Beating the Odds

At just 28, Aaron Ramler has already been through a lifetime of hospital visits, tests and treatments and today he is a brain tumour survivor that doctors call a medical miracle. A photographer and apprentice electrician, Aaron was diagnosed with an advanced brain tumour in 2007. Today, Aaron has beaten the odds and is supporting fundraising efforts to advance brain tumour research including the recent Calgary Spring Sprint.

Aaron’s symptoms first began in the fall of 2005 as headaches that were originally diagnosed as migraines, when he and his wife, Donna, were living in Vancouver. The headaches continued for two years, with a variety of doctors, including a neurologist, examining him. Aaron began seeing a chiropractor and in January of 2007, he underwent laser eye surgery. By May the headaches were even worse and coloured spots began appearing in one eye. “I thought something had gone wrong with the eye surgery,” Aaron recalls, “but they said it was the migraines.”

By the end of July the headaches were so bad that Aaron was consistently missing work and Donna was missing school. They were in the emergency room every day. “Because they saw me every day, they flagged me as a drug seeker,” Aaron remembers. On August 3, 2007, everything changed.

“We went to the hospital and the doctor said ‘migraine’ and ‘chiropractor’ and I blew up,” says Donna. “I said I wasn’t taking Aaron home and that they needed to admit him and (or) do an MRI.” The next day Aaron had two CT scans and following the second one with contrast, Aaron and Donna were told of a mass in his pineal gland, rare in adults and in a difficult spot to reach with surgery. “I don’t remember a whole lot from that day because it was so shocking and I was in so much pain,” says Aaron.

Aaron’s first surgery was a Ventriculostomy to drain the fluid from around his brain and to obtain a biopsy – but it took two more surgeries to finally get a biopsy. The test showed results that were malignant and serious: pineal parenchymal tumours (PPTs) of intermediate differentiation. Not long after this, the cancer was found to have spread to Aaron’s spine. Donna remembers, “I looked at Aaron and said, ‘You’re going to have to fight like hell. You’re going to have to fight harder than you have ever fought for anything before. You need to get through this.’”

Continued on page 2
Following the diagnosis, Aaron and Donna moved home to Calgary and Aaron underwent treatment at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. Radiation began on his birthday, November 11, 2007, and finished just before Christmas on December 23. They then took a pre-planned trip to Europe. “My radio oncologist said that his patients who take a vacation do better that those who don’t. We left January 24, 2008 and returned March 16,” Aaron explains. Upon their return incredible news was waiting for them. “They told us to look at the MRI and it was gone.” There were no tumours in Aaron’s brain or on his spine anymore.

“It was shocking but at the same time I was expecting something to be wrong because I had been in so much pain for so long. I never expected a brain tumour or cancer – I was 24 years old,” recalls Aaron. “My mom didn’t want to believe it.”

Today life for the young family is returning to normal. They take great pride in their son Connor, who just turned one and there is a new baby on the way in January 2012. Aaron’s cognitive abilities continue to recover and in January 2009 he went back to school. The Ramlers are immensely grateful for the support they have received from family and friends. They’re also grateful for the support they’ve received from Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. “Our neurosurgeon gave us the handbook. He said it will give us information and tell us about what’s to come. I knew nothing about chemotherapy and radiation before I read that book,” says Donna.

Donna is motivated to help those affected by brain tumours and took on the enormous task of volunteering as coordinator for the 2011 Calgary Spring Sprint. She says, “It will take time but awareness is everything. Knowing we were not alone in the aftermath of all the treatments helped too. Being able to rely on others for support and being informed is like gold.”

When asked what piece of advice he would give to someone new to the world of brain tumours, Aaron says, “Just laugh and take a vacation.” From someone who comes out of surgery singing Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, this survivor clearly practices what he preaches.

“... You’re going to have to fight harder than you have ever fought for anything before.”

Share Hope, Join a Support Group

You can share experiences, pass on knowledge, and gain peer support in a confidential, non-judgemental and relaxed atmosphere at a monthly Brain Tumour Support Group. Anyone affected by a brain tumour (survivors, patients, caregivers and loved ones) can attend and new members are always invited.

Niagara Region: After a short hiatus, the Niagara Region Support Group recently began meeting again and welcomes Debbie Dominic as its new facilitator. Meetings take place the third Wednesday of every month at Wellspring Niagara (3250 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, ON) from 6:30pm – 8:00pm.

