

NEUROtransmitter

Communicating our message.

Surviving and Thriving

Featured Article



My name is Camden Wiseman. I am 24 years old and happy to share my journey as a proud ambassador of CBTF and brain tumor survivor. I was diagnosed with optic nerve glioma at five months old. Over the next several years, I received three rounds of treatment at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. I was fortunate to have an exceptional care team including my oncologist Brian Rood, neurologist Roger Packer, ophthalmologist Marijean Miller, neuroradiologist Gilbert Vezina, and nurses Deborah Lafond and Katie Reid (follow-up care). I finished my last round of chemo at age five and have had well over 50 MRIs over the course of my life. While I've been in remission for 20 years now, the tumors left me legally blind in my left eye and with some impairment in my right eye. Although this experience was challenging, it gave me a unique perspective in pursuing my academic and career goals as well as my passion for chess.

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Funded Grants and Information

Recommendations from our Scientific Advisory are led by Dr. Roger Packer. The Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation plans to fund two grants each for up to two years starting in September 2025. We look forward to reading the grants and learning from the outstanding reviews to ensure we select the funded grants.

Listing below: Grants funded from 2024 for up to two-years. After reporting they will receive funding again in this summer for second year. New 2025 funded grants will be announced in the fall.

Investigating the role of MN1 fusions in the newly recognize subgroup "Astroblastoma, MN1-altered"
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Division of Oncology, Philadelphia, PA
Principal Investigator: Simone Stephanie Riedel, M.D.

Transcribed Ultra Conserved Regions in Medulloblastoma
The Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Principal Investigator: Roger Abounader, M.D., Ph.D.

CBTF RAISES FUNDS FOR RESEARCH AND OTHER PROGRAMS, "TOGETHER REACHING FOR A CURE."

The Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation

Our mission is to support and fund basic science or clinical research for childhood brain tumors. We are dedicated to heightening public awareness of this devastating disease, and improving the quality of life for those that it affects by funding vital research initiatives.



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Five Video sessions with the experts are posted on our website. Email request and send your story if you like.

Feature Story, GRACIOUS GIVING

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Surviving and Thriving (*continued from page 1*)

I always knew that I wanted to attend Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. In 2017, after my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to complete a summer study program at the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence which provided in-depth, end-to-end exposure to the entire spectrum of drug development. During the summer of 2018, I interned in Dr. Rood's lab, the Center for Cancer and Immunology Research. It was exciting for me to be able to work alongside someone who was an invaluable part of my care team. During that summer, the lab was researching medulloblastoma tumors, an aggressive malignant brain tumor. The lab had acquired patient medulloblastoma cell data and a sample of healthy cells to establish a baseline for baseline protein expression. To assist the research, I designed and implemented an innovative workflow to analyze protein variations between the medulloblastoma and healthy cells. I was able to successfully automate data input to eliminate data entry errors and write Java code to process the data six times faster through parallelization, in which I split the computational work among multiple processing units that ran simultaneously.

I decided to attend Cornell University to study business and information science. In addition to the academic rigor of Cornell's programs and the sense of community I felt while touring campus, I was motivated by the business school's motto of "our business is a better world". I completed

(*continued on page 3*)

Please support CBTF: Your monetary support is always meaningful to CBTF and we hope we can count on your continued support.

CBTF has posted a series of videos on many relevant topics.

Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation

Visit our **GIVE ONLINE** donation button:

<https://www.givedirect.org/donate/?cid=1605>



The Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation is dedicated to funding research for all pediatric brain tumor types.

Visit our secure website:

www.childhoodbraintumor.org



Go to our **Support page** and click on the **Give2Charity button.**

If you are interested in learning more about the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, Inc.,
E-MAIL: cbtf@childhoodbraintumor.org or jeanneyoung@childhoodbraintumor.org (**E-mail preferred due to high volume of robo-calls**)
TELEPHONE: 877-217-4166 or 301-515-2900
Volunteers welcome!

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN, MARYLAND CHARITIES, UW

Surviving and Thriving (continued from page 2)

internships in wealth management, consulting, and finally investment banking. I graduated in the top one percent of my class and joined the Royal Bank of Canada in their Mergers and Acquisitions investment banking group full-time. There, I have had the opportunity to combine my finance skills, technical knowledge, and passion for healthcare while working closely with M&A and healthcare team colleagues on healthcare information technology transactions. After nearly two years in investment banking, I will be joining a healthcare startup which aids health systems in improving their quality of care for patients and financial performance.



Growing up and to this day I have a passion for chess. The black and white pieces and squares are large and have high contrast, which makes the game accessible. I started playing chess at the age of four and quickly learned the basics of the game and began competing in tournaments. I've competed in over 200 rated tournaments to date. Some of the accomplishments I'm most proud of include winning the K-3 Virginia State Championship in third grade, top ten placements at national tournaments throughout K-12, and serving as Captain while competing alongside my high school friends as we won the national high school team championship both junior and senior year. I also started chess instruction programs to teach students how to play chess.

(continued on page 4)



Thank you to our friends who donated through workplace charitable giving campaigns this year, **inclusive of the CFC.**

The Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, friends and families are very appreciative of your support. (National) CFC **12035**

Charity Campaign and other independent campaigns.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Special thanks from CBTF to our supporters, advisors and the medical, community for their dedication!



