June 2026

Advocacy Matters

By Brandi Felser

Next month, in recognition of Sarcoma Awareness Month, SFA will host our third annual Sarcoma Community Advocacy Weekend in Washington, DC. This powerful weekend brings our community together for a Congressional Reception on Capitol Hill, meetings with legislators, an educational conference focused on drug development, and our National Race to Cure Sarcoma at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.

We launched this program three years ago to address a critical need: ensuring that the sarcoma community has a strong, visible voice in policy and regulatory decisions that shape patient care and research.

When I joined SFA nearly seven years ago, sarcoma was often referred to as the “forgotten cancer.” While that label reflected a difficult reality at the time, it no longer defines where we are today. We’ve made meaningful progress—increased awareness, expanded clinical trial opportunities, and more approved therapies. These advances are a direct result of the perseverance and advocacy of this community.

However, our work is far from over.

Significant barriers still prevent too many people from accessing the care and treatments they need. Access to therapies varies widely around the world. Patients are often encouraged to travel long distances to specialized sarcoma centers—frequently at great personal cost—or risk poorer outcomes.

Regulatory pathways can make it especially challenging for rare cancer therapies to reach approval. At the same time, cuts to research funding disproportionately affect sarcoma, a field that has historically been underfunded, slowing the discovery of lifesaving treatments.

And these challenges only begin to scratch the surface.

Sarcoma is a global disease, and our efforts must reflect that reality. Patients everywhere deserve access to the same advances and treatments available in the United States. I encourage you to read the December Sarcoma Spotlight newsletter article written by Pan Pantziarka, SFA's Director of Europe Strategy and Engagement, which highlights these global disparities and the urgent need for change.

I often compare this work to a “Trivial Pursuit” pie—we cannot succeed unless every piece is in place. Progress requires advances in research, strong patient education and support, sustained industry investment, increased awareness, and public policies that expand access to care while improving regulatory pathways.

There is growing interest among policymakers and regulatory bodies in improving outcomes for rare cancers. This presents an important opportunity, but only if the sarcoma community is at the table. We must ensure that every person diagnosed with sarcoma has the same chance for effective treatment and care as those facing more common cancers, including access to specialists, innovative therapies, and essential testing.

This is why Advocacy Weekend matters. It’s why SFA leads public policy initiatives on behalf of this community. And it’s why your voice is so important.

I hope you’ll join us in Washington, DC, or engage with us in other advocacy efforts throughout the year. Meaningful progress depends on policy change, and we cannot achieve our goals without it.

Get Involved with Sarcoma Awareness Month!

July is Sarcoma Awareness Month! This month is dedicated to bringing the sarcoma community together to raise awareness and advocate for better therapies for those affected by sarcoma. This year's theme, "One Community. Many Voices. Real Action. Lasting Change," highlights the power of coming together to create meaningful impact.

There are many ways to participate in Sarcoma Awareness Month, whether that's from home or on the hill in Washington D.C. Taking part in Wear Yellow Wednesday, joining our month-long Streaming for Sarcoma event, and lighting landmarks yellow for Light Up for Sarcoma on July 24 are just a few of the many ways you can help raise awareness and support the sarcoma community.

Be sure to order your Sarcoma Awareness Month yard sign soon so it arrives in time for July and can be proudly displayed throughout the entire month to help spread awareness in your community.

Join SFA in recognizing Sarcoma Awareness Month and supporting the patients, survivors, families, and researchers working to improve the outcomes for those diagnosed with sarcoma.

Get Involved

Subtype Series: Understanding Angiosarcoma

Wednesday, June 24 at 12:00 PM ET

Join the Sarcoma Foundation of America for the next installment of our Subtype Series, focused on angiosarcoma, a rare and often aggressive sarcoma that arises from the cells lining blood vessels and lymphatic vessels.

This educational webinar will provide an overview of angiosarcoma, including how it is diagnosed, current treatment approaches, emerging research, and

clinical trial opportunities. Participants will also learn about ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for patients through collaborative research and patient advocacy initiatives.

Our featured speakers are Dr. Silvia Stacchiotti, one of the world's leading sarcoma medical oncologists and an internationally recognized expert in angiosarcoma; Dr. Lee Cranmer, Chief of Sarcoma Medical Oncology at City of Hope and a leading expert in sarcoma clinical care and clinical trials; and Corrie Painter, researcher, patient advocate, and founder of the Angiosarcoma Project. Together, they will provide both clinical and patient-centered perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing the angiosarcoma community.