Support Groups Across Canada

Ajax, ON
Belleville, ON
Barrie, ON
Burlington, ON
Calgary, AB
Edmonton, AB
Fredericton, NB
Guelph, ON
Halifax, NS
Kitchener/Waterloo, ON
London, ON
Mississauga, ON
Moncton, NB
New Glasgow, NS
Niagara Region, ON
Ottawa, ON
Regina, SK
Sarnia, ON
Saskatoon, SK
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Sudbury, ON
Windsor, ON

Locations, dates and additional updates for all groups are available online at www.BrainTumour.ca under the Care and Support section. For more information about Support Services or to speak to someone for support, please call us at 1-800-265-5106.

Join us in Calgary, London or Halifax for a Day of Hope and Support

You are invited to attend the 2011 Brain Tumour Information Days conferences and participate in seminars and talks given by some of Canada’s top specialists in brain tumour-related fields.

This year’s theme is: You and Your Health Care Team. Join us and learn more about the medical professionals you can meet on your journey with a brain tumour and how they work together and develop treatment plans to improve your quality of life.

Register online at www.InfoDays.ca or call 1-800-265-5106 ext. 240 to reserve your spot.
In October, you can get involved with Brain Tumour Awareness Month by:

**Sharing Your Story**
Personal stories offer hope and inspiration to the brain tumour community and help the general public better understand the challenges and victories that those on the journey with a brain tumour face. Starting October 3rd, visit the brand new blog at [blog.BrainTumour.ca](http://blog.braintumour.ca) to share your story and be inspired by others.

**Hosting an Awareness Display**
Armed with material and information you can help educate others about brain tumours. Request an Awareness Kit and set up an Awareness Display in your community so that others can learn more about the disease and its impact on those affected.

**Wearing Your Brain Tumour Awareness Merchandise**
Want to show your support for the brain tumour community? Purchase a special tote bag during the month of October and proceeds will go toward providing critical research and support programs for those affected by this disease. Additional merchandise such as wristbands and lapel pins are also available. Contact Eileen Quigg, Community Events Officer, at 1-800-265-5106 ext. 224 or equigg@braintumour.ca for your merchandise or Awareness Display materials.

**Contributing to the Hats Tribute**
A travelling display of hats and stories of courage, the Hats Tribute gives people the opportunity to learn about the journey with a brain tumour from patients and survivors themselves. Send us a hat (or a photo of the hat) in honour or memory of someone (or yourself!) and we will add it to the travelling and online display.

**Keep an eye out for Metro News in Your City**
Starting October 3rd, in eight major Canadian cities, Metro News will launch campaigns in support of Brain Tumour Awareness Month. With stories and supporting ads, the media campaign will raise awareness about brain tumours all across Canada. Watch for additional emails about where and when the campaign reaches your city and help spread the word.

Don’t receive Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada emails? Sign up by clicking on the Subscribe button at [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.braintumour.ca).

*Together, we can Imagine a Cure.*
For information about Brain Tumour Awareness Month, visit [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.braintumour.ca) or contact Megan Winkler, Marketing and Communications Specialist, at 1-800-265-5106 ext. 232 or mwinkler@braintumour.ca.
Special Tools to Create Your Legacy

Making a difference in the lives of those affected by a brain tumour can be achieved in a variety of ways including planning a legacy gift. Not only can a planned gift offer hope to patients and families, often they can help you enjoy significant tax benefits. Three families have taken slightly different approaches to setting up legacy giving in their communities. Read Linda, Brent and Judy, and Julie’s stories below.

Linda’s Story
Londoner Linda Nichol was a long-time brain tumour survivor who was a dedicated member of her local support group and determined to bring hope, support and information to others. She looked forward to the annual Brain Tumour Information Day conferences and Spring Sprints where she would talk to others and share the dramatic progress in treatment she witnessed since her diagnosis almost 25 years before. “She had a profound impact on members of the support group with the advice and positive perspective she often shared,” remembers Jane Hauser, London Support Group Facilitator.

Linda decided to give back to the community where she built such important connections by contributing through her estate. With the help of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada staff, Linda was introduced to the London Community Foundation and the Jack Nichol Family Fund was created. The title of the fund was chosen to honour her father. When Linda passed away in 2008, this fund ensured that an unrestricted gift was left to Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and Wellspring London.

