



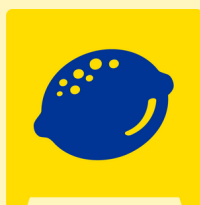
Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Osteosarcoma 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 osteosarcoma 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 osteosarcoma.

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



Thanks to Supporters Like You

62

Osteosarcoma 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 an **Osteosarcoma Hero**

Name: Kaela

Loves: Track, scuba diving, and spending time with family

Just before her fifth birthday in January 2007, Kaela Cruz was diagnosed with osteosarcoma and received an above-the-knee amputation of her left leg. Over the course of 13 months of chemotherapy, Kaela and her family held firm to their faith, hope and each other through countless scans and treatments.



In 2012, Kaela and her family met Alex's parents, Liz and Jay, at a childhood cancer symposium hosted by Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF). They saw first-hand the impact the Foundation has on families battling childhood cancer, and wanted to do something to help families like theirs. Kaela had the honor to speak and share her story at an ALSF special event to raise awareness about childhood cancer and the need for more funding. Through the generosity of several donors, an osteosarcoma research grant was funded in her name.

Today, at 22, Kaela is a proud honor-roll graduate, scuba certified, a track athlete who has set records, and an active volunteer and mentor for childhood cancer survivors and their siblings. She's now honing her archery skills, and proving once again that obstacles are just invitations to aim higher.

Kaela and her family are grateful for those supporting ALSF and hope that everyone finds the courage and strength that they all found in Kaela, a true hero and cancer survivor.

“I fought with all my heart and beat cancer! – Kaela

Crazy 8 Award Research Update

Targeting the Biological Underpinnings of Pulmonary Metastasis in Osteosarcoma

Rani George, MD/PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Hailing from five different institutions, Dr. Rani George's team of researchers are on a mission to tackle one of the deadliest challenges in childhood cancer: osteosarcoma that spreads to the lungs. To uncover what drives this deadly spread, the team is creating tumor-specific genetic maps that account for the chaotic DNA rearrangements unique to osteosarcoma — something traditional tools have been unable to decode. These maps are helping researchers understand how these unusual genetic changes may cause tumors to grow and metastasize. They are also using advanced techniques to observe how individual tumor cells evolve within the lungs, tracking their transformation from a single cell into complex, treatment-resistant masses. Their early work has revealed new vulnerabilities in osteosarcoma and promising results with drug combinations that could slow or even stop metastasis.



Research Spotlight New Project in Osteosarcoma

Chimeric cytokine receptors to improve CAR T-cell therapy for osteosarcoma

Xirui Song, PhD, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Outcomes for many people with osteosarcoma remain poor, especially when the cancer recurs or spreads to the lungs. CAR T-cell therapy, while very effective in blood cancers, has struggled in solid tumors because engineered T cells don't persist long enough inside the tumor. Xirui Song at St. Jude is addressing that hurdle by engineering CAR T cells to express genes that conduct cytokine signals, which are crucial for T-cell survival and function. However, T cells can be impacted by many different cytokine signals, and it is not yet understood which signals will have the most profound impact on CAR T-cell therapy because they have not been directly compared. The project will compare two top candidate signaling genes head-to-head, each activating a different cytokine pathway, to learn which best sustains CAR T cells. If successful, they are planning to develop a clinical study to evaluate our approach in children, adolescents, and young adults who have osteosarcoma in the future.





Thank You

for all you do to help kids with cancer!