What to Expect:

- Understanding angiosarcoma and how it differs from other sarcoma subtypes
- Diagnosis, treatment options, and emerging therapies Current research initiatives and clinical trial opportunities
- The patient perspective and the role of advocacy in advancing research
- Practical information for discussing treatment and research options with your healthcare team

Questions? Contact: Programs@curesarcoma.org

Register

Join Us For the 24th Annual Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala

Tickets are live for the SFA's 24th Annual Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala! Join us on October 6, 2026, at 583 Park Avenue in New York City for an inspiring

evening dedicated to advancing research and improving outcomes for those affected by sarcoma.

This signature event brings together patients, families, and supporters to celebrate progress and honor remarkable leaders in the field. Don't miss this meaningful night of community, impact, and recognition.

Can't join in person? You can still support the gala here.

Research Roundup

Advancing Immunotherapy Research in Sarcoma

June is Cancer Immunotherapy Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the growing role of immunotherapy in cancer research and treatment. Over the past two decades, the SFA has supported multiple immunotherapy-focused research projects aimed at improving treatment options for sarcoma patients.

One of SFA's earliest immunotherapy-related grants was awarded in 2006, supporting research focused on immune recognition in alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma. Since then, SFA-funded immunotherapy research has continued to evolve alongside advances in cancer immunology, including work exploring NK cell therapies, biomarkers of treatment response, and combination immunotherapy strategies.

Several of these projects have contributed to publications that continue to inform ongoing sarcoma research today. In recognition of Cancer Immunotherapy Month, we are highlighting three SFA-funded research projects focused on advancing immunotherapy approaches for sarcoma patients.

Early SFA Immunotherapy Research Spotlight

Recipient: Robert Canter, MD

One of SFA's earlier immunotherapy-focused grants explored the use of natural killer (NK) cell immunotherapy in soft tissue sarcoma. The research investigated ways to target sarcoma cancer stem cells, which may contribute to treatment resistance and tumor recurrence.

The project also explored combining NK cell immunotherapy with targeted therapy approaches to improve anti-tumor activity. Research supported

through this award contributed to a publication that continues to be cited in the sarcoma research field more than a decade later, highlighting the long-term impact of continued investment in innovative sarcoma research.

Developing Next-Generation NK Cell Immunotherapy for Osteosarcoma

Recipient: Mitchell Cairo, MD

Osteosarcoma is the most common bone sarcoma in children, adolescents, and young adults. While many patients respond well to initial treatment, outcomes for patients whose disease returns after therapy remain poor, highlighting the need for new treatment approaches.

Mitchell Cairo, MD

Natural killer (NK) cells are part of the body's immune system and can help recognize and attack cancer cells. Researchers have found that NK cells may be useful in treating osteosarcoma, but tumors can sometimes block or weaken the immune response.

This project is focused on developing improved NK cell therapies that are better able to find and attack osteosarcoma tumors. Using advanced gene-editing technologies, the research team aims to strengthen NK cells and help them work more effectively against cancer.The project will also explore combining NK cell therapy with additional immune-based treatments to improve anti-tumor activity. If successful, this research could help support the development of new immunotherapy options for patients with high-risk osteosarcoma.

Optimizing Immunotherapy for Leiomyosarcoma and Undifferentiated Pleomorphic Sarcoma

Recipient: Robin Jones, MD

Immunotherapy has transformed treatment for several types of cancer, but responses in soft tissue sarcomas have been more limited and can vary widely between patients and sarcoma subtypes. Researchers are still working to

Robin Jones, MD

better understand why some patients benefit from immunotherapy while others do not.

This project focuses on patients with leiomyosarcoma (LMS) and undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS) who are being treated with a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. By studying tumor samples and immune responses during treatment, the research team hopes to better understand how sarcomas respond to immunotherapy and identify biological markers that may help predict which patients are most likely to benefit.

A better understanding of treatment response could help guide more personalized immunotherapy approaches for sarcoma patients while helping avoid unnecessary side effects and ineffective treatment for those less likely to benefit.

