

SARCOMA SPOTLIGHT



JUNE 2024

In June we are gearing up for Sarcoma Awareness Month. Learn about all of the events and ways to get involved [below](#).

Research Roundup

by Dean Frohlich, PhD

In the first publication this month, "[Tumor-associated NK cells drive MDSC-mediated tumor immune tolerance through the IL-6/STAT3 axis](#)," the researchers investigated the interactions between a type of white blood cell called natural killer (NK) cells and a different category of blood cells called myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) in patients whose tumors did not respond to immune checkpoint therapy. In the study they found that blood cells called monocytes and neutrophils that interact with NK cells that have encountered tumors suppressed immune responses. In a group of patients with sarcoma and breast cancer, they found that this was in part accomplished by the production of a protein called interleukin-6 (IL-6) by the tumor-infiltrating NK cells. Additionally, they found that inhibition of the IL-6 signaling reversed the immune suppression, resulting in reduced tumor growth and metastatic dissemination. These results indicate a NK cell-mediated mechanism that drives the development of MDSCs during tumor immune escape and may open additional therapeutic avenues for the treatment of sarcomas.

Cancer neoantigens are new proteins that forms on cancer cells when certain mutations occur in tumor DNA and have roles in both spontaneous and treatment induced responses. Previously, researchers have used a technique called mass spectrometry (MS) to profile tumors for the neoantigens but, MS-based detection of clinically relevant neoantigens is insensitive and requires many cells. In the next study, "[Improvement of tumor neoantigen detection by high field asymmetric waveform ion mobility mass spectrometry](#)," researchers used a technique called high field asymmetric waveform ion mobility spectrometry (FAIMS) Here, to determine the minimum detectable amounts of therapeutically relevant neoantigens. They found a 14-fold enhancement of sensitivity, allowing detection of a well-known neoantigen from only 100 mg of tumor. This study demonstrates that FAIMS substantially increases the sensitivity of MS-based characterization of validated neoantigens from tumors. These results indicate that FAIMS-MS may be able to increase neoantigen detection and help to find neoantigen targets.

The last study is a small phase 1b clinical trial, "[Safety And Efficacy Of Combination Lurbinectedin Plus Doxorubicin From A Phase 1b Trial In Patients With Advanced/Metastatic Soft Tissue Sarcoma](#)." In this study, patients with advanced/metastatic soft tissue sarcoma were treated with lurbinectedin (binds to DNA inhibiting transcription and causing double strand DNA breaks) and doxorubicin (inserts into the DNA also inhibiting transcription) to determine the recommended phase 2 dose of full-dose lurbinectedin with low-dose doxorubicin. The treatment was also found to be safe and tolerable. There were several subtypes enrolled with signals of activity in leiomyosarcoma (LMS), Dedifferentiated Liposarcoma (DDLPS), undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS), endometrial stromal sarcoma, and myxofibrosarcoma with an objective response rate (ORR) of 60% and estimated median PFS of 16.5 months. These data support the ongoing randomized phase 2 study in patients with LMS comparing lurbinectedin/doxorubicin with doxorubicin alone.



Are you ready to make a difference in finding a cure for sarcoma? Every July, the sarcoma community comes together to acknowledge **Sarcoma Awareness Month** and pay tribute to those affected by sarcoma, and to advocate for the needs of those living with sarcoma. From Wear Yellow Day to a National Virtual Race to Cure Sarcoma, SFA has something for everyone to get involved in moving our cause forward. **We hope you will join us and make this Sarcoma Awareness Month one to remember!**

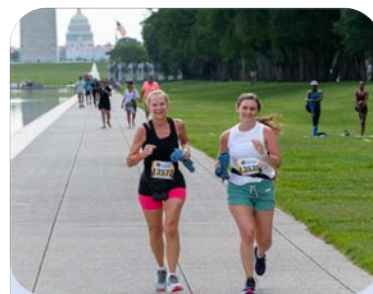
REGISTER AND GET MORE INFO AT THE LINKS BELOW



**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

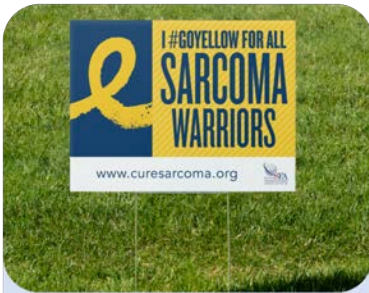


CHILDREN'S ARTWORK CONTEST DEADLINE JULY 22



LIGHT UP FOR SARCOMA JULY 26

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



BUY YOUR SARCOMA YARD SIGN



DONATE



LEARN MORE

UPCOMING JUNE 2024 WEBINARS

Sarcoma Education Session: Desmoid Tumors
Part of our Sarcoma Subtype Series
Jun 20, 2024
3:00 PM ET
This event is sponsored by:
SpringWorks THERAPEUTICS

