

**INCREASING  
AWARENESS  
TO CREATE  
SURVIVORS**



**SARCOMA  
SPOTLIGHT**



**JULY IS**

**SARCOMA  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**

**JULY 2024**

Sarcoma Awareness Month is a crucial time for raising awareness and making a difference for people living with sarcoma. Every July, the sarcoma community comes together to acknowledge this month, pay tribute to those affected by sarcoma, and advocate for the needs of those living with this rare cancer. Sarcoma Awareness Month is vital for educating the public, increasing research funding, and providing support to patients and their families. From Wear Yellow Day to a National Virtual Race to Cure Sarcoma, Sarcoma Foundation of America offers numerous ways for you to get involved. Your participation helps move our cause forward. Join us and make a lasting impact this Sarcoma Awareness Month!

**REGISTER AND GET MORE INFO AT THE LINKS BELOW**



**WEAR YELLOW DAY  
JULY 12**



**SARCOMA HILL DAY  
JULY 18**



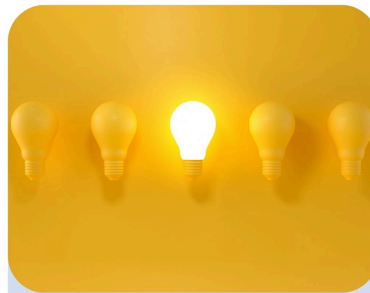
**NATIONAL (DC)  
RACE TO CURE SARCOMA  
JULY 20**



**NATIONAL VIRTUAL  
RACE TO CURE SARCOMA  
JULY 20**



**CHILDREN'S ARTWORK  
CONTEST DEADLINE  
JULY 22**



**LIGHT UP FOR SARCOMA  
JULY 26**

**MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED**



SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT



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## SFA ANNOUNCES 2024 RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS



As we celebrate Sarcoma Awareness Month, we are excited to share that Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) has awarded \$800,000 in research grants this year to advance sarcoma research. These fourteen grants highlight the most promising projects aimed at improving our understanding of sarcoma and finding a cure for this challenging disease.

Brandi Felser, our CEO, emphasized the significance of these grants: “SFA takes pride in being the foremost supporter of private research within the sarcoma community. These grants represent our best hope for closing the research gap that keeps sarcoma treatment and care behind other cancers and reaching a world where no one has to die from sarcoma.”

Sarcoma research is at the heart of everything we do, and there is no better time to announce these grants than during Sarcoma Awareness Month. Since its inception, SFA has invested over \$20 million in sarcoma research. Our commitment to funding cutting-edge research is unwavering, and we are hopeful that these new grants will lead to breakthroughs in sarcoma treatment and care.

For a complete list of the 2024 grant awardees go to our [Funded Research](#) page and for more details on our research initiatives, please visit our [Research Grants](#) page.

Thank you for your continued support in our mission to find a cure for sarcoma.

### Research Roundup

by Dean Frohlich, PhD

The first journal article this month is a review in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* entitled “[Current Management of Desmoid Tumors](#).” On June 30, 2023, the Desmoid Tumor Working Group convened a 1-day consensus meeting in Milan, Italy to update the 2020 global evidence-based consensus guideline on the management of patients with desmoid tumors. The meeting brought together over 90 adult and pediatric sarcoma experts, patients, and patient advocates from around the world. The current report has multiple highlights. First is nirogacestat, a drug which inhibits a protein called  $\gamma$ -secretase, which is the first approved drug for desmoid tumors which has been incorporated into the treatment algorithm. In addition, there is more data for local ablative therapies, such as cryotherapy, which is also changing how desmoid tumors are being treated. As the number of

therapeutic options for desmoid tumors expands, it is important to develop an individualized treatment strategy for each patient.