Campaign donations may be made for the **United Way (UW)** through the "donor option" or "donor choice." Please check with your employer in reference to **UW** campaigns. You may write us in.

A huge Thank You donors!



**Maryland
Charity Campaign**

BY CHECK: Make out to CBTF or Childhood Brain Tumor FDN.

Send to: CBTF
20312 Watkins Meadow Drive
Germantown, MD 20874

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your contributions make it possible for CBTF to fulfill its mission.

Please note if you are supporting: General Research Education
If in memory or in honor of please include the name of the person and the contact information for the person/family to receive acknowledgment.

Surviving and Thriving *(continued from page 3)*



It was an extremely rewarding experience to see kids having fun and improving over the course of a school year. Today, I enjoy playing chess in Manhattan parks when I have free time with my work schedule

I want to thank CBTF for the support they have given me from my initial treatment all the way through long-term follow-up care. At the time of my diagnosis, they were a tremendous resource connecting my parents to a network of families with shared experiences as well as helpful medical resources and guidance. Growing up, the annual CBTF gala was always a memorable experience for me. I had a lot of fun seeing the doctors from Children's National outside the hospital and hearing about the journeys of fellow cancer survivors. I will always cherish the time spent playing blackjack at casino nights and seeing how many raffle tickets I could accumulate. CBTF continues to build awareness of the unique challenges of pediatric brain tumors and invest in research to advance treatment options. I appreciate how their support has made a difference in my life.



Written by Camden Wiseman, ambassador of the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation. Camden is a talented and resilient young man, who will continue to be successful in all his pursuits.

Consider Hosting a Fundraising Campaign for CBTF

The CBTF Community has supported our cause over many years through participation and organization of various campaigns and fundraising events.

Who is the CBTF Community? **YOU**. Families, friends, and loved ones touched by childhood brain tumors. Sponsors, donors, medical community, volunteers and all who have put forth their time, energy and financial donations to help us to exist for nearly 30 years in meeting our mission: to support research and families.

By staying involved, the CBTF Community has been instrumental in funding important research and in providing helpful resources to families in need. If you would like to get involved in this cause, CBTF can provide some basic fundraising tools to help support your campaign.

There are many ways to host your campaign, such as a 5k walk/run, school fundraiser project, a community event, and more. CBTF is always grateful for the actions, donations, and contributions from our community.

Email CBTF (cbtf@childhoodbraintumor.org) directly and tell us how you would like to help.

Childhood Brain Tumor Video Updates

Much appreciation to presenters: Drs. Roger Packer, Kenneth Aldape, Kristina Hardy, Tobey MacDonald, and Gilbert Vezina for working with our videographer, Neil Rubino, to tape presentations on important topics.

No charge to view, register for log-in to access the videos: cbtf@childhoodbraintumor.org
Additional videos will be added soon. **E-mail us with any special interests.**

Current topics include

Central nervous system tumors in the pediatric population, classification improvements and WHO reporting

Kenneth Aldape, M.D., senior pathologist, Chief of the Laboratory of Pathology at the Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute

Neuropsychology and School Supports

Kristina Hardy, Ph.D., Neuropsychologist
The Brain Tumor Institute, Children's National Hospital

Pediatric Brain Tumor in the Era of Precision of Medicine

Tobey MacDonald, MD, Director and Aflac Chair/Emory, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology

Recent Advances in Pediatric Brain Tumors, Understanding and Care: A Primer for Families

Roger J. Packer, MD, Senior Vice President, Center for Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine, Endowed Distinguished Professor & Director Gilbert Family Neurofibromatosis Institute, Director, Brain Tumor Institute, Children's National Hospital, DC

Making Sense of Brain Imaging

Gilbert Vezina, MD, Director, Program of Neuroradiology
Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Radiology, Children's National Medical Center



In Honor of

Special thanks to our scientific advisors: Drs. Roger J. Packer (Chair), Susan Blaney, Kenneth Cohen, Charles Eberhart, Eugene Hwang, Lindsay Kilbern, Tobey MacDonald, Eva Perdahl, Eric Raabe, Brian Rood, and Katherine Warren

Fae Daniels, Alicia Gonzalez, Jenny Hahn, Michael Schoenfeld, Camden Wiseman

Remembrances, Bequests



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 Felix and Nancy Young
 Kim Young
 Michael Young
 Ben Zell



*If I take the Wings
 of the morning,
 and dwell in the
 uttermost parts of
 the sea; Even there
 shall thy hand lead
 me, and they right hand
 shall hold me.*

139th Psalm

Bequests, Planned Giving, and Trusts

Through a trust, bequest, or planned giving you can contribute to furthering the future research and programs of the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, Inc. By including the CBTF in your estate planning you can minimize your taxes.

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The Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, Inc.

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20312 Watkins Meadow Drive Toll free: 877.217.4166
Germantown, Maryland 20876 Telephone: 301.515.2900

Master Card, VISA, and American Express donations for CBTF are accepted through our secure **Give Online** button on our Web site: www.childhoodbraintumor.org



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 it is through your support we
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 of excellence,
 Thank you to all of our supporters, near and far!

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 IRS 501(c)(3) WHOSE MISSION IS TO RAISE MONEY TO IMPROVE
 PROGNOSIS AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM
 BRAIN TUMORS. EVERY YEAR THE REQUESTS CONTINUE TO GROW,
 WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

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