OUR SPEAKERS

- MRINAL GOUNDER, MD**
Associate Professor and Medical Oncologist, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- BERND KASPER, MD, PhD**
Professor, Mannheim University Medical Centre, Interdisciplinary Tumor Center, Sarcoma Unit
- Chad Guzzi**
Desmoid Tumor Patient

Join us for the second session of SFA's subtype-specific education series, sponsored by SpringWorks Therapeutics. This session focuses on desmoid tumors, featuring expert discussions on diagnosis, treatment, clinical trials, and current research. Patients, clinicians, caregivers, and industry partners can interact with experts, ask questions, and learn about resources to support shared decision-making and sarcoma care.

REGISTER

Join us for a webinar on the sarcoma highlights from ASCO 2024, presented by two leading experts. This session 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

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of President Michael R. Lovell



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Marquette University President Michael R. Lovell following a three-year journey with sarcoma. President Lovell was a dedicated leader and an active participant in our Race to Cure Sarcoma Milwaukee event with his team, LovellStrong, helping raise funds for sarcoma research. His decade of leadership at Marquette was marked by a commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and community renewal. President Lovell's contributions to Marquette and the Milwaukee community will be remembered forever. Our condolences go out to his family, friends, and members of the community he was so dedicated to.

Teenager Making 200-Mile Pilgrimage as a Tribute to His Father



This summer, 17-year-old AJ Brenneman is putting one foot in front of another—400,000 times--to honor his father's legacy.

From the time that he could walk until he was six, AJ's favorite place to be was by his father David's side or in his arms.

When David died from rhabdomyosarcoma in 2013, grief hit AJ from all sides: anger at losing someone so close, jealousy of children who still got to see their fathers and guilt at not getting over his loss sooner. Support groups, soccer, and time with friends and family eased but did not erase AJ's grief.

[Read More of AJ's Story.](#)



My Sarcoma Story - Leah

Leah Bertuccelli never expected to receive a cancer diagnosis at the age of 25. Growing up healthy and active, cancer was not on her radar. Before her diagnosis, she had no idea what a sarcoma was. She had been working as an Industrial Designer in Sacramento and everything seemed to be going right – she had bought her first house with her boyfriend, went to the gym almost daily, and had competed on the University of Washington track and field team during college.

That all changed in the summer of 2022 when she noticed a painless, grape-sized nodule near her vulva. The next day, Leah booked an appointment with her gynecologist.

[Read More of Leah's Story.](#)

A New Way to Support Sarcoma Research and Advocacy



Did you know there are fun and easy ways to support sarcoma patients, research, and advocacy?

With SFA's peer-to-peer fundraising platform, you can support people who have been affected by sarcoma. Pick your activity, create a custom fundraising page, set a goal, and share your page with family, friends, coworkers, and others. You will receive fundraising tips and tools to help you maximize your success.

This is an easy way to make an impact.

[CREATE YOUR FUNDRAISER](#)



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 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 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 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.

For any questions or concerns, please contact 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.

Student from Alaska Wins Block Building Contest Benefitting SFA



We are thrilled to share the inspiring story of Jack, who emerged victorious in a local block building competition. Witness Jack's creativity and talent firsthand as we showcase his winning oil rig he built with the blocks. This competition was organized by the NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction) Alaska Chapter. Join us in celebrating Jack's success and bringing awareness to our cause.



SFA Attends Annual ASCO Meeting in Chicago



The Annual ASCO Conference is held in Chicago, IL every year, and it brings together experts in the cancer world together in one place to present new research, learn, and network. Our team was there to bring awareness and educate people about the important

work we are doing. This year's conference had many posters, abstracts and sessions in sarcoma research, with the theme "The Art and Science of Cancer Care: From Comfort to Cure." The Chicago setting also allowed SFA to host a dinner with three RTCS team captains and their guests as a token of gratitude for their contributions to our mission.



SFA Has New Career Opportunities Available

[Race to Cure Sarcoma Development Coordinator](#)

[Executive Office Coordinator](#)

[Finance Director](#)



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 years gala below



Join the SFA community and help make a difference in the fight against sarcoma!

LEARN MORE, REGISTER, & SPONSOR



SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

We're thrilled to announce that we are again partnering with the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) and inviting you to join our team!

The MCM is a historic race that winds through Washington D.C.'s most iconic landmarks. It's a great opportunity to challenge yourself, be part of a supportive team, and see our nation's capital in a whole new way.

For more information and to register, click the link below.

We can't wait to run alongside you!

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER



EVENT PHOTOS



RTCS SAN FRANCISCO PHOTOS



Race **TO** Cure
SARCOMA

SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

[Seattle \(Virtual\) - June 22](#)
[Cleveland - June 30](#)
[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](#)

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
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