Clinical Trials Corner

This month SFA is highlighting SARC045, a Phase II clinical trial evaluating tebentafusp in patients with advanced clear cell sarcoma (CCS). CCS is a rare and aggressive soft tissue sarcoma with limited systemic treatment options for patients with unresectable or metastatic disease. This multicenter international study is sponsored by the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (SARC) in partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. The trial is currently recruiting patients in the United States, including at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York and the University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles.

Tebentafusp is an immune-mobilizing therapy designed to help the body's T cells recognize and attack cancer cells expressing gp100, a protein commonly found in CCS. The study is specifically enrolling patients who are HLA-A*02:01 positive, a genetic marker identified through blood testing. Patients who meet eligibility requirements will receive tebentafusp through weekly intravenous (IV) infusions using a step-up dosing schedule designed to help manage side effects before transitioning to the full treatment dose.

Researchers will evaluate progression-free survival, overall survival, objective response rate, duration of response, and overall disease control in patients receiving tebentafusp. One of the primary goals of the study is to determine how many patients remain progression-free at 24 weeks. The trial also

includes a separate prospective comparator arm for patients who are HLA-A*02:01 negative and therefore not eligible to receive tebentafusp. Those patients may still participate and receive physician's choice treatment while undergoing similar radiographic monitoring.

Eligible participants must be adults with histologically confirmed unresectable or metastatic CCS and measurable disease progression. Patients should discuss the full eligibility criteria, including prior treatments and medical history, with their healthcare team and study investigators. To learn more about this study, patients and/or care partners can speak with their doctor, contact the study investigators listed on ClinicalTrials.gov or review the full clinical trial listing online. Participating patients in need of travel or financial support may apply for assistance from SFA.

ASCO 2026 Highlights Promising Advances in Sarcoma Research

By Kelley Argraves

SFA Staff at ASCO 2026

The 2026 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting featured several important developments for patients with sarcomas. Below are highlights from three studies that may expand treatment options for people living with GIST and desmoid tumors.

New Phase 3 Results Advance Treatment for Dedifferentiated Liposarcoma

Patients living with dedifferentiated liposarcoma (DDLS) received encouraging news at the 2026 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, where investigators presented positive results from a Phase 3 trial evaluating the CDK4/6 inhibitor abemaciclib.

The study, presented by Dr. Mark Dickson of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center during ASCO's plenary session, enrolled patients with advanced DDLS, a rare subtype of soft tissue sarcoma for which treatment options are often limited once the disease progresses. Patients receiving abemaciclib experienced significantly longer progression-free survival compared with those receiving placebo, meaning their tumors were less likely to grow or worsen during the study. Researchers reported a median progression-free survival of 9.7 months with abemaciclib compared with 1.5 months with placebo.

These findings are particularly noteworthy because DDLS commonly contains alterations in the CDK4 pathway, making CDK4/6 inhibition a targeted approach based on the biology of the disease. Positive results from randomized Phase 3 trials remain uncommon in sarcoma, making these findings a significant milestone for patients with DDLS. Based on these results, abemaciclib may become a new treatment option for patients with advanced DDLS and highlights the growing potential of precision medicine approaches in sarcoma care.

New Treatment May Expand Options for People Living with GIST

Patients with gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) received encouraging news this month as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accepted a New Drug Application (NDA) for bezuclastinib in combination with sunitinib and granted Priority Review. The announcement coincided with presentation of the full Phase 3 PEAK trial results at the 2026 ASCO Annual Meeting.

The PEAK study, presented by Dr. Andrew Wagner of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, compared bezuclastinib plus sunitinib with sunitinib alone in patients with advanced GIST whose disease had previously been treated with imatinib. According to the study results, patients receiving the combination experienced a median progression-free survival of 16.5 months, compared with 9.2 months for those receiving sunitinib alone. The combination also demonstrated higher tumor response rates, with 46% of patients achieving an objective response compared with 26% in the sunitinib-only arm.

These findings are particularly noteworthy because they demonstrate a significant improvement over an established standard treatment in a randomized Phase 3 trial. For patients with advanced GIST, treatment options often become more limited after progression on first-line therapy, making new effective therapies especially important.

Based on these results, the FDA has granted Priority Review to the NDA for bezuclastinib plus sunitinib, with a target decision date of November 30, 2026.

