

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation to Honor Designer Gretchen Scott at 2026 "No Laughing Matter" Gala Starring Comedian Zarna Garg**

*Annual New York City fundraiser returns to the New York Athletic Club on October 22 in support of groundbreaking pediatric brain tumor research at Weill Cornell Medicine*

**NEW YORK, NY — September 1, 2026** — The Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation will host its annual **"No Laughing Matter" fundraising gala on Thursday, October 22, from 7–10 p.m. at the New York Athletic Club**, bringing together 300 guests for an evening of comedy and philanthropy in support of pediatric brain tumor research at Weill Cornell Medicine.

This year's event will star acclaimed comedian **Zarna Garg** and honor fashion designer and philanthropist **Gretchen Scott**, Founder and CEO of Gretchen Scott Designs, for her longstanding commitment to philanthropy and her meaningful role in the creation of the Children's Brain Tumor Project (CBTP).

Scott's connection to the mission dates back to its earliest roots. Her first philanthropic project was in support of **Elizabeth's Hope**, a grassroots fundraising effort created in honor of a young girl diagnosed with an incurable brain tumor that ultimately became the founding root of the Children's Brain Tumor Project at Weill Cornell Medicine. Scott designed and sold thousands of cotton blouses in support of Elizabeth's Hope and the CBTP, donating 100% of the proceeds to the cause.

"We are especially proud to honor Gretchen this year because she believed in this mission before the Children's Brain Tumor Project even had a name," said **Emmie Hill, Elizabeth's Mom and Cofounder of Elizabeth's Hope**. "Her generosity helped build the foundation for what has grown into an extraordinary research program giving hope to families around the world."

Headlining the evening is **Zarna Garg**, the outspoken Indian immigrant comedian whose stand-up career has earned her a global following. Garg is currently touring with her newest show, *Million Dollar Excuses*. Her memoir, *This American Woman*, became a New York Times bestseller, and she frequently opens for comedy icons Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. Garg is also developing a new sitcom with Mindy Kaling and Kevin Hart.

Entertainment has become a hallmark of No Laughing Matter. Previous performers have included **Jim Gaffigan, Jessica Kirson, Jordan Klepper, Roy Wood Jr., Michael Kosta, Josh Johnson** and Special Tony Award winner **Freestyle Love Supreme**, among many others.

But behind the laughter is an urgent mission.

The **Children's Brain Tumor Project (CBTP)** was founded in 2012 by pediatric neurosurgeons **Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield and Dr. Mark Souweidane** at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine. Its mission is to improve outcomes for children with brain tumors by advancing scientific discovery and clinical research focused on targeted therapies, effective drug delivery and treatments with low toxicity.

Rare pediatric brain tumors have historically been grossly neglected in the research landscape. The Children's Brain Tumor Project is working to change that by developing innovative treatment strategies for children facing rare and often incurable diagnoses, with a commitment to making new options available to children around the world.

The Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation is the only certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization 100% committed to funding this research initiative. Support from No Laughing Matter helps provide the philanthropic funding necessary to advance promising discoveries and accelerate new treatment approaches for children who cannot afford to wait.

**Tickets, tables and sponsorship opportunities are now available.**

For more information about No Laughing Matter 2026, visit [nolaughingmatter2026.org](https://nolaughingmatter2026.org).

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### **About the Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation**

The Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the groundbreaking research of the Children's Brain Tumor Project at Weill Cornell Medicine. The Foundation is 100% committed to funding research aimed at improving outcomes for children with rare and difficult-to-treat brain tumors through scientific discovery, precision medicine, innovative drug delivery and the development of safer, more effective treatment options.

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