



WINTER 2022-2023

Annual "No Laughing Matter" Comedy Night Gala Raises \$600K Using Humor to Inspire Hope for Kids with Brain Tumors

The fourth annual "No Laughing Matter" comedy night was held on October 14th and raised approximately \$600,000 to support pediatric brain tumor research. The fundraising event was hosted at the New York Athletic Club by the Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation. An all-star comedy line-up of talented comedians donated their time and talent to the laugh-out-loud fundraiser, 100% of the proceeds from which directly benefits the Children's Brain Tumor Project (CBTP) at Weill Cornell Medicine.

"We are so grateful to the Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation, our honorees, our dinner chair, the performers, the sponsors, and the volunteer staff who made this event such a tremendous success. We are so humbled to be the beneficiary of such a fun event in New York City, and we were completely blown away by the support," said Dr. Mark Souweidane, cofounder of the CBTP and Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The event included an emotional donation appeal, raising much-needed research funding to support the critical work at the lab. There were also several children and families in attendance who have been personally impacted by a pediatric brain tumor diagnosis, like eight-year-old Enzo Peloquin, who bravely appeared on stage with comedic host Jordan Klepper (and his stuffed dinosaur for support).

Liz Laugh Love Award Recipient Veronica Marsano

In addition to side-splitting comedy, the evening included the third annual Liz Laugh Love award presentation. This year, the Children's Brain Tumor Project was proud to honor Veronica Marsano and her family for funding the launch of a comprehensive precision medicine program for children with brain tumors at Weill Cornell Medicine. Their generous gift in memory of Veronica's son, Patrick, has enabled the lab to define individualized cancer therapies for children with rare and inoperable pediatric brain tumors.

The award is named after Elizabeth (Liz) Minter, who is remembered for her abundant love and familiar laughter after she passed away from the same disease as Patrick in 2012. Before she died, Elizabeth created a unique fundraising initiative that became the cornerstone for the creation of the Weill Cornell Medicine Children's Brain Tumor Project.

Good Humor Award Recipient Anthony Greco

The recipient of the Good Humor award was Anthony Greco, a previous patient of Dr. Mark Souweidane. After several years post-treatment, Anthony is now a stand-up performer in New York City who often finds clever ways to incorporate his experience battling a brain tumor into his material. The audience agreed that not only was his performance at No Laughing Matter hilarious, it was extremely meaningful.

The Lineup

Jordan Klepper is a funny and engaging comedic host who threaded together a range of emotional stories and award presentations with hilarious stand-up comedy. Comedians included (in order of performances) Josh Gondelman, Ophira Eisenberg, Jordan Carlos, Anthony Greco, and Roy Wood, Jr. NBC News Anchor and Senior National Correspondent, Tom Llamas, hosted the live research appeal.

Our Sponsors

A fundraiser of this magnitude relies on sponsors to ensure financial success. For the fourth year in a row, the CBTP is grateful to Ms. Tory Burch for being our headlining sponsor. Her support has been unwavering. Rocky Benloulou-Dubin of Rockster Productions managed the talent and the stage program along with Big Hungry Bear Productions who recorded the event. Love Your Melon provided all attendees with special knit caps, and Lois Silva Zini donated her time and talent as the event photographer. For more photos, visit the CBTPF facebook page at facebook.com/CBTPF.



(1) Performers Jordan Carlos, Roy Wood, Jr., Jordan Klepper, Anthony Greco, Josh Gondelman, (2) Sandi Feinberg participates in the donation appeal, (3) Performer Ophira Eisenberg, (4) Jordan Klepper, Dr. Mark Souweidane and Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield present Anthony Greco with Good Humor Award, (5) Dinner chair Tara Lipton with her son, Walker, (6) Jordan Klepper and Enzo Peloquin.

Congratulations Team CBTPF!

The Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation, an Official Charity Partner of the TCS New York City Marathon, Raises More Than \$60,000 Thanks to our Dedicated Runners!

For the first time as a new nonprofit, the Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation (CBTPF) was named an official charity team in the TCS New York City Marathon. On Sunday, November 6, our dedicated team of athletes proudly ran through all five-boroughs of New York City to honor children and families who have been impacted by a pediatric brain tumor diagnosis. The CBTPF awarded marathon entries to sixteen athletes who raised a combined total of \$60,000! The 2022 TCS New York City Marathon marked the race's return to full capacity with 50,000 runners for the first time since 2019, and the CBTPF was among 500 official charity partners selected to provide runners the opportunity to run in the world's most popular marathon.

Next up for Team CBTPF is the 2023 United Airlines NYC Half on Sunday, March 19. We hope you will consider running with us. As always, the tremendous fundraising efforts of Team CBTPF directly support the pediatric brain tumor research of Dr. Mark Souweidane and Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield at Weill Cornell Medicine.