From this endowed fund (which guarantees the funds flow annually, forever), Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada receives an annual gift that provides important dollars to essential brain tumour programs. Martha Powell of the London Community Foundation explains how community foundations help people reach their philanthropic goals: “We help people identify how they can have lasting impact for the future.” Jane says, “Linda was really determined that anyone affected by a brain tumour needed to strongly advocate for their best care and her legacy gift helps ensure people can do this through support and information available at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada.”

Brent and Judy’s Story
Another approach to giving is to set up a donor-directed fund through a financial institution. This fund invests a principal amount and then annually distributes interest earned in perpetuity, leaving a legacy forever. For St Albert, AB residents Brent and Judy Loutit, this was the perfect solution. “We simply talked to our financial advisor at the bank and he worked it all out for us,” Brent explains.

The Loutits are motivated to support Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada because of Brent’s 1999 diagnosis of a Meningioma tumour on his brain stem. Previously a competitive zero-handicap amateur golfer, Brent continues to golf, go to the gym regularly, and volunteer.

Their Christian faith has been their rock in this challenging journey, greatly helping the family as Brent underwent two brain surgeries, recovered, and learned to cope with the many side effects. These include painful nerve damage on the left side of his face, balance issues, and deafness in his left ear which, Brent explains with his quick wit is, “my official ear for all criticism and complaints.”

When asked about giving Brent says, “If you are giving, it takes you away from thinking about getting.”

Julie’s Story
Julie Slater and the Beauchamp family honour their brother with the Bruce Beauchamp Memorial Fund. Named in tribute to Bruce when he passed away from pancreatic cancer at the age of 31, the fund is managed and administered through the Toronto Community Foundation and each family member has an annual vote to select a charity to support.

The family often directs funds to Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada because Julie lost her husband to a brain tumour ten years ago. Specifically, the funds are earmarked for the ongoing publication of the Brain Tumour Handbooks, helping to ensure patients and families have access to the resource. “The work is so important,” she says, “I couldn’t have lived without the handbook or the local support group.”

The fund helps keep Bruce’s legacy alive in a very positive way. “It’s the most wonderful thing we have ever done,” Julie explains, who highly recommends working with a community foundation to coordinate long term giving. “Someone else is managing the funds, which they do so professionally. This allows us to focus on investigating and directing the money to the causes that mean the most to our family.”

Leave Your Legacy
Plan today to make a difference tomorrow. Call us for more information about the unique ways you can leave your legacy, such as working with the more than 175 community foundations across Canada.
Contact: Susan Relecom, Director of Development, 1-800-265-5106 ext. 227 or srelecom@braintumour.ca.
Driving After a Brain Tumour Diagnosis

By Jennifer Mason

For many people, driving is one of their most valued activities. Whether someone is able to drive or not can impact all areas of their life including employment, how to get groceries, leisure activities, getting to a doctor’s appointment and even where they choose to live.

When faced with the diagnosis and treatment of a brain tumour, a health care provider may assess if the tumour impacts an individual's ability to drive. According to guidelines set by The Canadian Medical Association, should a medical professional deem their patient is no longer able to operate a motor vehicle, then the individual's license is considered eligible for suspension.

Alternatively, a health care provider may choose to only advise a patient to no longer drive, rather than contact their province’s motor vehicle regulatory body and recommend the patient’s license be suspended. When this circumstance arises, it’s important to know that automobile insurance policies may not cover accident costs for drivers who have simply been advised not to drive due to a medical condition.

Occasionally, a physician may refer their patient to an occupational therapist or other health care provider to further assess the person’s ability to drive. There may also be a referral to a specialized driver-assessment program to further evaluate the impact of the brain tumour on driving ability. In these programs individuals are assessed for physical and cognitive changes and are taken on-road for a driving test. In some cases, particularly when the problems are related to physical functioning, there may be adaptations that can be suggested by these programs that will allow a safe return to driving.

What impacts a health care professional’s decision?

There are a number of factors that health care providers consider when deciding whether someone should continue driving after the diagnosis and/or treatment of a brain tumour. A key aspect of this assessment is how the area of the brain has been affected by the tumour itself. Changes to vision, perception and/or thinking skills are common among brain tumour patients, and differences in physical abilities such as strength, sensation, or reflexes (particularly if the right leg or either arm is affected), are also evaluated.