In the next study, "[Co-targeting JAK1/STAT6/GAS6/TAM signaling improves chemotherapy efficacy in Ewing sarcoma](#)" the investigators used a specific type of cell signaling analysis in Ewing sarcoma cells treated with chemotherapeutic agents. They found that the chemotherapies activate a cell signaling pathway that begins with a protein called TAM (TYRO3, AXL, MERTK) kinases. This in turn activates a cascade of protein which allows the tumor cells to become resistant to chemotherapies. Next, they demonstrated that inhibition one of two proteins in the cascade (either JAK1 by filgotinib or TAM kinases by UNC2025) sensitizes Ewing sarcoma to chemotherapeutics in cell culture and in mouse models. These results are in an early stage, but provide the rationale to continue the study of this combination of therapeutics in clinical trials.

In the last publication, "[Inhibition of aberrantly overexpressed Polo-like kinase 4 is a potential effective treatment for DNA damage repair-deficient uterine leiomyosarcoma](#)", the investigators take advantage of the fact that a subset of uterine leiomyosarcomas exhibit defects to the cells' ability to repair DNA. They found that a protein called Polo-like kinase 4 (PLK4), which helps control cell division and when inhibited causes increases DNA damage, is produced at higher levels in leiomyosarcoma cells. In the study, they tested use of a drug that inhibits PLK4 (CFI-400945) with and without another drug that inhibits another protein that helps cells repair DNA called ATM (AZD0156). They found in cell lines and mouse models that have a deficiency in a DNA repair pathway called homologous recombination are sensitive to the PLK4 inhibitor and there is a synergy with the ATM inhibitor. These results also warrant further study and indicate that targeting of DNA damage repair deficiency may be a therapeutic target. The results also indicate that genomic profiling of uterine leiomyosarcoma may be advantageous in guiding therapy.

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## Clinical Trials Corner

by Kristi Oristian, PhD

During Sarcoma Awareness Month, I wanted to take the opportunity to talk about the unique importance of clinical trials to the sarcoma community. It is a common misconception that clinical trials are a "last resort", to be considered as a treatment option only when no other options are available. However, clinical trials are the best available and most cutting-edge treatment available for many sarcoma patients.

For many sarcoma subtypes, especially those that are considered "ultra rare", there is no standard-of-care treatment regimen. Patients with these kinds of sarcomas who are eligible for care in a clinical trial can receive well-documented and highly monitored therapies for their tumors while also helping to contribute to the advancement of medical and scientific knowledge about the best and most effective treatments.

Clinical trials can also help doctors and scientists understand how different types of treatments work together to improve patient outcomes. Many people think that clinical trials only test brand-new experimental drugs. While this is sometimes the case, there are also clinical trials that ask questions about how medicines work together with other medicines, other kinds of treatment such as immunotherapy or radiation therapy, and surgery. Some clinical trials may look at ways to change or reduce the dose or way a medication is administered to alleviate side effects or late effects of treatments.

SFA encourages patients and caregivers to talk to their care teams *early and often* about clinical trial options that may be right for them. Clinical trials may be offered at multiple institutions, or only be available at a few sites. Patients who are eligible for a clinical trial but are in need of financial assistance in order to participate are encouraged to [apply for financial assistance](#). You can learn more about clinical trials in sarcoma directly from the experts by checking out our [webinar](#).

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# Join our ASCO 2024 Review Session TODAY Thursday, July 11



The banner features a dark blue background on the left and a yellow background on the right. The SFA logo is in the top left. The text 'SFA Education Session: ASCO Review 2024' is in white and yellow. The date and time 'July 11, 2024 6:00 PM ET' are in white. The 'OUR SPEAKERS' section on the right includes two circular portraits of speakers with their names and titles.

