

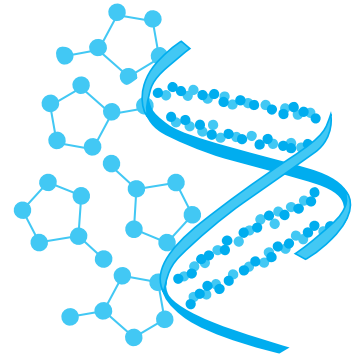


The HELPING HAND

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

July 2003 | Volume 8, No. 3

\$6 Million Grant Creates Foundation's First Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Institute



In an unprecedented effort to advance childhood brain tumor research, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTf) has established the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke (PBTfI). The first of several Institutes planned by the PBTf, the PBTfI is funded with a \$6 million grant, awarded to the Duke

The Foundation's mission of funding research for childhood brain tumors started in 1984 with its first Ride for Kids® motorcycle event. Through the years, PBTf Co-founder Dianne Traynor has worked with researchers around the world to provide funding for basic, clinical, and translational research projects. The research institute concept is a natural evolution of that process.

work with more scientists both in the U.S. and internationally, and we saw what needed to be done in the laboratory to cure tumors and avoid side effects. The consensus was that a focused, long-term major funding initiative was needed to set the direction for future clinical programs," said Dianne Traynor.

Once the criteria were established, Duke University's Comprehensive Cancer Center received the award. In time, the Foundation plans to fund additional research institutes with leading research centers across the country.

"The Foundation's major funding initiative allows us to apply all the latest technology and research in the

continued on page 5



The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke will feature the latest technological advances.

"As we have learned more about the biology of childhood brain tumors through our research funding efforts, we've sought ways to bring the new science being developed in the laboratories to the clinics. We've made great progress, but we're not satisfied with the debilitating side

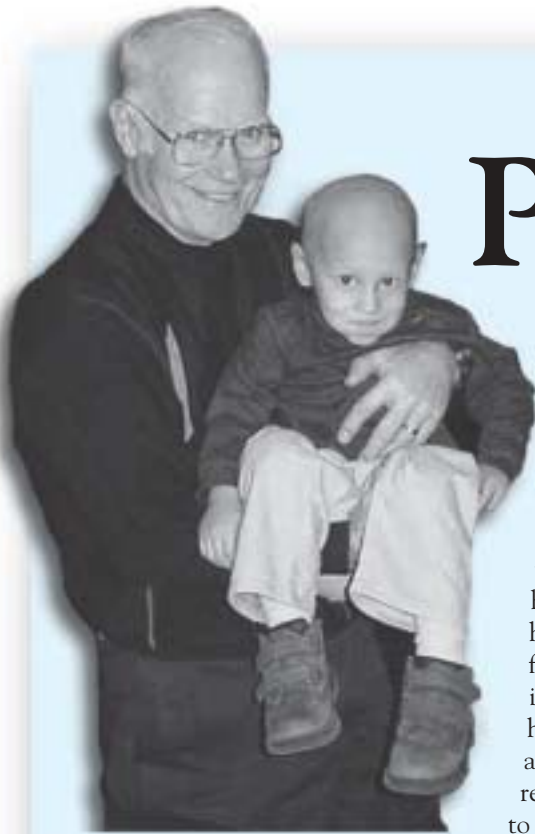
effects of treatments that leave children with latent disabilities," explained Dianne Traynor. "This grant allows us to double our efforts to bring new targeted treatments to children with brain tumors, resulting in treatments that are less invasive and more effective."

Comprehensive Cancer Center over a period of six years. The grant will fund basic and translational research to find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. "We are extremely pleased to announce this major funding initiative at Duke University, led by principal investigator Dr. Darell Bigner, director of the Institute and his excellent research team of principal investigators," said Mike Traynor, PBTf president. "We began funding research 20 years ago and the creation of this Institute accelerates the research necessary to end this devastating childhood disease."

The PBTfI at Duke is the result of more than two years of careful deliberation. The Foundation consulted with some of the world's leading cancer researchers, including members of its Scientific Advisory Board, to develop specific criteria for selection of this first grant. "As we became more knowledgeable, we saw the need to

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PBTF President and Founder Mike Traynor with four-year-old brain tumor survivor Ethan.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

...by Mike Traynor

When a mountain climber ascends a mountain he focuses his attention on the handholds and footholds immediately in front of and above him. But every now and then he stops to rest and turns around to look at the magnificent vista that lies before him. This wondrous view he sees is the reward for his persistent

effort to reach his goal, the summit of the mountain.

