Applications Now Being Accepted for Assistance with Clinical Trials Expenses

In July’s Sarcoma Spotlight, SFA announced we would be launching Jordan’s Dream Fund for clinical trial participation. We are pleased to notify you that the first round of applications are currently being accepted.

This fund will be used to provide financial assistance to patients diagnosed with sarcoma, so they are able to participate in clinical trials. To qualify, patients must complete an application process and, once qualified, work directly with SFA to obtain the assistance needed. Visit the Jordan’s Dream Fund page for more information.

It is vital patients have access to clinical trials. Often, sarcoma patients must travel or pay out-of-pocket expenses to participate. To assist patients with this burden, SFA is partnering with Jordan’s Dream Fund to provide financial reimbursement for direct expenses related to clinical trial participation.

Human Sarcoma Translational Research Funding Available

SFA is pleased to announce a research funding opportunity to provide one-year grants of $150,000 to support translational science research on the etiology, molecular biology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of human sarcomas. Completed applications must be submitted by October 1, 2022, at 5:00 pm ET.

This grant mechanism is available for sarcoma researchers to provide funding to strengthen the resubmission of a National Cancer Institute (NCI) NCI R01 proposal where the member is the project director and principal investigator.
on the application. The R01 must have scored in the 30th percentile or better, but outside the current NCI pay line.

Questions about SFA research grants can be sent to sfagrants@curesarcoma.org. Please refer to the SFA Grants FAQ for additional information.

**National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

Throughout September, SFA will recognize National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with educational and awareness-building social media posts, a special drawing, and a Wear Gold Day on September 18. Watch our Childhood Cancer Awareness webpage for details on activities to help spotlight child patients with sarcoma.

**You’re Invited to the Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala**

If you are a patient or survivor and interested in joining us for the Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala, please complete and submit this form. We invite you to join us in celebrating you with a complimentary ticket to the event!

*About the Gala*

The Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala, now in its 20th year, is a night of celebration and community as supporters from coast to coast and internationally join together in solidarity to champion sarcoma patients and survivors. The Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala is SFA’s flagship event, featuring extraordinary honorees, tributes to sarcoma cancer survivors and advocates, and recognizing important advances in science and research.

Each year the Gala highlights outstanding sarcoma advocates with the Courage Award, honors a researcher or doctor advancing groundbreaking research with the Nobility in Science Award, celebrates a patient navigator for his or her outstanding contributions to patient care with the Compassionate Care Award and recognizes an organization or person providing hope to patients with the Vision of Hope Award. These annual international awards are the highest honors SFA bestows. Learn more about this special event.

**Doo Wop Project to Entertain at Gala**

SFA is excited to announce the entertainment at the 2022 Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala on September 28, 2022, in New York City will be the song stylings of the Doo Wop Project. Gala attendees will be delighted by the group’s salute to the classic sounds of Frankie Valli, the Drifters and other classic doo wop acts. Plus, the group will perform more recent music with the doo wop touch. And these guys know performing! Group members include stars of the Broadway hits “Jersey Boys” and “Motown: The Musical.”

For a sneak preview of the show, go to thedoowopproject.com. To attend the Gala, go to the Gala page. Please accept our thanks in advance for your support of this annual event that enables SFA to fund sarcoma research.

**Research Roundup**

*by Dean Frohlich, PhD*

This month, I’m pleased to highlight two publications with research partially funded by SFA.

The first paper is entitled, “Pilot study of bempegaldesleukin in combination with nivolumab in patients with metastatic sarcoma” by D’Angelo et. al. in *Nature Communications*. Bempegaldesleukinis a drug associated with increasing and activating immune cells called tumor infiltrating lymphocytes in patients with solid tumors. The purpose of this early phase clinical trial was to evaluate the efficacy of bempegaldesleukin and another drug which essentially removes the “brakes” from the immune system called nivolumab in several sarcoma subtypes. It also looks for indicators of response and resistance. The researchers identified that there were responses to this drug combination that varied based on the sarcoma subtype. They also found that a cell-signaling pathway called Hedgehog correlated with
resistance. Both results indicate further studies of this combination in selected sarcomas with larger numbers of patients is warranted.

The second publication is “Prognostic value of EZH2 expression for immunotherapy-based schemes in advanced soft-tissue sarcoma: A translational research study from Spanish Group of Research on Sarcoma (GEIS).” This early-phase clinical trial is again investigating nivolumab and is combined with a drug that inhibits new blood vessel formation called sunitinib. The part of the study discussed in this report looks at whether the expression of a gene called EZH2 can potentially be used to predict if this combination of drugs will be effective in sarcoma patients. The researchers found that low expression of EZH2 was associated with better outcome in advanced soft tissue sarcoma patients treated with this combination of drugs. These results indicate that further studies are warranted with this combination of drugs as well as with the addition of EZH2 inhibitors.

**Races to Cure Sarcoma - There Is Still Time to Register!**

It's been another tremendous year for the 2022 SFA Race to Cure Sarcoma fundraisers that have taken place across the country. To date, over $500,000 has been raised through these fun and awareness-building activities. And there's more to come!

- Philadelphia – September 24
- San Diego – September 24
- New Jersey – October 2
- Baltimore – October 8
- Los Angeles - October 9
- St. Louis – October 9
- Chicago – October 29
- Nashville – November 5
- Tampa – November 12

Thanks to the many volunteers who have made these races so successful. For information on how you can participate in any of the races listed above, go to the [Race to Cure Sarcoma page](#).
SFA News

Technoblade Remembered through Fundraising Activity

Technoblade lives in the hearts of so many.

Rowan Chamberland and friends, who reside in Massachusetts, recently raised $150 in memory of the social media star who passed away in June of this year. In July, they sold lemonade and baked goods to help fund sarcoma research. Way to go, kids!

Auto Racing for a Cure

Sarcoma first touched the Dino family of Oregon in 2013 when Greg Dino’s wife was diagnosed. In remission for six years, her sarcoma returned in 2019.

The Dinos are a racing and Porsche enthusiast family, and Greg shares this passion with his son Martin. Together they created Martin Dino Racing (MDR), currently in its 2022-2023 racing season. As a way to honor patients who are currently fighting sarcoma and those who have lost their battle, the Dinos have placed SFA's logo on Martin's race car to help bring awareness to the disease and SFA.

Below is a list of upcoming MDR Races if you are in the area and would like to support the team and sarcoma.

Oct 15 - Portland International Raceway - (Oregon)
Oct 28-30 - Thunderhill Raceway (Willows, CA)
Nov 19-20 - Buttonwillow Raceway (Buttonwillow, CA)

Our Contact Information
Sarcoma Foundation of America
9899 Main Street Suite 204
Damascus, MD 20872
301-253-8687
http://www.curesarcoma.org