



2015 Performance Report



IAN'S FRIENDS FOUNDATION

Ian's Friends Foundation (IFF) in Action

“THIS TRIAL IS ABOUT RENEWED HOPE. IT’S A DEPARTURE FROM THE STANDARD, INEFFECTIVE THERAPY AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE A WHOLE NEW PARADIGM IN BRAIN TUMOR TREATMENT.”

Dr. Mark Souweidane
IFF Supported Researcher

Dr. Mark Souweidane, Director of Pediatric Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Brain and Spine Center, received FDA approval for a clinical trial for young patients diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

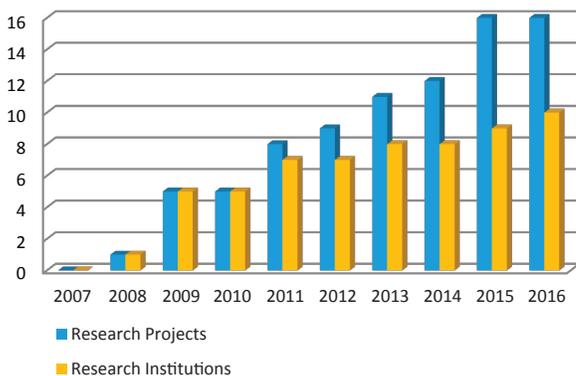
*Dr. Souweidane is the Principal Investigator on the clinical trial which uses a novel surgical technique (convection-enhanced delivery, or CED) to deliver a tumor-fighting agent directly to the site of the glioma. This bypasses the blood-brain barrier that prevents most drugs from reaching deadly brain stem cancers in children. **The early development of this ground-breaking method was funded in part through IFF.***



A Year in Review

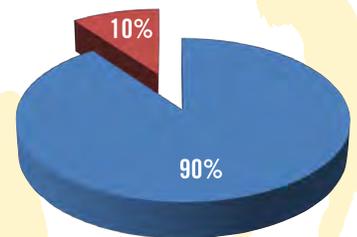
2015: The reason for IFF's success? Generous donors, supporters, committed volunteers, doctors and researchers.

of IFF Supported Research Institutions and Projects



Ten years ago, IFF began supporting world-renowned research institutions and projects focused on a cure for pediatric brain tumors. IFF has supported **15** ground-breaking pediatric brain tumor research projects at **10** institutions across the U.S. A list of these institutions is available on our website, iansfriendsfoundation.com.

2015 IFF Research Dollars Allocated



The average nonprofit spends 36.4% on overhead costs.

IFF maintains overhead costs at around 10%, with the remaining 90% earmarked for pediatric brain tumor research.

Mission Statement: To undertake and support research initiatives at research institutions around the country that focus on developing new methodologies for the treatment of pediatric brain tumors.

Message from the Co-Founders

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on Ian's Friends Foundation's accomplishments for 2015, we are humbled and awed by what the organization accomplished and how far IFF has come over the last nine years. What started as an idea around our kitchen table has grown into a foundation that has supported 15 groundbreaking research projects at 10 world-renowned institutions across the US.

In addition to the impressive list of 2015 research achievements listed in the section below, Ian's Friends Foundation was honored to have the research lab at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta renamed the *Ian's Friends Foundation Laboratories*. This lab houses the IFF Brain Tumor Biorepository which will provide the technology to grow and store cancer cells for use in brain tumor research.

Ian's Friends Foundation is making a difference in the lives of children with brain tumors thanks to your incredible support, but much remains to be done. Every day 9 children in the US are diagnosed with a brain tumor. Only 4% of federal funding to cancer research is earmarked for childhood cancers, with less than 1% of that for pediatric brain tumors. Organizations like IFF provide the additional finances needed to support the most promising treatment options for our children. We will not quit until there is a cure.

We hope you enjoy our 2015 Performance Report and thank you again for your continued and much appreciated support.

Phil and Cheryl Yagoda
Co-Founders, Ian's Friends Foundation



2015 Research Accomplishments

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Attacking the Cancer Stem Cell to Eradicate Pediatric Brain Tumors:

This research lab, operating as an extension of the Ian's Friends Foundation Brain Tumor Biorepository, focuses on:

- Identifying the genetic profiles of cancer stem cells, so one day, patients will be treated in "real-time" based solely on the genetic profile patterns of their specific cancer cells.

Georgia Institute of Technology Engineering Tumor Encapsulation:

This lab targets solid malignant tumors and aims to:

- "Wall-off" tumor tissue by engineering a scar tissue-like capsule to be formed around the tumors.
- Provide a way for stable and controlled migration of tumors out of the brain.

Georgia Institute of Technology A Novel Strategy to Treat Brain Cancers:

This project is focused on designing a tumor seeking vaccine that has 2 distinguishing features:

- The vaccine is motile and 'pursues' the tumor cells; and
- The vaccine alerts the host immune system selectively and induces tumor death.

Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center:

This research is focused on uncovering the mechanisms by which gene fusions contribute to tumor formation in pediatric low grade gliomas.



More 2015 Accomplishments and Accolades



Children's Healthcare of Atlanta:

IFF was honored to have the research facilities at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta renamed the *Ian's Friends Foundation Laboratories*.

Georgia Tech Tumor Monorail Project:

IFF was proud to announce a \$6.5 million grant from the Marcus Foundation awarded to this project at the biomedical research lab started at Georgia Institute of Technology by IFF. This grant demonstrates the power of the labs started with seed funding from IFF to attract large donations based on their ground-breaking research.

Georgia Tech Student Awards Project:

IFF sponsored the award winning team of the Georgia Institute of Technology Capstone Expo 2015, the largest student design expo in the US. The winning team, Shunt Doubles, consisted of 5 bio-medical engineering majors who designed a safe and noninvasive way for caregivers to monitor the effectiveness of shunts used to drain cerebrospinal fluid to the brain. Shunt Doubles was 1 of 9 teams sponsored by IFF who competed against nearly 200 teams supported by companies such as AT&T, Ford, and Kimberly Clark.

One week after the above mentioned Georgia Institute of Technology Capstone Expo 2015, the 9 student teams sponsored by IFF presented their work before a panel of medical doctors, engineers, and a spectrum of biomedical educators.