On June 5th, 2003, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Board, our devoted employees and the clinicians and researchers of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center came together at Duke University in Durham, NC to celebrate one of the summits of childhood brain tumor research. On this memorable spring afternoon, we collectively opened the new Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke. This Institute is the first of such research facilities which the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation will create to more rapidly and expeditiously find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors.

The commitment for this first research institute is \$6 million over a six year period. This is the biggest grant that we have ever funded and it is the largest individual grant ever received by the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. It establishes the most ambitious program of its kind in the world. It goes without saying that we are ecstatic over the bright promise it holds for important new discoveries to benefit all children with brain tumors.

We are especially pleased that Dr. Darell Bigner,

MD, PhD, of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of the world's most renowned brain tumor researchers, will be the Institute's Director and Principal Investigator. Dr. Bigner will be accompanied by several members of his prestigious research team in pursuing the goals of the Institute. He will also collaborate with noted researchers in other countries who are working towards similar discoveries in childhood brain tumor research.

As we launch this program our expectations are of the highest measure. We have spent the last 20 years constantly pushing upward in our research projects, beginning with modest \$10,000 and \$20,000 grants and now reaching into the multi-millions. You will read elsewhere in this *Helping Hands* issue about the specific aims and goals of the Institute.

What I wish to convey to each of you who reads this is that your faith, your fundraising, your contributions and your prayers are what have kept us on our course for the past two decades. And to each of the families we work with, I would tell you that you are our inspiration to continue to expand our efforts to insure that we will find the answers that your children need so that we can bring an end to childhood brain tumors.

I hope you will take a moment to reflect on what your contribution has been to bring us to this momentous occasion. Please know deep in your heart that the generous use of your time, talents, and funds are literally breathing new life into children in every hamlet and city around the world who today battle the rigors of a brain tumor.

In each of you lies greatness, and in this Institute your greatness is personified.

-Mike Traynor j

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS

Chicago Wings Over the Prairie Fundraiser a Role Model

Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) Chapter G2 in the Chicago, IL area is an active, creative club that consistently raises significant funds for Foundation research programs. The primary way they raise funds is through their annual Wings Over the Prairie dinner, dance and auction. This year, their sixth annual event raised more than \$29,000 to help find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors.

Six years ago, the members of Chapter G2 created a good reason to come together in late winter (the off-ride season in the Chicago area). Their idea? Ask members to attend a dinner and auction, and contribute the funds they raised to a good charity. Vito Racanelli, already involved in Ride for Kids® events, recommended the money go to the Foundation. His recommendation was approved. That first year, eight to ten volunteers pitched in, about 80 people attended, and they auctioned off a few dozen items, raising around

\$3,000 for Foundation research programs. The program featured a Western theme, and everyone had a great time.

This year, about 260 people – motorcyclists, brain tumor survivors, patients and their families, and several people from the medical community – flocked to the event, which featured a Wings Over Paradise Hawaiian theme. The Royal Hawaiian Revue, a Don-Ho singer, and audience participation provided lively entertainment. Five audience members (including Vito) donned grass skirts and coconut bras, and did their best imitation of a hula dance.

“I have never seen people work so hard for a cause, and I’m just so proud,” noted Vito.

Organizing Wings Over the Prairie takes dedication and persistence – 2002 and 2003 chairperson Sandy Berens radiates both. She and her husband got involved in Chapter G2 in 2000, a few years after they lost their son to a brain tumor at age 15. “We were lost for awhile, but then we met Vito, saw how wonderful the club was at raising funds, and decided to help out in 2001. After that, we were elected to chair it in 2002, and somehow we also managed to get re-elected for 2003,” she explained

“It’s a lot of fun, and a lot of work, and there’s nothing like it – we’re just thrilled with what we’re



Loretta, mother of a brain tumor survivor, enjoys herself at the 2003 Wings Over the Prairie event.

able to do for the kids,” said Sandy. “All of us really enjoy each other’s company and it just doesn’t feel like work, it’s really a big party to see how much we can raise.”

“Motorcyclists run to their own drumbeat,” concluded Vito. “Once they take up a cause, they really do it.”