Other health changes that can impact a medical professional’s decision about a patient’s ability to drive include:

- Difficulty concentrating, which can result from pain, emotional distress or fatigue, all symptoms commonly experienced by those living with a brain tumour
- Fatigue, which can be related to the effects of the tumour itself or can be a side effect of radiation or other treatments
- Medications, which often have side effects that impact the ability to drive safely. They can cause someone to feel sedated or overly stimulated and can cause changes in vision, strength, coordination or reaction time

With malignant tumours, physicians have to take into consideration that symptoms can get worse over time and how fast they progress can be difficult to predict. In these cases, patients may proactively decide to stop driving in light of safety concerns for themselves and others.

Finally, brain tumours may cause a seizure disorder which can result in a license suspension due to medical status. Most often an individual who develops a seizure disorder must be seizure-free for a full year before they are allowed to drive again.

Looking ahead

While the challenge of not having a driver’s license can feel like a loss of independence, it is important to remember that license suspension is common for brain tumour patients to experience, and that you may be eligible to get your license back after a period of time.

Learn more about factors that impact driving with a brain tumour by speaking with your health care team and/or consulting a representative at your local Ministry of Transportation office.

"...it is important to remember that license suspension is common for brain tumour patients to experience..."

About the Author

Jennifer Mason is an occupational therapist with the Driver Assessment Program at Capital District Health Authority in Nova Scotia. CDHA provides health programs and services to nearly half a million Nova Scotians from West Hants to Sheet Harbour, including Halifax Regional Municipality. Jennifer is also a member of the Professional Advisory Group, a team of volunteers who provide expert advice and support to Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada volunteers, committees and staff. This important group helps to ensure that all of the organization’s brain tumour information is reliable and current.
The cliché is, “when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade,” and activist Femma Norton brings this saying to life by taking the many lemons she has been given and squeezing the most out of them. Her sheer optimism and determination have led to important efforts for the brain tumour community in Canada.

Being a nurturer at heart, when family members are diagnosed with illnesses, she instinctively takes on the Caregiver role. This has included supporting several people affected by brain tumours including her father, sister, and brother, each of whom passed away from Glioblastoma Multiforme brain tumours. Femma also lost her mother to breast cancer and her husband to kidney failure. For each family member, Femma has offered compassion.

In addition to supporting others, Femma has also battled her own diagnosis of a low grade glioma and has regular MRIs to monitor her condition. Each of these obstacles has motivated her to stand up and advocate in the hopes of making a difference.

Brain tumours first impacted her family more than 40 years ago. It was then that Femma took on her initial activist role. Femma points out, “I was only 22 years old at the time. Back then, it was a diagnosis from out-of-space.” Since little was known at that time, she began to advocate and research potential treatments available. After hearing about a potential new drug available overseas, she phoned Canadian government officials to request the treatment be imported for her father. “ ‘No’ was simply not an option,” she remembers. Unfortunately it did not arrive in time for her father.

Since then, Femma has continued to play an active role in the brain tumour community. One issue close to her heart is that of much-needed improved data collection of all brain tumours (both non-malignant and malignant) in a national registry. She has met with Members of Parliament to make them aware of the need, which helped lead the passing of Private Member’s Motion, M-235. This motion directs the development of a nation-wide effort to collect data about all brain tumours. Today she is working to see this plan implemented.

Femma represents Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada at monthly conferences and annual meetings for the Canadian Alliance of Brain Tumour Organizations (CABTO), a union of brain tumour organizations.

She values CABTO’s collaborative structure and is proud to be a part of a group that works effectively together. She comments that, “Whenever I go to their meetings or participate in their conference calls, I feel like I’m helping and giving my time to the cause.”

Femma also supports the brain tumour community by serving as a past member of the North American Brain Tumour Coalition (NABTC) and representing Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada at forums organized by the Canadian Cancer Action Network.

One of Femma’s favourite pastimes is her volunteer work. She adds, “Especially if you’ve been touched by the disease, it gives you a sense of empowerment and hopefulness if you’re doing something to help.”

Femma’s nurturing nature is not only reserved for people, it extends to plants, trees and animals. As a passionate and avid gardener, Femma can most often be found working in her Lakeport garden, to which she gives full credit as “my lifesaver.” Additionally, she attributes her survival to her children, family, friends and golden retriever, Millie.