If approved, the combination could become an important new treatment option for patients with previously treated GIST.

New Phase 3 Results Bring Hope for People Living with Desmoid Tumors

Patients living with desmoid tumors also received encouraging news at ASCO, where investigators presented positive results from the Phase 3 RINGSIDE trial evaluating the investigational drug varegacestat.

The study, presented by Dr. Mrinal Gounder of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, enrolled patients with progressing desmoid tumors, a rare soft tissue tumor that can cause significant pain, disability, and reduced quality of life. Patients receiving varegacestat experienced significant improvements in progression-free survival compared with placebo, meaning their tumors were less likely to grow or worsen during the study.

Researchers also reported meaningful improvements in pain. A clinically meaningful difference was observed as early as the first evaluation at week 4, with continued improvement through week 12. Importantly, the progression-free survival benefit was consistent across multiple patient subgroups.

These findings are particularly noteworthy because desmoid tumors can be difficult to manage and often have a substantial impact on daily activities despite not spreading to other parts of the body. Additional treatment options may provide greater flexibility for patients whose tumors continue to grow or cause symptoms.

Based on the positive Phase 3 results, the manufacturer has submitted an NDA to the FDA. If approved, varegacestat could become an additional targeted treatment option for people living with desmoid tumors.

SFA Global

PUSHing Progress Forward for Ultra-Rare Sarcomas

By Pan Pantziarka

We’re used to thinking of sarcomas as rare cancers – after all only around 1% of cancers are sarcomas, though in children and adolescents it’s a higher proportion at around 20%. But within that 1% of cancers there are many different sarcoma types – over 100 – and that number continues to grow as new subtypes are defined based on pathology and genetics. Within the sarcoma world we recognise a difference between rare and ultra-rare sarcomas – with the number of ultra-rare sarcomas growing with the addition of newer subtypes and the consolidation of knowledge of the existing ones. A

sarcoma is considered ultra-rare if there is an annual incidence of one per million people, or less. The very low number of patients leads to a number of problems – gaps in knowledge, lack of standard treatments, lack of interest from pharmaceutical companies, standard tools like clinical trials are not feasible and so on.

The PUSH Consortium (Pushing Ultra-rare Sarcomas beyond Hope) was established to try and address many of these issues. The aim is simple – with so few patients the only way to make progress is to collaborate globally, to engage in focused data collection, to learn from each other, including from patients, so that those knowledge gaps can be plugged. It cuts across disciplinary borders as well as geographic borders – it brings together doctors, pathologists, biologists and patients to work together.

SFA has been committed to PUSH from the earliest stages and has become the central coordinator for the consortium. Helping to turn the vision into reality.

With so many different ultra-rare sarcomas the PUSH approach is to bring together working groups focused on specific subtypes and to use these to create studies to collect the data essential to progress. To maximise efficiency PUSH is creating reusable modules, contracts and standards so that new studies don't have to reinvent the wheel each time. One example of this is PROSPER (Prospective and Retrospective Observational Studies Promoting Evidence and Research) – this is a framework that allows institutions to take part in data collection studies for multiple subtypes with minimal legal and bureaucratic workload. The most recent example has been the LGFMS/SEF (Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma/Sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma) study – which includes institutions across the world working together to collect retrospective data and to add new patients as and when they are diagnosed.

In time we hope that PUSH will include other types of studies, including clinical trials for some of the subtypes when there is enough data to support a trial for a new treatment option. Until then, the focus has to remain on learning from each patient so that our understanding deepens and we can work towards each patient receiving the optimum treatment for their disease. This is something that SFA remains committed to – it's what all sarcoma patients deserve.

SFA Around the World: Highlights from the SPAGN Annual Conference

The Sarcoma Patient Advocacy Global Network (SPAGN) recently held its annual international conference, bringing together sarcoma advocacy organizations, researchers, clinicians, and industry partners from around the

world to discuss advances in research, patient advocacy, education, and collaboration.

Representing Sarcoma Foundation of America, CEO Brandi Felser participated in discussions focused on strengthening the global sarcoma community and expanding opportunities for patient advocacy organizations to work together across borders.

SPAGN now includes more than 70 member organizations worldwide and serves as an important international forum for sharing knowledge, advocacy strategies, and emerging research updates. This year's conference included sessions on patient engagement, advocacy capacity building, clinical research, and collaborative approaches to improving outcomes for sarcoma patients globally.