For more information about this or any other fundraiser, please contact the Foundation at (800) 253-6530. [j](#)

Contribute to PBTF Through the U.S. Combined Federal Campaign

If you are a civil or military employee of the U.S. government, please designate the charitable contributions you make through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to the Foundation. PBTF is now approved for the 2003 CFC, the U.S. government’s campaign for nonprofit organizations. The Foundation is listed under “national/international organizations”, and its contribution number is 2925. Your contribution will go to research to find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. [j](#)



The Wings over the Prairie fundraiser supports the work of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Affordable \$1.00 Club Program Raises \$1,700 for Research

It's a simple and wonderful idea, and one that raised more than a thousand dollars to help support Foundation research efforts. Imagine a fundraiser that raises money one dollar at a time. "Hey, anyone can give a dollar," said Tim Jelenek, one of the creators of the club and a member of Wheels for Wishes.

Wheels for Wishes is a group of Michigan motorcycle enthusiasts made up of employees, friends, and families of the Michigan Department of Corrections. For their second year of participation in the Ann Arbor, MI Ride for Kids®, they decided to raise funds with a couple of Wheels of Wishes motorcycle rides. The result was more than \$1,700!

Two Wheels for Wishes club members attended the Ann Arbor ride in 2002, and Tim Jelenek hopes more will ride in 2003. "The children at the end of last year's event left an indelible mark on our minds and hearts. Ruth (a brain tumor survivor who attends the ride each year), really touched my heart. I told her we'd be back, and we will." j

How to Remember PBTF in Your Will

You can give a gift that keeps on giving by making a bequest to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation in your will or estate plans. Your continued support will help us find the cure for childhood brain tumors. Ask your lawyer to insert a provision such as "Give the sum of ___ (or ___ percent of my estate) to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of Asheville, NC." For more information, contact Dianne Traynor at (800) 253-6530 or e-mail her at donations@pbtfus.org. j

Planning a PBTF Fundraiser?

Contact us early in your planning process. Each state requires that the PBTF give permission for your fundraising effort to take place. For an event application and more information, call (800) 253-6530 or e-mail pbtfus@pbtfus.org. j

Cycle World Raffle Winner Announced

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for Kids® program, in conjunction with Cycle World magazine, is pleased to announce the winner of the 2003 Cycle World Ride for Kids® motorcycle raffle. Dustin Groenig of Bothell, Washington received a phone call from the Foundation's staff congratulating him for winning this year's prize: a "family" of three new Honda off-road motorcycles – Honda XR400R, CRF230F and XR50R – and a Kendon stand-up trailer.

Groenig's name was selected from thousands of tickets purchased from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and at the 14 Advanstar Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows held in 2002-2003. This year's Cycle World Ride for Kids® motorcycle raffle raised more than \$35,000 to support the research and family support programs of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Groenig, an avid 29-year-old motorcyclist commented, "My cousin and I attended the Seattle Cycle World International Motorcycle Show in December and learned about the Ride for Kids events and the foundation. We decided to buy some raffle tickets. I am really looking forward to this year's Ride for Kids event in Puget Sound, Washington." j



Dustin Groenig won the 2003 Cycle World Ride for Kids® Raffle.

Houston's Reverse Draw Fundraiser Nets \$32,000 for Foundation Programs

When GWRRA-TX Chapter Z members get together, watch out! Known affectionately as "the Zoo Group", this club sponsored a fantastic fundraiser in March 2003, contributing \$32,000 to PBTF and having a big time in the process.

Gene and Sarah Brady of Pasadena Honda headed this year's event, a reverse draw. "This type of fundraiser has so many great selling points. In most raffles, you try to sell as many tickets as you can, but with a reverse draw, there are a finite number of tickets so everyone knows where they stand," explained Sarah Brady.

The \$100 tickets offered purchasers the chance to win great prizes. The grand prize was a Honda Gold Wing motorcycle. Other major prizes included a five-day cruise for two to Mexico, a diamond bracelet, a color GPS system, and a computer. These prizes were acquired at deep discounts, and dozens of other prizes were donated for the cause.

The evening of the drawing, more than 130 people gathered to see the results and socialize.

"Everyone had a great time, and we had quite a few people who were not chapter members attend. It's a great way to promote fellowship among many groups. But the main reason we do it is for Nick (a brain tumor survivor) and others like him. We must find the cure for brain tumors, it will benefit everyone," said Gene.