 **SFA**  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
*finding the cure in our time*

## SFA Education Session: ASCO Review 2024

**July 11, 2024**  
**6:00 PM ET**

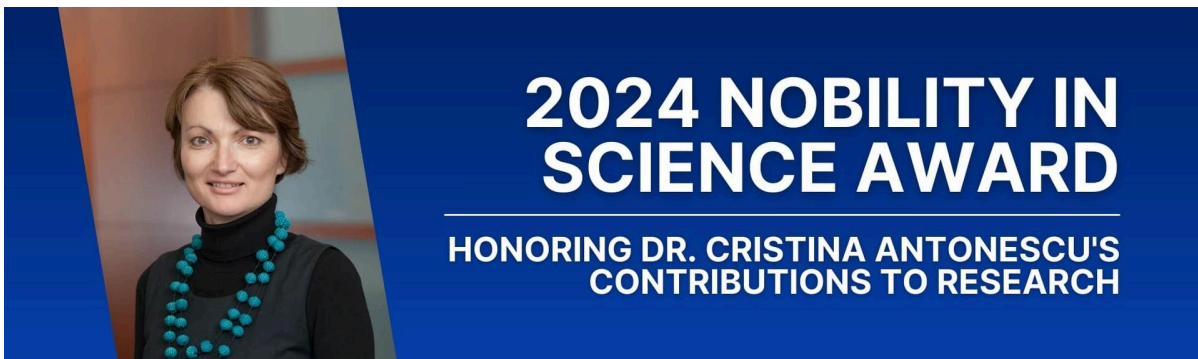
### OUR SPEAKERS

**Dr. Herbert H F Loong**  
Clinical Associate Professor,  
Department of Clinical Oncology  
Convenor, Adult Sarcoma  
Multidisciplinary Team, The  
Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Dr. Viswatej (Vishu) Avutu**  
Sarcoma Oncologist  
Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

Join us for a webinar on the sarcoma highlights from ASCO 2024, presented by two leading experts. This session, which will be held at 6 pm ET this Thursday, July 11, will cover key findings, emerging treatments, and the latest research advancements discussed at the conference. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with the experts, ask questions, and gain valuable insights into the future of sarcoma care. This webinar is an excellent resource for patients, clinicians, caregivers, and industry partners to stay informed and engaged with cutting-edge sarcoma developments.

[REGISTER](#)



The banner features a dark blue background. On the left is a portrait of Dr. Cristina Antonescu. The text '2024 NOBILITY IN SCIENCE AWARD' is in large white letters, followed by 'HONORING DR. CRISTINA ANTONESCU'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH' in smaller white letters.

## 2024 NOBILITY IN SCIENCE AWARD

HONORING DR. CRISTINA ANTONESCU'S  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH

We are thrilled to announce that SFA is presenting its 2024 Nobility in Science Award to Dr. Cristina Antonescu at our annual Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala on October 1st in New York City. This prestigious award recognizes researchers and doctors who have made groundbreaking contributions to sarcoma research.

Dr. Cristina Antonescu has had an illustrious career as a sarcoma pathologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, beginning in 1999 under the mentorship of renowned figures Drs. Andrew Huvos and James Woodruff. Her journey in academic research has been dedicated to the detection and molecular characterization of diagnostic and prognostic markers in soft tissue sarcomas.



In 2004, Dr. Antonescu established her own sarcoma research laboratory, focusing on two main research directions: KIT oncogenic signaling in the pathogenesis of GIST and gene fusion discovery in the characterization of new pathological entities. Over the past two decades, her lab has cloned numerous novel gene fusions, significantly impacting the classification of soft tissue tumors. Her laboratory has also been an invaluable resource for mentoring young investigators and pathology fellows, fostering the next generation of experts in sarcoma pathology and molecular biology.

Currently serving as the Director of the Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology, Dr. Antonescu oversees the pathologic evaluation of sarcoma patients at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. She also runs a busy personal consultation practice and enjoys teaching the talented fellows at the institution. In addition, she co-leads a GIST research project, co-directs the Administrative Core, and directs the Biospecimen Repository Core for the NIH Soft Tissue Sarcoma SPORE. Dr. Antonescu is also the co-director of the recently instituted MSK Sarcoma Center, which integrates a multidisciplinary group of basic and clinical researchers.

Upon accepting the Nobility in Science Award, Dr. Antonescu expressed her gratitude to her colleagues at Memorial Sloan-Kettering for their relentless support of her clinical and research endeavors over the years.

[Join us](#) in celebrating Dr. Cristina Antonescu and her remarkable contributions to sarcoma research at the 2024 Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala. Together, we can make strides towards a future free from sarcoma.