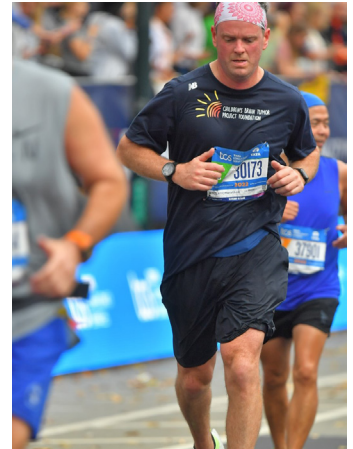
"I carried Chase and everyone else who's been impacted with such tragedy with me. My dad, and his never-ending positive spirit, was with me." — Erin



"Thank you for making it possible for us to be here in memory of our niece, Brooke, and to honor her with something so special. It was a dream come true." — William and Nicola



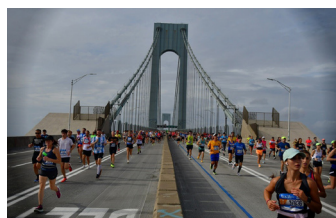
"There were times throughout the race I had to dig deep, but I kept thinking about what this funding means to families and it gave me the courage to keep going." — Chris M.



"There were so many great causes represented out on the course, but I was especially proud to be representing our cause." — Chris H.



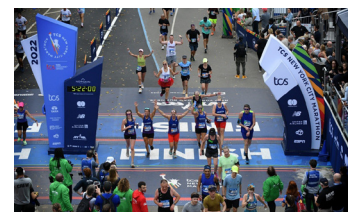
"Running NYC was an experience. The energy and atmosphere was truly electric!" — Sara



"My triplet brother is a survivor of Medulloblastoma. I was blessed to run in his honor and raise funds for this wonderful organization." — Samantha



"The day was magic. That crowd is really something special." — Randi



"Sunday was the most physically and mentally challenging day of my life. It was such a rewarding experience though, and there is no other charity I would have rather run for than CBTPF." — Macie



TCS
NEW YORK CITY
MARATHON
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Run for Research in 2023

The Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation (CBTPF) is an official charity partner for the United Airlines NYC Half marathon on March 19, and the TCS New York City Marathon on November 5. Email cbtpf@cbtpfoundation.org if you are interested.

2022 Peer-Reviewed Publications



Peer-reviewed publications validate research findings because they subject the authors scholarly work to a high level of scrutiny from other experts in the field who evaluate whether an article is suitable for publication. The volume of published work is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our lab team.

JOURNAL OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY – NOVEMBER 2022

Phase 1 study of intraventricular 131I-omburtamab targeting B7H3 (CD276)-expressing CNS malignancies (PMID: 36371226)

NEOPLASIA - NOVEMBER 2022

The children's brain tumor network (CBTN) - Accelerating research in pediatric central nervous system tumors through collaboration and open science (PMID: 36335802)

PEDIATRIC BLOOD CANCER - NOVEMBER 2022

Clinical outcomes of pediatric patients receiving multimodality treatment of second central nervous system relapse of neuroblastoma (PMID: 36349892)

NEUROONCOLOGY - OCTOBER 2022

Next-generation sequencing of cerebrospinal fluid for clinical molecular diagnostics in pediatric, adolescent and young adult brain tumor patients (PMID: 35148412)

PEDIATRIC BLOOD CANCER - SEPTEMBER 2022

A systematic literature review to identify ethical, legal, and social responsibilities of nonprofit organizations when funding clinical trials in pediatric cancer (PMID: 35713116)

EPIGENOMICS - JUNE 2022

Developments in high-throughput functional epigenomics: CRISPR-single-cell assay for transposase-accessible chromatin using sequencing screens (PMID: 35574596)

NEUROONCOLOGY - JUNE 2022

Phase II trial of response-based radiation therapy for patients with localized germinoma: a Children's Oncology Group study (PMID: 34850169)

JOURNAL OF NEUROONCOLOGY - MAY 2022

Quantifying intraventricular drug delivery utilizing programmable ventriculoperitoneal shunts as the intraventricular access device (PMID: 35403968)

LANCET ONCOLOGY - MAY 2022

Imaging response assessment for CNS germ cell tumours: consensus recommendations from the European Society for Paediatric Oncology Brain Tumour Group and North American Children's Oncology Group (PMID: 35489353)

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL PHYSICS - MAY 2022

A Phase 2 Trial of Response-Based Radiation Therapy for Localized Central Nervous System Germ Cell Tumors: Patterns of Failure and Radiation Dosimetry for Nongerminomatous Germ Cell Tumors (PMID: 34990779)