For more information about this or any other fundraiser, please contact the Foundation at (800) 253-6530. j



Funds raised by the Reverse Draw help to support the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's research initiatives and family support programs. The 2003 Houston Ride for Kids® was a huge success!

FAMILY SUPPORT

Foundation Support Enhances Pediatric Oncologist Social Worker's Conference

Director of Research Funding and Advocacy Dianne Traynor and Family Support Coordinator Bobbie Duffy recently attended the 27th Annual Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers (APOSW) Conference. This year for the first time, the Foundation provided funding for the pre-conference educational seminars, allowing pediatric oncology social workers the opportunity to attend classes they might not otherwise be able to attend due to funding restraints. These sessions included introduction and training for new social workers; learning to work with the multiple losses of children and teens in the wake of trauma; and problem solving skills training in childhood cancer. j

Recent Informed Parent Internet Conference Focuses on Research

The June 5 Informed Parent Internet Conference thrilled participants with its announcement of the Foundation's new Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke, (see page 1). The conference also addressed the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium and its Neuroimaging Center.

Three distinguished physicians spoke during the conference, each discussing their respective programs. They included Dr. Larry Kun, MD, chairman of Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, and professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Radiology at the University of Tennessee, Memphis TN. Dr. Kun is also chairman for the Department of Radiation Oncology, St. Jude Children's Hospital. He discussed the important work of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium.

Tina Young Poussaint, MD, addressed issues relating to the

Neuroimaging Center for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium. She is the principal investigator of the Neuroimaging Center, and is a neuroradiologist at Children's Hospital, Boston, MA. She is also assistant professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School.

Darell D. Bigner, MD, PhD, discussed the formation of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke. Dr. Bigner is the Edwin L. Jones, Jr. and Lucille Finch Jones Cancer research professor and vice chair for Investigative Pathology at Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Bigner is also head of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

To listen to this conference about the Foundation's research initiatives and the new Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke, visit our Web site at www.pbtfus.org, and click on Informed Parent Internet Conferences. j

\$6 Million Grant...

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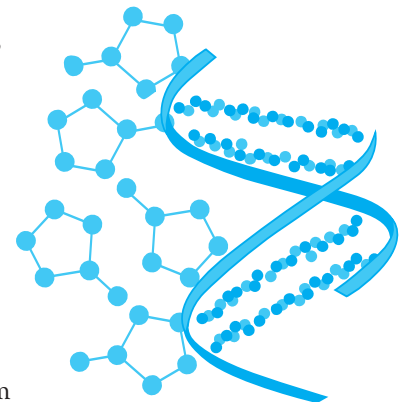
fastest possible manner to get new treatments into clinical trials," stated Darell Bigner, MD, PhD, director of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke.

The Institute's initial goal is to establish cell lines (living tissue) of childhood brain tumors from around the world to analyze them using new genetic and protein methods. Dr. Bigner's research team will run molecular tests to identify new treatment targets and determine which molecular analyses will produce the best results.

"We'll also look for new proteins expressed on the surface of tumor cells. If we can recognize these, we can prepare special treatments specifically for those molecules – this is analogous to using a guided missile approach," Dr. Bigner stated.

Other areas of research will target the "signaling pathways" of cells. The "stop signal" in cancer cells does not function, which is why cancer cells continue to divide and multiply. "We will look inside cancer cells to see if we can come up with new treatments to stop them from growing. If this is successful, we'll have a much more refined, less toxic way to treat tumors," explained Dr. Bigner.

While the basic and translational research at the Institute will accelerate pediatric brain tumor research, the PBTF will continue to fund basic research grants with institutions around the world. "This one-two approach is our best hope of developing new treatments and eventually ending this terrible childhood disease," said Mike Traynor. j



WHERE HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Stories of Hope from Doctors and Patients

Nick, a 15-year-old brain tumor survivor, is totally sold on the Ride for Kids® event in Houston, TX. “The Ride for Kids means everything to me. I think the whole thing is amazing. Just imagine all those people coming out to raise money for kids like me,” he stated. “I know I’ll be involved with this for the rest of my life.”

His mom Gena agrees with Nick’s assessment. “The ride is so important to Nick, and he looks forward to it each year. It’s the one time each year when he’s a star, and he loves that. He always rides with Gene Brady, who he looks up to and adores, almost like a grandparent.”

Nick’s involvement with Ride for Kids® began in 1993. He was even asked to star in a Foundation public service announcement. He’s been attending the rides for 10 years now.

