About the ABTA

Ralph DeVitto
President & Chief Executive Officer
American Brain Tumor Association

Nicole Willmarth, PhD
Chief Mission Officer
American Brain Tumor Association

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Vice Chair, Board of Directors
American Brain Tumor Association
OUR DISCUSSION TODAY

• An introduction to the ABTA
• ABTA research overview
• ABTA programs and services
• Get involved with the ABTA
46 YEARS AGO...

• There was **no** coordinated funding of brain tumor research
• There was **no** medical specialty dedicated to brain tumor treatment
• There was **no** national tracking of the incidence and prevalence of brain tumor diagnoses
• There were **no** national education, awareness or programs focused on brain tumors

The ABTA is proud to play a pivotal role in helping to close these gaps!
The mission of the American Brain Tumor Association is to advance the understanding and treatment of brain tumors with the goals of improving, extending, and ultimately saving the lives of those impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis.
MULTI-FACETED APPROACH

American Brain Tumor Association

- Patient & Caregiver Support
- Strategic Partnerships
- Public Education & Awareness
- Research Funding

Advancing the understanding and treatment of brain tumors
Mission in Action

Nicole Willmarth, PhD
Chief Mission Officer
American Brain Tumor Association
1. Foster a new generation of scientists to discover causes, effects, diagnosis and treatment of brain tumors.

2. Fund high risk/high impact, innovative research with the potential to change paradigms

Some areas of research focus include:
- New Drug Development and Repurposed Drugs
- Targeted Therapies, Signaling Pathways, Gene Expression
- Precision Medicine
- Imaging
- Immunotherapy
- Stem Cells
Research Grants

Basic Research Fellowship
Two-year, $100,000 mentored grants supporting postdoctoral fellows who conduct laboratory or field-based research projects that focus on brain tumors.

Research Collaboration Grant
Two-year, $200,000 grants for multi-investigator and multi-institutional brain tumor collaborative research projects. Intended to promote team science, streamlining and accelerating research progress.
Research Grants

**Discovery Grant**
One-year, $50,000 grants for high risk, high impact research with the potential to change current diagnostic or treatment models.

**Medical Student Summer Fellowship**
Three-month, $3,000 grants awarded to medical students who wish to spend a summer conducting brain tumor research with esteemed scientist mentors.
The ABTA funds research across ALL tumor types and ages.

ABTA RESEARCH INVESTMENTS
(approximately since 1973)

$32 million invested in brain tumor research

705 research projects funded throughout the U.S. and globally

635 researchers awarded grants to take the next step in brain tumor research
The ABTA Alumni Research Network is a network of brain tumor researchers funded by the ABTA.

22 collaborative groups among AARN members
21 AARN members served as reviewers in 2018
30 publications have come from out of these groups
8 AARN members spoke at ABTA events in 2018
Other Research Initiatives

Brain Tumor Funders’ Collaborative

• Partnership among private philanthropic and advocacy organizations to pool funding to invest in large studies. The BTFC funders are currently collaborating on a study of long-term survivors of GBM and recently awarded $3 million to four teams of researchers studying immunotherapy in primary brain tumors.

Low Grade Glioma Registry

• The ABTA provides funding for a low grade glioma patient registry
• The registry will be used to look at response to treatment data and clinical outcomes within this patient population
Patient Services
Website

- Information on tumor types, diagnosis, symptoms, treatment, side effects, and more
- Caregiver Resource Center and Pediatric Caregiver Resource Center
- Locate Brain Tumor Treatment Centers and Brain Tumor Support Groups
- Access to Educational Brochures
Educational Materials

- The ABTA has **18 educational brochures**. Patients and families can request free of charge!
CareLine

- Calls answered by trained and caring staff
- One-on-one discussions with patients and families
- Provide information, assistance and resources

800-866-2282
TrialConnect

- Free personalized clinical trial matching service
- Matches patients based on tumor type, treatment and medical history
- Accessible online or by phone
Online Support Community

- Dedicated online community for brain tumor patients and caregivers
- 21,000+ members
- Ability to search forums by topic or tumor type
Webinars

- Free monthly webinars
- Can participate live and ask questions
- Access to all past webinars on ABTA website or YouTube channel
Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Service

• Connects newly-diagnosed brain tumor patients and caregivers with “mentors” with a similar diagnosis

• Provides compassion, support and guidance to ease the brain tumor journey

200 patient & caregiver mentors

600 mentees matched
Regional Patient & Family Meetings

- Free, one-day educational seminar led by medical experts
- Topics include latest research updates, treatment overviews and side effect management
National Conference

• Annual patient & caregiver two-day educational conference led by national medical experts

• Topics include sessions for newly-diagnosed, caregivers & survivors

• Accessible via in-person attendance or livestreaming
Get Involved

Brandon Starkoff
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
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Fundraising Events

BT5K Run & Walks are one of our signature fundraising programs, with 10 walks around the country.

Team Breakthrough is our endurance running or cycling program.

Hundreds of Fundraise Your Way events are hosted in local communities by volunteers nationwide.
Volunteer Opportunities

• BT5K Committee Member
• Event Volunteers
• Skill-Based Volunteers
Stay Connected

MindMatters E-News
abta.org/mindmatters-signup

Facebook: theABTA
LinkedIn: American Brain Tumor Association
Twitter: @theABTA
The American Brain Tumor Association...

- Supports, informs and engages patients and families throughout their brain tumor journey
- Collaborates and partners with healthcare professionals, researchers, institutions and other non-profits to advance science
- Funds innovative research, while investing in early-stage scientists
Thank You