2025

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Brain Tumor Impact Report

Alex's Lemonade Stand
Foundation for Childhood Cancer™

AlexsLemonade.org

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) emerged from the front yard lemonade stand of 4-year-old Alexandra “Alex” Scott, who was fighting cancer and wanted to raise money to find cures for all children with cancer. By the time Alex passed away at the age of 8, she had raised $1 million. Since then, the Foundation bearing her name has evolved into a worldwide fundraising movement and the largest independent childhood cancer charity in the U.S. ALSF is a leader in funding pediatric cancer research projects across the globe and providing programs to families affected by childhood cancer.

With Gratitude

Dear Friend,

All of us at Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation are sending a heartfelt thank you for supporting Alex’s mission of curing childhood cancers like brain tumors through the discovery of new and safer treatments.

Your generosity empowers scientists to gather crucial preliminary data, publish breakthrough findings, and advance innovative treatment approaches. Because of you, we’re moving closer to a future where no child faces brain tumors.

It’s an honor to stand beside you in this fight. Your commitment fuels lifesaving progress. If there’s ever anything we can do for you, please let the ALSF team know.

Until there are cures,

Liz & Jay Scott
Alex's Parents & Co-Executive Directors
Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

ALSF

Thanks to Supporters Like You

313 Brain tumor projects (and counting) have been funded

> "ALSF funding was absolutely essential to make this project happen. There are not many funding instruments available to support projects of this scale."
>
> — Dr. Florian Halbritter,
> St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute

> "Early career support for pediatric oncology physician-scientists is a critical lifeline during an incredibly vulnerable time in our careers. The support of ALSF has been and continues to be absolutely essential in making better therapies available faster for pediatric cancer patients."
>
> — Dr. Leo Wang,
> City of Hope

Meet a **Brain Tumor Hero**

Name: Brynn
Age: 10
Likes: Taylor Swift, Basketball, and Horseback Riding

Diagnosed at 2 with a grapefruit-sized ependymoma, Brynn Tobin's future once hung in the balance. During the six agonizing weeks before that scan, doctors misread her vomiting and dizziness as stomach bugs, dehydration and even constipation — until her parents drove straight to the ER, where a CT revealed the life-threatening mass.

Emergency surgery and proton-beam radiation cleared the tumor, but 18 months later her mom sensed subtle warning signs — a missed clap in dance class, sudden fatigue at Sesame Place. Trusting her instincts, she pushed for answers, and an MRI at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia confirmed relapse.

Options were scarce until Brynn qualified for an immunotherapy trial in Augusta, Georgia. That trial, led by ALSF-funded researcher Dr. Ted Johnson, used a targeted immunotherapy drug delivered in a pill form in combination with chemotherapy. Travel and lodging costs could have made the treatment impossible, but ALSF's Travel For Care program bridged the gap, getting Brynn to the trial that ultimately worked.

Today Brynn is a tween who juggles basketball, horseback riding, Girl Scouts, and school plays. Last summer, Brynn saw Taylor Swift in concert with her mom, making a memory she will carry with her always. Brynn's favorite song of all time, "Getaway Car," didn't make the set list, but that just gives Brynn more things to look forward to as she lives life after cancer.

"Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation is so necessary because it funds these amazing, brilliant scientists, who work hard to find treatments for kids like Brynn," said her mom, Jessica.

Research Spotlight: New Projects in Brain Tumors

Widening the Therapeutic Index for Pediatric Medulloblastoma

Kristopher Saroseik, PhD, Harvard University

Radiation and high-dose chemotherapy may cure many children with medulloblastoma (MB), but they also leave the youngest survivors with lifelong side effects. Dr. Sarosik's lab has uncovered a key reason: neurons in very young brains express exceptionally high levels of the protein BAX, in response to radiation therapy in brain cells. They found levels of BAX could be reduced by blocking the protein MYC, which MB cells rely on to grow.

When they inhibit the MYC protein in medulloblastoma cells, most cells immediately die and those that are remaining become even more sensitive to radiation therapy. Their study aims to optimize use of indirect MYC inhibitors to improve medulloblastoma treatment outcomes by maximizing tumor responses and cure rates while minimizing neurotoxicity.

IGFBPL1 Peptide-Centric Chimeric Antigen Receptor Autologous T Cells for Relapsed HLA-A*02 Neuroblastoma and Medulloblastoma

Dr. John Maris, MD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Neuroblastoma that returns after treatment is especially hard to cure. That's why Dr. John Maris and his team at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are developing a new therapy targeting a protein called IGFBPL1, which is important in the development of medulloblastoma. The immune system recognizes foreign "targets", whether they be a virus or abnormal proteins on cancer cells, and seeks to eliminate these invaders. Cancer immunotherapy starts with identifying a target. However, targets have been more difficult to find in solid tumors. Dr. Maris's team has developed a new class of immunotherapies targeting highly tumor-specific protein complexes that they discovered. This project focuses on a new immunotherapy with a plan to complete all studies required for a clinical trial and do in-depth studies of this new therapy to optimize safety and curative potential.

Thank You

for all you do to help kids with cancer!