to work on continuing to find better treatments and work towards a cure for a cancer that has been all but gone unrecognized or forgotten. I did not do this for myself. I wanted to make a statement against sarcoma after it took so much. This is just the beginning of a better way of life for patients, caregivers, and loved-ones."- Brendan Locke***

The rarity of sarcoma cancer creates a lack of awareness and understanding. This lack of awareness creates obstacles in efforts to foster research and drug development. SFA and the sarcoma community work tirelessly to raise more awareness in order to highlight the extraordinary challenges that sarcoma patients face and to demonstrate the need for new sarcoma therapies. This [Senate resolution](#) will go a long way in helping us advance the needs of the sarcoma community.

## Research Round Up

### SARCOMA CLINICAL TRIALS

Frequently, there are encouraging clinical trials in sarcoma being reported, one of them was recently published in The Lancet Oncology. Tyrosine kinase inhibitors are a class of drugs that target certain proteins in tumor cells. These drugs have preliminarily shown activity in osteosarcoma and might enhance the efficacy of chemotherapy. In the phase 1/2 trial that was published, the investigators' goal was to determine the drug dose to be recommended for a phase 2 clinical trial and to investigate anti-tumor activity of the tyrosine kinase inhibitor, lenvatinib, in combination with the chemotherapy drugs, etoposide and ifosfamide.

The trial took place in 17 hospitals in six countries. Eligible patients were aged 2–25 years, had relapsed or refractory osteosarcoma, and a life expectancy of at least 3 months. A total of 35 patients were treated at the recommended phase 2 dose. Progression-free survival for the combination of lenvatinib with etoposide plus ifosfamide showed promising progression-free survival at 4 months of 51%. This indicates that this combination of drugs may be an advantageous treatment for some patients. These findings are being followed up on in an ongoing randomized phase 2 study ([NCT04154189](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04154189)).

More information about sarcoma clinical trials [here](#).

## SFA GRANT FUNDING

SFA awarded \$750,000 in research funds as part of its 2021 grant funding cycle. SFA is honored to support the work of the 15 exceptional researchers that have been selected to receive a 2021 research grant award. We believe their efforts will contribute to increasing scientific understanding of sarcoma and can help lead us to advancements in the treatment of the disease. Our investment in their work is a continuation of SFA's mission to fill the research funding gap and make progress in the pursuit of discovering the cure for sarcoma.

The grants, each worth \$50,000, have been awarded to researchers who have made it their mission to study sarcoma. All proposals are peer reviewed by members of the SFA Medical Advisory Board who award the grants to the most promising research with the aim of curing sarcoma.

Review the 2021 (or previous) grant award [here](#). The 2022 grant funding cycle will open on November 1, 2021.

## SFA News

### Live Virtual Session: RADIATION THERAPY IN SARCOMA Wednesday, November 10, 2021 6:00 PM EST

Join a live virtual session highlighting the role radiation therapy plays in sarcoma treatment including a background and methods of radiation treatment, an update on changes in the ASTRO guidelines from the healthcare provider and patient view (key takeaways), and the importance and role of the multi-disciplinary team.

**Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Live Virtual Session**

**RADIATION THERAPY IN SARCOMA**  
\*INCLUDES A REVIEW OF THE UPDATED ASTRO GUIDELINES

November 10, 2021 6:00 PM EST

 Meena Bedi, MD Medical College of Wisconsin	 Jonathan Trent, M.D., Ph.D. Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center	 B. Ashleigh Guadagnolo, MD, MPH MD Anderson Cancer Center	 Jason Sicklick, MD, FACS Moore's Cancer Center
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[Register Now!](#)

### 19th Annual Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala was a Success!

On Tuesday, September 28, SFA held the 19th Annual *Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala*. The event was held virtually and included members of the sarcoma community from across the country. Buddy Valastro, the "Cake Boss", joined as the Emcee and guided us through this very special evening.

*Stand Up to Sarcoma* is a flagship event for SFA, featuring extraordinary honorees, tributes to sarcoma cancer survivors and advocates, and important advances in science and research. It is a night of celebration and community as we gather attendees from coast to coast, and internationally, to join together in solidarity to support sarcoma patients and survivors.

The event brought much needed sarcoma awareness and brought SFA's community of supporters, patients, caregivers, and families together to honor those who have devoted their work to people diagnosed with sarcoma, and to the survivors and patients who inspire us every day. The event also raised much needed funds to support sarcoma research, education and advocacy.

Each year the event highlights outstanding sarcoma advocates with the Courage Award, celebrates a patient navigator for his or her outstanding contributions to patient care, support and education with the Compassionate Care Award, honors an

investigator who is advancing groundbreaking research with the Nobility in Science Award, and recognizes an organization or person providing hope to patients with the Vision of Hope Award. These international awards are the highest honor SFA bestows.

We are grateful for the 2021 Honorees and all they do to support people affected by sarcoma.

**Nobility in Science Award**

Eugenie Kleinerman, MD  
MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Vision of Hope Award**

Epizyme, Inc.

**Courage Awards**

Team Langbein, Race to Cure Sarcoma Chicago  
Trent Williams, Offensive Tackle for the San Francisco 49ers

**Compassionate Care Award**

Lauren Fleming, LCSW, Oncology Social Worker, The Mount Sinai Hospital

Finally, the evening included amazing entertainment from sarcoma survivor, Evan Ruggiero, and his band Evan and the S'Evan legs.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us for this event and for the event sponsors. Their partnership is very important to the success of this event and to advancing SFA's mission, funding translational research and ultimately saving lives.

[Watch the recorded program](#)

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**THE SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA  
WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS**



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## Upcoming Events



This past year and a half has been challenging in so many ways. One of the things we've missed the most, is seeing our survivors, families, and supporters in person at our [Race to Cure Sarcoma](#) events. We pivoted, like so many others, to mostly virtual events because the needs of sarcoma patients didn't end when the pandemic hit.

Before 2021 comes to an end, we hope you will join us for one of our remaining [Race to Cure Sarcoma](#) events. And because most of our remaining races are virtual, you can participate in any race from anywhere.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>October 16</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>October 23</b>
<b>Richmond</b>	<b>October 23</b>
<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>October 30 (in person)</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>November 6</b>
<b>Tampa</b>	<b>November 13 (in person)</b>
<b>Nashville</b>	<b>November 20</b>

We welcome support in many forms: as a participant, as a donor, as a sponsor, or as a volunteer. Funds raised will help support sarcoma cancer research, education and advocacy locally and across the country.

It is our sincerest hope that you will join us in our mission to fund sarcoma research and increase awareness about this disease. And we hope that in 2022, we'll be able to gather safely in person!

For more information on any of the Race to Cure Sarcoma events or to register for any of our events please visit [www.curesarcoma.org/race](http://www.curesarcoma.org/race).

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### **Our Contact Information**

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