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My name is Michelle Cormier-Del Orbe, age 44, I live in Worcester, MA, with my husband Vladi and our dog Luna. We love nature and gardening. I currently work part-time as an ABA therapist for children with a diagnosis of autism.

My diagnosis was found accidentally but turned out to be a gift from God. My cancer was discovered in July of 2023, during the process of kidney donor evaluation at UMASS Hospital in Worcester, MA, for my brother Daniel, (who has late-stage renal failure). At the end of the donor evaluation, multiple masses were discovered in my lungs and a mass on my left psoas muscle. Further tests confirmed, a diagnosis of stage 4, Malignant PEComa, a soft tissue sarcoma which is incurable, extremely rare; with approximately one in one million cases a year around the world.

[READ MORE](#)

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# TAKE STRIDES FOR SARCOMA

JOIN TYLER AND OTHER RUNNERS AT THE 2024 MARINE CORPS MARATHON

Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) is looking for people to join its team at the 2024 Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) in Arlington, Virginia, on October 27. [SFA has openings for runners in the MCM's full marathon, 10k, and 5k events.](#)

This year's team includes survivor Tyler Ross, an osteosarcoma survivor, who is running this year's MCM 10k. Tyler, 39, a self-described "son of Appalachia" born and raised in North Carolina, was helping a relative move when he broke his arm. "I picked up a futon and my right arm made a loud snap. I broke it at the ulna," Tyler said. The cause of the break turned out to be an osteosarcoma tumor. Ross had the tumor surgically removed and replaced with a titanium rod and cadaver bone.

By being a part of SFA's team in the MCM this year, Tyler hopes to both raise sarcoma awareness and honor the U.S. Marine Corps. "The Devil Dogs hold a special place in my heart with 3 of my friends serving. Two of those are no longer with us. I'll be running for all those who have had their lives affected by sarcoma and every step will be for Frankie and Josh." Tyler said.

In addition to Tyler, Susie Donohue, another cancer survivor, and her husband Jude Nosek are also on this year's team.

Race to Cure  
**SARCOMA**  
MARATHON TEAM



## SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER



### YouTubers and Minecraft Streamers Unite in Memory of Technoblade

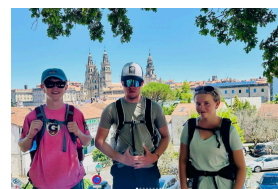
In a heartfelt tribute, several prominent YouTubers and Minecraft streamers recently came together to host fundraisers in memory of Technoblade, who passed away from sarcoma two years ago. Technoblade, beloved in the gaming community for his incredible skills and vibrant personality, left a lasting impact on countless fans and fellow creators.

The fundraisers, streamed live across various platforms, saw an outpouring of support and donations from fans worldwide. The collective efforts aimed to honor Technoblade's legacy while raising awareness and funds for sarcoma research. These events highlighted the strength and unity of the gaming community, showcasing how virtual worlds can foster real-world change.

By channeling their grief into positive action, these creators not only celebrated Technoblade's life but also contributed significantly to the fight against sarcoma, ensuring his memory continues to inspire and make a difference.



## AJ Completes His Incredible Journey for Sarcoma Research



AJ has completed his remarkable 200-mile journey, taking 453,647 steps and raising \$15,455 for sarcoma research. Throughout his trek, AJ faced both physical and mental challenges, drawing strength from the memory of his late father and the support of his family, friends, and readers. His journey has left him stronger, more confident, and deeply connected to his father's legacy. Read more about AJ's inspiring adventure and view photos from his travels on our blog [here](#).

## Upcoming Giveback Event

*Shine Bright, Do Good* ✨

JOIN US FOR A KENDRA GIVES BACK EVENT

**DATE & TIME**

Friday, July 19  
5:00 - 7:00pm

**DETAILS**

Enjoy sips, sweets, and jewels as you shop for good! 20% of the proceeds made during these hours will benefit Sarcoma Foundation of America.

*Can't make it in store? No worries!*

Use the 48 hour online code **GIVEBACK-GSYQD** during checkout at [kendrascott.com](http://kendrascott.com) and 20% of the proceeds from that purchase will still benefit Sarcoma Foundation of America!