During the meeting, Brandi was elected to the SPAGN Board of Directors, further strengthening SFA's role within the international sarcoma advocacy community. Her appointment reflects SFA's growing leadership in advancing patient education, advocacy, and research collaboration both nationally and globally.

The conference highlighted a powerful message echoed throughout the weekend: progress in rare cancers depends on collaboration. By working together across organizations, countries, and disciplines, the sarcoma community continues to build momentum toward better treatments, stronger patient support systems, and improved outcomes for all those affected by sarcoma.

Advocacy and Engagement

Listen to the Latest Episodes of Sarcoma Stories Podcast

In recent episodes of Sarcoma Stories, we sit down with patients, survivors, caregivers, and advocates whose experiences inspire and inform the sarcoma community. From navigating diagnosis and recovery to celebrating 25 years of progress, these conversations remind us that no one faces sarcoma alone.

Season 2, Episode 12 I Gianna Cericola

On this episode, we speak with Gianna Cericola, a survivor of Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor (DSRCT). After two long years, she rang the bell signifying the end of

active treatment just two weeks before we recorded this episode. Gianna opens up about what being done with treatment actually means, and why the end of treatment isn't the end of a cancer diagnosis.

She shares about how she's relied on self-advocacy, not only to receive a diagnosis but to navigate treatment and conversations with her medical team.

As an adolescent young adult, Gianna talks about continuing to live her life through her diagnosis - including getting engaged during treatment and thinking about surrogacy to one day build her family - and why it can be difficult to plan for the future.

This episode is full of raw and honest insight into Gianna's experience, and we are so grateful for the time she took to share with us.

Season 2, Episode 13 I Sarah Downey

This week, we speak with Sarah Downey, an angiosarcoma patient, advocate, and writer. Sarah takes us through her diagnosis journey, which included misdiagnosis and dismissal of symptoms, all while navigating her senior year of college. Since her diagnosis, she has navigated treatment as she's entered young adulthood, and shares with us what it's been like coping with the uncertainty of sarcoma alongside this major life transition.

A lifelong writer, Sarah recently began the project Echoes of Us RI to highlight stories of fellow patients, medical professionals, and caretakers, contributing to narrative medicine as a form of advocacy. Sarah explains how this has played a role in her journey, and also given her both an outlet and a purpose.

When she isn't writing or at treatment, Sarah travels as much as she can (and gives some tips on how she makes this work between treatments!), and talks about how she chooses to live despite her prognosis.

This episode will both educate and inspire - true to Sarah as a writer and a human.

Listen to all episodes

Stand Up for the Sarcoma Community at Advocacy Weekend

Sarcoma Advocates at Sarcoma Community Advocacy Day 2025

Now more than ever, the sarcoma community needs to unite and advocate for change. With the current administration proposing cuts to vital programs that support sarcoma research and patient care, it's crucial to make our voices heard.

It's not too late to register and join SFA in Washington D.C. July 15-18 for Sarcoma Advocacy Weekend. This impactful weekend will include:

- **Congressional Reception 7/15**: Spend the evening with members of Congress, legislative staff, sarcoma patients, advocates, and medical professionals to raise awareness and foster meaningful dialogue about our key policy priorities. The reception will take place from 5-7PM at the Rayburn House Office Building. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Sarcoma Community Advocacy Day 7/16**: Join us as we flood The Hill with yellow to meet with elected officials and share your story to advocate for increased research funding and improved access to care for sarcoma patients. We have headquarters for the day at the Cannon House Office Building and will begin and end the day in this space. Breakfast and lunch will be served, and the space will be available throughout the day for you to take breaks between meetings.

- **Education Day 7/17**: Gain an insider's view of how new sarcoma treatments move from discovery to patients. Hear directly from leaders in research, government, industry, and advocacy as they discuss drug development, clinical trials, regulatory engagement, research funding, and the growing role of patient advocates in shaping the future of sarcoma care. Interactive discussions and small group sessions will provide practical insights on how advocates can make a meaningful impact. Can't make it to Washington D.C. but still want to participate in education day. Register to join virtually here!

