

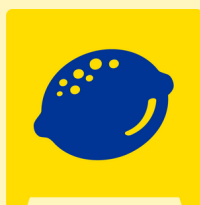


# Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Neuroblastoma Impact Report





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 neuroblastoma 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 neuroblastoma.

It's an honor to stand beside you in this fight. Your commitment fuels life-saving 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*



# Thanks to Supporters Like You

235

**Neuroblastoma 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 **Neuroblastoma Hero**

**Name: Arden**

**Age: 5**

**Loves: Disney Princesses**



At 16 months old, Arden spiked a series of low-grade fevers that doctors first chalked up to a lingering stomach bug. When the fevers persisted, her pediatrician felt an enlarged abdomen and rushed her to the ER. An ultrasound, bloodwork, and an overnight ambulance ride to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia revealed high-risk neuroblastoma with an ALK mutation.

The next 18 months were a whirlwind of chemotherapy, surgery, stem-cell transplant, and radiation. Throughout treatment, pediatric oncology fellow Dr. Grossmann kept the family focused on "little miracles," including a brand-new clinical trial at CHOP led by Dr. Yael Mossé. Arden qualified and received the targeted ALK inhibitor, lorlatinib, as the final phase of her therapy. She finished a full year on the study drug in May 2023 and four months later, celebrated scans showing no evidence of disease.

Now five, Arden loves school, Disney princesses and dressing up and Belle, complete with family costumes for Halloween. She recently marked her milestone fifth birthday with a princess themed party and dreams of many more celebrations to come. Her mom, Megan credits research funded by Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for saving her daughter's life. Arden's journey proves that the cutting-edge science and compassionate support can turn "little miracles" into a thriving childhood, cancer-free.

“If it weren't for Alex, there wouldn't be any Ardens.”

- Megan, Arden's mom

# Research Spotlight: New Projects in Neuroblastoma

## **Vaccine-Boosted CAR T-Cell Therapy for High-Risk Neuroblastoma**

**Dr. Timothy Spear, MD/PhD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**

Dr. Timothy Spear is leading an innovative project to improve outcomes for children with high-risk neuroblastoma by enhancing CAR T-cell therapy: an approach that has shown promise in other cancers but limited success in solid tumors. The study focuses on combining CAR T-cells with a cancer vaccine to increase the therapy's strength and durability. The vaccine works by teaching the immune system to recognize tumor-specific markers, boosting the ability of CAR T-cells to find and destroy neuroblastoma cells. This dual strategy could overcome one of the biggest challenges in pediatric cancer immunotherapy: keeping CAR T-cells active and persistent over time.



## **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!