 **KENDRA SCOTT**  
Heights Mercantile  
714 Yale St, Suite 1D Houston, TX 77007

 **SFA**  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
*finding the cure in our time*

**shop for good online!**

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

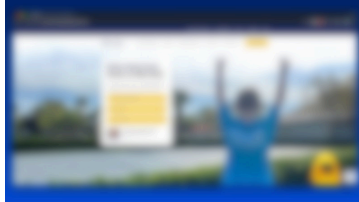
Giveback code is active for 48 hours and will be valid through midnight PST on [kendrascott.com](http://kendrascott.com) unless otherwise agreed upon by a Kendra Scott representative. Giveback code must be entered at checkout. Exclusions may apply if combined with additional offers. Giveback code cannot be applied to previous purchases, gift card purchases, sales tax, or shipping charges. Nail lacquer, color bar™, and marked-down purchases are final sale. If exchange or return of merchandise forces purchase out of line with terms, total will be adjusted to reflect updated balance due which must be reconciled at time of return or exchange. By signing up for our text messages, you agree to receive recurring automated marketing and cart reminder text messages from [kendrascott.com](http://kendrascott.com) at the cell number used when signing up. Consent is not a condition of any purchase. Message & data rates may apply. For additional terms & privacy details, visit [www.kendrascott.com/privacy](http://www.kendrascott.com/privacy). For any questions or concerns, please contact [service@kendrascott.com](mailto:service@kendrascott.com).

Kendra Scott giveback event at the  
Houston Heights Mercantile  
Friday, July 19 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The giveback initiative extends beyond the physical event. You can shop online for 24 hours on the Kendra Scott website, from July 19 to July 20. Simply use the giveback code



GIVEBACK-GSYQD during checkout. 20% of all sales made using this code will be generously donated back to SFA.



## Exciting Changes Coming Soon to SFA!

Get ready for a new chapter at Sarcoma Foundation of America! At the end of July, we will be unveiling some exciting updates that reflect our ongoing commitment to the sarcoma community.

Stay tuned as we prepare to share our revitalized mission, vision, a brand-new website, and a fresh logo. These changes signify our dedication to improving outcomes and increasing the number of sarcoma survivors through research, education, advocacy, and awareness.

We can't wait to show you what's in store!

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## Missed Our Desmoid Tumor Education Session? Watch the Recording Now

A promotional graphic for a recording session. It features the SFA logo, the text "Sarcoma Education Session: Desmoid Tumors", "Part of our Sarcoma Subtype Series", "RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE", and "This event is sponsored by: SpringWorks THERAPEUTICS". On the right, under the heading "OUR SPEAKERS", there are three circular icons: a man in a suit, a man in a suit, and a yellow ribbon.

[WATCH RECORDING](#)

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## Listen to SFA CEO Brandi Felser on the Fellows Forum Podcast



# The Sarcoma Foundation of America: Advocating for Sarcoma Research



BRANDI FELSER



WAQAS HAQUE, MD, MPH

LISTEN NOW



Join SFA on October 1, 2024, at 583 Park Avenue in New York City for our 22nd annual fundraising gala, Stand Up to Sarcoma.

Stand Up to Sarcoma is a signature event of Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA). The highlight of the night is our program honoring recipients of SFA's five international awards – the Courage Award, the Amira Yunis Courage Award, the Nobility in Science Award, the Vision of Hope Award, and the Compassionate Care Award.

Check out some highlights from last year's gala below.



Join the SFA Community and Help to Build A World Where No One Dies From Sarcoma!

LEARN MORE, REGISTER, & SPONSOR



Race **TO** Cure  
**SARCOMA**

SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

[Milwaukee - July 13](#)  
[National \(DC\) - July 20](#)  
[National Virtual - July 20](#)  
[Louisville - August 10](#)  
[Philadelphia - September 14](#)  
[San Diego - September 21](#)

[Chicago - September 28](#)  
[New Jersey - October 6](#)  
[Los Angeles - October 12](#)  
[St. Louis - October 12](#)  
[Denver - October 26](#)  
[Tampa - November 2](#)

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