- **Race to Cure Sarcoma 7/18:** Join sarcoma patients, survivors, caregivers, advocates, researchers, clinicians, and supporters for SFA's signature run/walk event. Whether you run, walk, cheer, or participate in honor of someone affected by sarcoma, you'll help raise awareness, celebrate resilience, and support critical research efforts. Race entry will be covered by SFA for anyone joining us for other Advocacy Weekend events (discount code to be provided). Participants are encouraged to set-up a team and fundraise to support SFA's mission of research, education and advocacy.

To register for Advocacy Weekend please visit our website and complete the registration form.

Already registered? We are hosting a virtual know before you go session on Monday, June 29 at 6PM ET. Click here to register for this webinar.

SFA News

Giant of Cancer Care Award for SFA Medical Advisory Board Member

Congratulations to Dr Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS on his award as a Giant of Cancer Care, in recognition of his contributions to immeasurable improvements in outcomes for countless patients, through both his clinical and research work.

Dr. Pollock, current Director of the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and Klotz Chair in Cancer Research, has dedicated his life to innovative patient care and research in soft tissue sarcoma. His clinical practice and laboratory research focus on soft tissue sarcoma. He has published more than 400 research and review articles and edited major oncology textbooks, including Sarcoma Oncology: A Multidisciplinary Approach.

His laboratory research focuses on the molecular biology of sarcomas, and he has been instrumental in our current understanding of the genes that control the development and progression of sarcomas, towards the development of novel therapeutics.

He established the Sarcoma Research Laboratory and Sarcoma Tissue Repository that supports one of the largest clinically-annotated sarcoma specimen collections worldwide, and enabling his own research and global collaborations on soft tissue sarcomas.

Dr Pollock was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 2016. He credits his own direct experience of a cancer diagnosis, treatment and participation in clinical trials with providing unique insights into his patients' journey and deepening his commitment to patient-centered care and translational science.

Dr Pollock is a true Giant of Cancer Care and SFA are both immensely fortunate and proud to benefit from his outstanding interdisciplinary knowledge and dedication to sarcoma patient care. Congratulations Dr Pollock on this well-deserved recognition.

Introducing Our New Staff Members

Director of Science Programs

Nigel Brockton joined the Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) in April 2026, as Director of Science Programs. He brings almost 30 years of cancer research, research administration and research advocacy experience. From 2017-2025, he was Vice President of Research at the American Institute for Cancer Research, the global authority on the role of lifestyle in cancer risk reduction and survivorship.

From 2007-2017, Nigel was a Research Scientist/ Associate Professor in Calgary (Alberta, Canada), conducting population-based molecular epidemiology research focused on the role of modifiable lifestyle factors and prognostic markers in cancer-related outcomes for breast, colorectal and oral cancers.

His passion for cancer research was ignited by his first diagnosis with Ewing's sarcoma at 18 years of age and the subsequent recurrence aged 21. He completed his PhD (Genetic Epidemiology, University of Aberdeen, Scotland), in 2003, then pursued post-doctoral training at the University of Dundee (Scotland). These personal and professional experiences have converged on his role at SFA, providing strategic leadership and oversight of science-driven programs, to improve outcomes for people affected by sarcoma.

Director of Advancement

Martha Crews, Director of Advancement, is a senior nonprofit development executive with more than 15 years of experience leading philanthropic strategy, donor engagement, and revenue growth for mission-driven organizations. She is passionate about connecting people to purpose and has a strong track record of building integrated fundraising programs,strengthening donor pipelines, and aligning development strategy with organizational priorities to drive meaningful, sustainable impact.

Most recently, Martha served as Vice President for Development at the ASHP Foundation, where she led all fundraising and development operations, helping to advance the organization's philanthropic growth and deepen engagement with its community of supporters.

Martha holds a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University, where she was part of the Honors Program in Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, with a double major in Applied Statistics and Sociology. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

In the Community

Streamers Against Cancer Fundraiser on June 6-7

Streamers Against Cancer Logo

Jack Burroughs once again brought the gaming community together through Streamers Against Cancer, a global livestream fundraising event supporting SFA. Motivated by beloved Minecraft YouTuber Technoblade's sarcoma journey and the impact he had on millions of fans, Jack launched the event in 2021 to honor Technoblade's memory and help sarcoma patients and their families.

What started as a 24-hour livestream among friends has evolved into a worldwide community effort, generating more than $16,000 for sarcoma research and patient support programs, with nearly $6,800 raised this year.