When Nick was first diagnosed, Gena decided to isolate him from other brain tumor patient children because many of them were dying. “I just didn’t want anything negative around him. The doctors only gave him a 30% chance of living. But in that process, we isolated ourselves from everyone. I wish so much that I would have known one person to talk to about this, to give me hope. But I got really close to God, and Nick maintained a great sense of humor and a positive attitude through it all.”

Nick spent almost a full year in and out of the hospital, receiving radiation daily for six weeks, and months of chemotherapy treatments. Gena took Nick for chemo frequently, driving quite a distance

from their Texas home. One time their car broke down on the way to treatment, and Gena fondly recalls that a gentleman stopped to help and gave them a ride to the hospital doors so Nick could meet his treatment schedule. “I never got the man’s name, but he was a guardian angel for us,” she said.

“Nick loves his music, cars, and girls, and he loves to eat,” she laughed.

Gena offers this advice for other brain tumor patients and their families. Gena says her faith in God keeps her going. She also said she tried to never show her fears to Nick, and that she did her best to stay positive and keep Nick happy.

“I want to tell other kids with brain tumors to hope for the best and don’t be scared,” advised Nick. “Just try to face your fears head on.”

Nick and Gena also encourage everyone to get involved with Ride for Kids® events, and are grateful for the support they receive from the motorcycling

community and PBTF. “I just want to say thank you for helping me raise Nick, for helping to give him morals and helping him stay focused. I also want to thank Honda corporation, they have been so kind,” said Gena.

“I thank everybody for coming out,” added Nick. “Especially Mike Traynor, and Gene and Sarah Brady, who started the whole thing and help it along. My hope is that we will find the cure for this and other cancers too.” j



Nick, a Ride for Kids® “star”, enjoys the 2003 Houston Ride for Kids®.

Ride for Kids®



20th Annual Atlanta Ride for Kids® Celebrates Motorcyclists and Progress

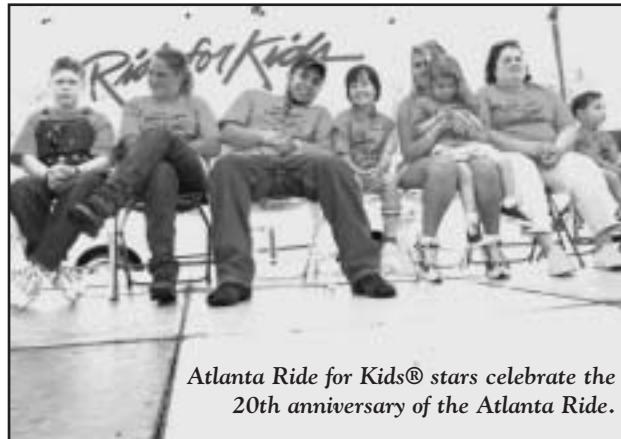
Task Force Leaders Jim and Nona Unversaw, Tommy and Connie Smith, and hundreds of volunteers gathered early on the morning of June 1 to help make the 20th annual Atlanta Ride for Kids® a ride to remember. Thanks to the Task Force's hard work and the fundraising efforts of the 2,100 participants, this historic event raised an amazing \$287,136 to support the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's search for the cause and cure of pediatric brain tumors.

What began as a single ride in 1984 in Clarkston, Georgia with 100 participants has grown into a national program with 26 rides this year. Over 20 years, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation has raised more than \$20 million in research funds to end the deadliest of all childhood cancers.

The motorcyclists set off from North Point Mall in Alpharetta, Georgia for a



The 2003 Atlanta ride was a true success!



Atlanta Ride for Kids® stars celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Atlanta Ride.

police- escorted ride, courtesy of the Fulton County Sheriff's Reserve, to the campus of North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega, Georgia. At their destination point, participants gathered under clear blue skies for the Celebration of Life program honoring this 20th annual ride.

The Celebration, always uplifting and emotional, was especially poignant this year. Letters of congratulations from Senator Zell Miller (D-GA), Congressman John Linder (R-GA), Governor Sonny Perdue and City of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin were read.

Seventeen brain tumor survivors took the stage to thank the motorcyclists for their support and generosity throughout the 20 years. One survivor, Craig, had even

attended all 20 Atlanta Ride for Kids® events! Fran, a mother of a survivor commented, "Julia saw that thousands of people who did not know her, loved her. The rides have helped to heal our family." Julia, age 17, received one of the Foundation's post-secondary scholarships during the program.

