

Contact: Apryl Ash, Approach Marketing  
740.707.5478  
[apryl@approachmarketing.com](mailto:apryl@approachmarketing.com)

**CancerFree KIDS Raises \$1.4 Million for Research Grants**  
*\$650,000 to go to Nationwide Children's Hospital*

Columbus (For Immediate Release) – CancerFree KIDS announces a record \$1.4 million to be invested in 25 research grants at both Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. The total brings the number of research projects funded to 240 since CancerFree KIDS started in 2002, with an investment of \$10.85 million over 22 years.

To date, CancerFree KIDS researchers have received more than \$114 million in follow-on funding as a result of work funded by a CancerFree KIDS grant. CancerFree KIDS-funded projects have also been the basis for researchers to publish 296 publications, earn 57 patents, conduct 21 clinical trials, create four companies and develop two FDA-approved drugs.

This year, 22 of the grants will support New Idea awards — projects in their early stages that show innovation and promise of offering less invasive, more effective treatments for pediatric cancer. The remaining three Accelerator awards, which go to past CancerFree KIDS New Idea award recipients to continue work on projects that have been exceptionally successful.

A total of \$650,000 will go to Nationwide Children's Hospital, with 11 New Idea awards and one Accelerator, including:

**New Idea Awards**

**100 Mile Challenge Research Grant in honor of Top Community Fundraising Team Universe Louie, in memory of Louie** - Banlanjo Umaru, PhD: Induced telomere dysfunction as a novel approach for radiosensitization and immunomodulation in diffuse midline glioma

**100 Mile Challenge Research Grant in honor of Corporate Competition Winner Approach Marketing, in honor of Hannah** - Ryan Roberts, MD, PhD/Charles Treinen, MD: Tumor cell-intrinsic and -extrinsic mechanisms mediating tissue factor dependence during metastatic lung colonization in osteosarcoma

**CancerFree KIDS Columbus Board of Trustees Research Grant** - Doyeon Kim, PhD: The therapeutic potential of oHSV expressing TAA-treated DC with oHSV expressing cytokine in a malignant glioma model

**Donatos Pizza Research Grant** - Benjamin Sunkel, PhD: Investigating the influence of NR0B1 on nuclear receptor function in Ewing Sarcoma

**Jersey Mike's Subs Research Grant** - Janet L. Oblinger, PhD: Combining HIF-2a inhibition to enhance the effectiveness of bevacizumab in NF2-SWN schwannomas

**Lifetime Impact Award Research Grant in honor of Al Early** - Zhuang Wang, PhD: Characterizing the origin, recruitment and function of macrophages in Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG)

**Night for the Fight Research Grant in honor of Top Student Fundraiser Eliana Boerner in memory of her brother, Jonathan** - Runwei Zhou: Investigating structural insights underlying EWS/FLI-mediated gene expression reprogramming in Ewing sarcoma

**ProMach Research Grant** - Sushanta Halder, PhD: Novel drug combination targeting eIF4A and XPO1 to treat MPNSTs

**Volunteer of the Year Research Grant in honor of The Piening Family** - Dawn Chandler, PhD: Unveiling the alternative splicing landscape in hepatoblastoma: Enhancing prognostic and therapeutic approaches

**Wilson Family Research Grant** - Bhavana Kushwaha, PhD: Enhancing immunotherapy effectiveness in high-risk neuroblastoma through genetic and metabolic approaches

**Wolf Family Research Grant** - James Reinecke MD, PhD: Combating treatment-resistant metastatic medulloblastoma through inhibition of adhesion signaling

### **Accelerator Awards**

**The MC and Mark Anderson Research Grant** - Dawn Chandler, PhD: Characterizing and Optimizing Adeno-Associated Viral Delivery of Splice-switching Oligonucleotides: Advancing Novel Therapeutic Approaches for Pediatric Osteosarcoma

“Treatment of pediatric cancers have come a long way, but there is still much work to be done to support children and families through their cancer journeys,” said Dr. Timothy Cripe, chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. “That means developing new therapies, testing and launching new clinical trials, establishing new diagnostic tests, running the whole gamut and getting things back to patients. Through the support of CancerFree KIDS, we can invest in the most promising projects at the earliest stages and work to help improve outcomes for all children with cancer.”

“We are tremendously humbled by the generosity of our supporters at CancerFree KIDS,” said Jill Brinck, executive director of CancerFree KIDS. “Because of the record number of dollars raised, we will be able to fund important research to make the lives of our children better, and give them hope for the future.”

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### **About CancerFree KIDS**

CancerFree KIDS aims to find more effective and gentler treatments for childhood cancer by funding innovative research projects in the early stages of development. New ideas need money to grow, yet potential breakthrough treatment methods often go unfunded because pediatric cancer research is drastically limited. CancerFree KIDS provides grants to promising childhood cancer research projects in these crucial early stages, which allows researchers to prove their concept,

secure additional funding, and eventually create new treatments for kids. Learn more at [cancerfreekids.org](http://cancerfreekids.org).