Beginning on June 6 at 9 a.m. ET and continuing through June 7 at 9 p.m. ET, more than 250 streamers from around the world went live on Twitch and YouTube, featuring Minecraft-focused events and other community-driven gaming experiences throughout the weekend to raise funds for SFA. For Jack, the event is about more than fundraising — it is an opportunity to unite people around a shared mission to make a meaningful difference for patients and families facing sarcoma.

Big Heart Fest Brings Community Together in Memory of John W. O'Brien

Celebrate the life and legacy of John W. O'Brien at the 3rd annual Big Heart Fest on Saturday, June 13, in Chicago. John passed away from chondrosarcoma in 2022, four-years after his diagnosis. This special evening honors the kindness, generosity, and joyful spirit he shared with everyone around him.

John loved bringing people together through music, laughter, good conversation, and time spent with family and friends. Big Heart Fest continues that tradition with an evening full of live entertainment, community, and celebration in his memory.

Guests can enjoy performances from eight live bands, along with exciting live and silent auctions, all while supporting the sarcoma community and honoring John's lasting impact on so many lives.

Big Heart Fest will take place from 4–10 p.m. at Chief O'Neill's Irish Pub, located at 3471 N. Elston Avenue in Chicago.

Driving Change: 5th Annual Scott Lively Charity Memorial Golf Tournament

This August, the 5th Annual Scott Lively Memorial Charity Golf Tournament returns to Bear's Best Golf Course in Atlanta, Georgia. Hosted by Scott's family and friends, the event honors Scott's incredible resilience, and positive spirit throughout his battle with Ewing sarcoma and later bone cancer.

Each year, golfers, friends, family members, and supporters come together not only to celebrate Scott's life and legacy, but also to raise critical funds to improve outcomes for those diagnosed with sarcoma. The tournament has become a meaningful day of community, remembrance, and hope for families impacted by this rare cancer.

Participants are invited to register to play or make a tribute gift in Scott's memory. The event will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Bear's Best Atlanta in Suwanee, Georgia.

Race to Cure Sarcoma

Why I Race: Noah Foley, RTCS Cleveland

In January 2024, I was diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma after a tumor was discovered behind my left knee. What followed was one of the most difficult challenges of my

life: multiple rounds of chemotherapy, radiation treatments, and ultimately a 13-hour surgery. My doctors warned me that I could potentially lose my leg or never regain full movement in my knee. Despite the fear and uncertainty, I faced each step of the journey with determination and hope.

Throughout it all, the unwavering support of my wife and family gave me the strength to keep pushing forward. Today, two years after surgery, I am grateful to say there has been no sign of the cancer returning. I have been able to return to work as a mechanic and have regained full movement in my leg; outcomes that once seemed uncertain. I owe so much of my recovery to the incredible team of doctors, whose skill, dedication, and care helped make this possible.

Being part of the Race to Cure Sarcoma Cleveland is my way of giving back to the research efforts that have helped me get to where I am today in my journey.

Run for SFA's Marathon Team

SFA is proud to serve as a charity partner for marathon events across the country, bringing runners together to raise funds and awareness for sarcoma research and support.

We are honored to be an official charity partner for the following major marathon events:

- Marine Corps Marathon
- United Airlines New York City Half Marathon
- Philadelphia Marathon Weekend (8k, Half Marathon, Marathon)
- Los Angeles Marathon Weekend (5k, Marathon)

Join an SFA marathon team to run with purpose, raise critical funds, and help move us closer to a cure for sarcoma. If you're interested in joining a team, please contact Annie Blake at ablake@curesarcoma.org.

Sign up for SFA's 2026 Race to Cure Sarcoma events!

More than just a race, it's a chance to connect with others in the sarcoma community, recognize people living with sarcoma, honor those we've lost, and fund vital sarcoma research. Whether you walk, run, or cheer, you'll be making a difference! [Find your city and sign up today!]

Upcoming Races

RTCS Cleveland

6/20

Register

RTCS Milwuakee

7/11

Register

RTCS Washington DC

7/18

Register

Marine Corps Marathon

10/25

Register

Philadelphia Marathon Weekend

11/20 - 11/22

Register

LA Marathon Weekend

3/6/2027 - 3/7/2027

Register