Mandy, an 18-year-old brain tumor survivor now in college with a PBTF scholarship, has attended the Atlanta ride for many years. She took the stage and presented an adorable "Angel bear" to Buster Moldenhauer, a long-time motorcycling supporter who always gives Mandy a ride on his motorcycle during Ride for Kids® events. Mandy gave Buster the bear to thank him for being her angel.

Dr. Roger Hudgins, MD, a pediatric neurosurgeon, and Dr. Claire Majewski, MD, a pediatric neuro-oncologist, also attended the ride. "This is my first time at a Ride for Kids event," stated Dr. Hudgins. "It is absolutely a thrill. What you are doing is amazing. Since the ride began in 1984, think of the advances that have occurred in the treatment of childhood brain tumors. Everything is better. Why? Because of you." j

Washington, GA Off Road Fundraiser is Fun in the Dirt!

Off road motorcycle enthusiasts, some 430 of them, enjoyed a spectacular day on May 4 in Washington, GA, trail and motocross riding while raising \$47,455 to support PBTF programs. Heartfelt thanks go to Task Force Leaders Sam Shaw and William Durham who worked so hard to produce this event.

Rob, a competitive off road rider, attended his first Ride for Kids® event.

His 15-month-old son Joshua was in the hospital with a brain tumor at the time of the Ride. Emotions ran high as he shared his feelings at the Celebration of Life after the ride. "You never think something like this would happen to your family," he commented. "I came today to thank all these people for what they are doing to help us." j

(Editor's note: Young Joshua passed away on June 25, 2003.)



Alyssa, a Ride for Kids® star, gets ready for the 2003 Pittsburgh Ride.



Malerie, a Ride for Kids® star, and her mom enjoy a moment with Mike Traynor during the Celebration of Life program at the 2003 Washington, GA Ride.

2003 Torrance Ride for Kids® Sets New Record

Nearly 800 motorcyclists raised \$180,055 in the 12th annual Torrance Ride for Kids® event on May 18th—a new Torrance Ride for Kids® record!

Congratulations to Torrance Task Force Leaders Mike and Lori Whittaker and Timm Browne and all the dedicated volunteers.

The Celebration of Life, held on the American Honda campus, included 16 brain tumor survivors. A poem written by PBTF scholarship recipient Michelle for the motorcyclists summed up the day: "...you are our heroes, and you bring us light, visions of our future, looking so bright. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to shine, you are in all of our hearts, as you are in mine." Two doctors, Judith Villablanca, MD and Mark Krieger, MD also attended the event. j



At the 2003 Torrance Ride, Trent – a Ride for Kids® star – celebrates with a friend.

Pittsburgh Ride for Kids® a Huge Success

Light rain did not dampen the spirits of the 525 motorcyclists who participated in the Pittsburgh Ride for Kids® event on May 4. The event raised more than \$77,628 for Foundation programs, a new record for the Pittsburgh event. Task Force Leaders Bill and Janet Henze and Steve and Laura Kovac did a fabulous job coordinating this effort.

At the Celebration of Life program, Ryan Wilpula, father of 2 ½-year-old Elliot, shared the shock of hearing his child has a brain tumor. He commented that attending the Ride for Kids® renews his faith in the world. Writer Jim Trozzo with the Keystone Press commented, "Next year we will need a bigger tent. This tent can't hold all the emotion." j

Inaugural Richmond, VA Ride for Kids® Surpasses Expectations

The June 1 inaugural Richmond, VA Ride for Kids® event surpassed all expectations, bringing in more than \$58,333 for Foundation research programs from some 450 motorcyclists. Task Force Leaders Kerry Abrams and Mike Mitchell did a superb job of organizing this first annual ride.

At the Celebration of Life program after the ride, Dr. Jon Ward, MD, a neurosurgeon, and Dr. William Broaddus, MD, a neurosurgeon and researcher, spoke to the riders, thanking



Ride for Kids® star Amanda at the First Annual Richmond Ride.

them for their support. Dr. Ward was reunited with one of his patients who had a brain tumor removed as a young child and just last week received her driver's license! Several young brain tumor survivors also spoke about their experiences. j



Mike Traynor interviews Garrett, a Ride for Kids® star, during the 2003 Houston Ride for Kids®.