NEUROONCOLOGY ADVANCES - MARCH 2022

Utility of multimodality molecular profiling for pediatric patients with central nervous system tumors (PMID: 35475276)

New Equipment for the Lab

Donor Purchases Critical Equipment to Allow Experiments to Continue

The Team Campbell Foundation recently enabled the CBTP lab to address an urgent need by funding the purchase of a new centrifuge to replace our previous workhorse, which broke down unexpectedly and was beyond repair. The centrifuge is an essential part of the day-to-day work at the lab, and the team was unable to complete some critical experiments until Team Campbell stepped in without hesitation. The delay had been stressful, and the collective sigh of relief could probably have been felt throughout the entire building. We are so honored to remember the life of Campbell Hoyt every day as we work with her photo on our walls and now her name on our equipment. She will always inspire us to work hard and do more.



CBTP “Do Something” Spotlight Eager Student Shares Experience at the CBTP

Written by Audrey McBride, who shadowed Dr. Mark Souweidane and Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield for one week in the summer of 2022.

I knew that my experience at Weill Cornell Medicine was going to be extraordinary—but I never imagined just how extraordinary it would be. And that’s because of the people.

Going into this experience, quite frankly, I was terrified. Being only 14-years-old, I was well aware of the large age gap between myself and the other young adults pursuing similar opportunities at the hospital. On my first day, I sat down next to another shadow and she asked me what grade I was going into. I told her I was going into my freshman year, to which she responded “where”? It was only after she told me she was a sophomore at Vanderbilt did I understand that she assumed I was in college. I guess behind the mask she couldn’t tell I was still in braces. I was scared that because of this, my interest wouldn’t be taken seriously. More than anything though, I was scared that I would miss out in some way. So, I promised myself to never say no to a learning experience and to always listen as hard as I could; even if it meant that by the end of those five short days I would be totally exhausted.

I didn’t really think that’s how this would happen, though. I knew that these incredible doctors who I hadn’t even met yet were conducting research to cure all pediatric brain tumors! Who was I to get in the way? But I didn’t know them, and now I do.

These people curing pediatric brain tumors care in a way that is hard to understand until you get to know them. They care about their patients, in a one-on-one manner that I marveled at during every clinic checkup, every early post-surgery rounds, and every newcomer who was there for a second opinion. The team cares so much and they entrusted me to care, too, by inviting me to those early morning zooms and rounds, explaining CT scans, and giving me literature to read so that I could better understand the discussions taking place during patient check-ups.

I knew I wanted to be a doctor, but I didn’t know the what’s or how’s of it. After a week with them, I can tell you. I want to be the kind who engages their understudies with every scan, like Dr Souweidane. The kind with a wall of child handprints in my office, like Dr Greenfield. The kind of person who carries herself with the grace that only comes with the patience and compassion of Cindy Campbell. The kind of doctor who cares.

Thank you to everyone who made this experience at the Children’s Brain Tumor Project so memorable and life-changing for me. I can’t wait to come back!

Love 4 Lucas Continues to Support the CBTP Recent Donation of \$50,000 will Enable the Hiring of a New Post-Doc for the Lab

On December 12, the Love4Lucas Foundation presented a generous donation of \$50,000 to the Children’s Brain Tumor Project to support the funding of a new post-doctoral scientist in the lab. The new post-doc will be focused on studying developmental biology with a large percentage of research committed to understanding how cell differentiation may lead to the development of diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas (DIPG) in children.

Ultimately, such findings can lead to discoveries in how to interrupt and alter the differentiation process when cells develop into tumor cells instead of the appropriate form/function at cell maturity.

Love4Lucas is a nonprofit organization in Pound Ridge, NY, that was founded in memory of Lucas Harashima. In 2017, Lucas was diagnosed with DIPG at just five-years-old. He passed away from the universally terminal brain tumor just 18 months later. The organization’s mission is to fund research towards a cure for DIPG and to support families battling DIPG.

DIPG is a devastating childhood disease in desperate need of a cure. The organization’s website reads, “The journey ahead is unknown, but with love, energy, and hope we can all be a part of the fight.” Our team is proud to join Love4Lucas in this fight fueled by love and hope.



Representatives present the Children’s Brain Tumor Project lab team with a \$50K donation. FROM LEFT: Christopher Padilla, Corrinne Smith, Dr. Peter Kim (Love 4 Lucas), Kai Harashima (Love 4 Lucas), Hide Harashima (Love 4 Lucas), Dr. Rafael Uribe, Sansan Harashima (Love 4 Lucas), Valentina Dal Pozzo, and Carolina Cocito.