2003 Houston Ride for Kids® Sets New Record

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of close to 1,400 motorcyclists and dozens of volunteers, the April 27, 2003 Houston Ride for Kids® event exceeded previous fundraising efforts, raising \$206,662 for research to find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. Congratulations to Task Force Leader Ronnie Lunsford and all the volunteers for this fantastic achievement.

At the Celebration of Life program after the ride, patient families, brain tumor

survivors, researchers and doctors shared their feelings, thanking the motorcyclists for their commitment and caring. Twelve-year-old Brian, a brain tumor patient, loved his ride on the back of Ronnie Lunsford's motorcycle, and Brian's dad, Jon, thanked the crowd for helping their family. Dr. Joann Ater, one of seven physicians who attended the ride, commented, "I'm overwhelmed by the commitment demonstrated here today by the riders, it means so much to the families we serve." j

Top Fundraisers and Motorcycle Winners

Top Individuals	Top Club/Chapter	Top Dealer/Shop	Honda Motorcycle Winner
Houston, TX: Jim & Julia Lewis \$10,358	GWRRA-TX-Z \$53,105	Pasadena Honda \$64,305	Gene Cooksey Port Arthur, TX
Washington, GA: Sam Shaw \$6,575	Columbia Enduro Riders \$6,757	Aiken Motorcycle Sales and Service \$15,893	Robert Wilcox Charleston, SC
Pittsburgh, PA: Allan & Suzanne Waer \$15,636	GWRRA-PA-X \$17,566	Bob's Honda, Sayre, PA \$15,707	Allan Waer Meshoppen, PA
Torrance, CA: Robert Morales \$21,147	Honda Employees Riders Club \$20,845	JBj Cycles \$32,832	Robert Morales Highlands, CA
Richmond, VA: Sam & Kathy Straughn \$6,012	Richmond Riders \$9,691	Cycle Connection \$9,994	Alvin Peyton Mechanicsville, VA
Atlanta, GA: Tommy & Connie Smith \$23,344	GWRRA-GA-T \$54,098	Gary's Hobbie Shop \$82,043	Bonnie Bender Athens, GA

Remaining 2003 Ride for Kids® Event Schedule

New England RFK	August 17	Road Ride	Birmingham RFK	September 28	Road Ride
Ann Arbor RFK	August 24	Road Ride/Dual Sport	Sacramento RFK	October 5	Road Ride
Asheville RFK	August 24	Road Ride	Dallas-Ft. Worth RFK	October 12	Road Ride
Puget Sound RFK	September 7	Road Ride	Louisiana RFK	October 19	Road Ride
Columbia, MD RFK	September 14	Road Ride	Phoenix RFK	October 19	Road Ride
St. Louis RFK	September 21	Road Ride	Dunnellon, FL RFK	November 2	Road Ride

RESEARCH UPDATE

PBTF Presents Fourth Annual Peter Steck Award

On April 28, the PBTF presented the Peter Steck Memorial Research Award to Dr. Juan Fueyo, MD, Assistant Professor of Neuro-Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Ron DePinho, MD, Professor of Medicine and Genetics, Harvard Medical School, presented the Peter Steck Memorial Lecture.

The Peter Steck Award and Lecture honors the memory of Dr. Peter Steck, a PBTF grant recipient who discovered the MMAC1/PTEN gene and its critical role in many types of cancer. "We feel very privileged to have known Peter the researcher, and Peter the man," Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation President Mike Traynor

said. "We also are pleased to support the research efforts of MD Anderson, which is a great leader in the field of neuro-oncology."

Dr. Fueyo received the \$5,000 Peter Steck Memorial Research Award. Recently, Dr. Fueyo was featured in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute for his research on a form of therapeutic virus that proved effective at treating brain tumors. This research was supported by a grant from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

The Peter Steck Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr. DePinho who is also an American Cancer Society Research Professor; Department of Adult Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer

Institute. DePinho is highly regarded for his work on molecular structures in human cancer cells as they transform into tumors. He was selected as the lecturer by a peer review board at MD Anderson consisting of Francis Ali-Osman, PhD, head of Neurosurgery Research; W. K. Alfred Yung, MD, Chairman of the Department of Neuro-Oncology; and Gary Gallick, PhD, Professor of Cancer Biology. j

PBTF Sponsors International Brain Tumor Research Conference

PBTF played a major sponsorship role in the 15th International Conference on Brain Tumor Research and Therapy in May 2003 in Sorrento, Italy. PBTF supported this conference to learn more about the important developments taking place worldwide in brain tumor research. Dr. Darell Bigner, MD, PhD, head of the PBTF Scientific Advisory Board and Director of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke, was a co-chair for the conference. Also co-chairing the event was Dr. Gaetano Finocchiaro.

The conference included reviews of clinical trials, therapeutics, and poster sessions. Many noted international researchers, including Paul Kleihues, PhD, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon – France; Paolo Comoglio, MD, Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment, Candiolo (Torino) – Italy; and Inder M. Verma, PhD, American Cancer Society,

continued on next page



Dr. Ron DePinho, MD and Dr. Juan Fueyo, MD at the 2003 Peter Steck Memorial Research Award and Lecture presentation.

International Brain Tumor Research...

(continued from previous page)

The Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA, discussed their recent research findings.

“We were pleased to sponsor this international conference, and are delighted with the many hopeful projects presented there,” commented Dianne Traynor, director of research grants for PBTF. “We will continue our search for the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors in the international scientific community and at home in the U.S. until we reach our goal.” j

PBTF National/International Research and Support Programs Continue

With the exciting announcement of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke, many members of the scientific community may be wondering if our current research and grants program will continue. The answer is a resounding YES!

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation will continue to fund national and international basic brain tumor research programs and sponsor leading brain tumor symposia and

patient family support programs. These successful programs continue to bring new hope to brain tumor treatments. For more information on these programs, visit the Web site at www.pbtfus.org, and click on grant funding. j



Michael Hoefflin Foundation Gift Funds Innovative Research Project

The Michael Hoefflin Foundation in southern California is donating \$100,000 to PBTF to fund a clinical trial research project recently approved by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board. The project, led by Dr. Alyssa Reddy at the University of Alabama-

Birmingham, is called “A Genetically Engineered HSV-1 Vector, G207, for the Treatment of Malignant Pediatric Brain Tumors.”

“This project has demonstrated success in treating one aspect of malignant brain tumors and holds great promise,” explained Chris Hoefflin, president of the Michael Hoefflin Foundation and a PBTF board member. “It's leading edge research into what could be more effective treatment that is less damaging to children. The scope of the project falls into our funding range and is an incredible opportunity for us to work together.”

The Michael Hoefflin Foundation is a volunteer charity that is dedicated to advancing research for all children's cancer. Their primary focus is on direct family support. Created in 1995, this foundation is named for the Hoefflin's son Michael, who passed away in 1996 as the result of a brain tumor.



Mike Traynor with young Michael.

“Michael was a caring little guy with a special loving spirit who inspired our organization. We are blessed that he got to see the good work we are doing, and we continue that work with hundreds of volunteers today in his memory and with his inspiration,” said Hoefflin. “Michael loved the Ride for Kids® events, and we have fond memories, so it means a lot to know our foundation can support this effort.”

PBTF President Mike Traynor said, “This gift is a generous contribution that will help us find another answer in the long journey of research to the eventual cure of childhood brain tumors. I am sure Michael, a handsome young man who exemplified the word courage, is smiling down upon all of us as he sees how his father's efforts are paying great dividends in this cause.” j

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

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Ciara – one of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's "Stars"

Family Dedicates Christmas Gifts to Research

Ciara, a beautiful, happy six-year-old girl from California was playing t-ball and ballet dancing one day in April 2002. Two days later, she found herself in a hospital bed, recovering from surgery to remove a medulloblastoma tumor from her brain. Her doctors say they succeeded in removing the entire tumor. Nonetheless, she received seven weeks of daily radiation treatments, and her months-long chemotherapy treatments will end this month.

Ciara, now age seven, is blessed with a large, supportive family who live close to each other in a small farming community. Some 24 adults in her extended family rallied to help her

parents, Kevin and Melanie, deal with Ciara's treatments and the side effects of those treatments. When Christmas 2002 rolled around, Ciara's aunt suggested that all the family adults donate money to PBTF that they would have spend on Christmas gifts. They contributed more than \$1,500 to PBTF for research programs. This contribution included funds collected from Ciara's pre-school class, who wanted to do something to help Ciara.

"None of us needed a thing, and when my sister-in-law suggested this, we thought it was a great idea, and it's certainly a good cause," explained Melanie, Ciara's mom. "We intend to do this every year." j