Despite the tragic impact of brain tumours on her and her family, Femma continues to maintain a holistic approach on life as she firmly believes that the body and mind have a powerful connection to one another. She is also continuously striving to find explanations and answers. Referring to herself as ‘an eternal optimist’ she is determined to help spur more research into what causes brain tumours and finding ways to prevent the disease.

Femma expresses her gratitude as a volunteer with Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada remarking that, “it’s through the information available that shows they are well-informed and an incredibly worthwhile organization to get involved with.” Regardless of all the hardships along the way, Femma’s determination and dedication continues to be an inspiration. Thank you, Femma, for all of your contributions to the advocacy efforts of the brain tumour community in Canada.
Six Weeks, 8,000 Kilometres, and Over $11,000 Raised

On a beautiful but brisk July morning in St. John’s, Newfoundland, cousins Andrea Senyk and Derek Zwambag approached the last leg of Miles 4 Minds, their cross-Canada bike trek that raised $11,884.50 in support of brain tumour research and care.

The motivation for Andrea and Derek’s coast-to-coast ride drew on personal inspiration: they have two close friends from Highgate, Ontario who have dealt with brain tumours. Andrea’s 71 year-old neighbour has been fighting a tumour for ten years. “She’s gone through chemotherapy and suffered two strokes but she’s never given up,” says Andrea. “She’s a role model for us.”

The tour was also dedicated to the memory of firefighter Bob VanGoethem. The father of three children was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2006 and passed away last year at the age of thirty-one. “Our whole community misses Bob so much,” says Derek. “He showed so much strength as a firefighter and as he fought his tumour. He gave so much to everyone around him and we want to honour him.”

Miles 4 Minds kicked off in Port Hardy, British Columbia on April 30 with the duo cycling from the West Coast to the East over the next six weeks. Along the way, Andrea and Derek connected with survivors, caregivers, loved ones and Canadians of all walks of life who continued to inspire them to reach their goal of raising money towards finding the cause of and cure for brain tumours and to improve the quality of life of those affected.

Admittedly, Derek says he and his cousin had never faced a physical challenge quite like Miles 4 Minds, “but it’s nothing compared to the fight we’ve watched people with brain tumours go through. Our bike ride was for them… we’re on the journey toward a cure.”

“...we’re on the journey toward a cure.”

You can read all about Andrea and Derek’s journey across Canada on their blog: www.Miles4Minds.net

Community Events

Community events like Miles 4 Minds raise important funds for brain tumour support, education, information and research while helping to increase awareness about the disease. For ideas and help with your community event, contact: Eileen Quigg, Community Events Officer, at 1-800-265-5106 ext. 224 or equigg@braintumour.ca
Canadians Take Steps to Help the Brain Tumour Community

Just as summer was kicking off, Spring Sprint wrapped up its most successful year yet! Almost 6,000 participants took part in the national fundraiser, bringing in over $1.65 million for brain tumour research and support for those affected by the disease.

The total amount raised comprises individual and team pledges, proceeds from events at the Sprints (BBQs, silent auctions, raffles), and sponsorships from local businesses. Additional contributions also come from Community Events, in-kind donations and Employee Matching Gifts, as well as National Sponsors.

A tremendous thank you to everyone across the country who dedicates their efforts to help Imagine a Cure. This remarkable achievement could not have been accomplished without you.
Plans are already under way for the 2012 Spring Sprint!

You can register online at [www.SpringSprint.ca](http://www.SpringSprint.ca) starting December 1, 2011. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Sharon Whiteside, National Special Event Manager, at 1-800-265-5106 ext. 229 or swhiteside@braintumour.ca.

Quick Facts

- This year, 5,858 people walked or ran an average of three kilometres each, for a total of 17,574 kms – or the equivalent of walking the entire Trans-Canada Highway from Newfoundland to British Columbia more than two times!
- 561 teams participated in the 2011 Spring Sprints as a fun way to raise money and enjoy time with family, friends and co-workers.
- Over 400 volunteers from across the country were involved in running this year’s Spring Sprints. Thank you especially to the Spring Sprint coordinators and their organizing committees who gave so generously of their time and expertise to ensure every Spring Sprint ran smoothly!
- In 2010, 72 per cent of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada revenue was allocated to programs and services for brain tumour patients, caregivers and loved ones, plus health care professionals across Canada. Of the 72 per cent:
  - 30% goes directly to fund research
  - 26% provides education and awareness
  - 23% provides information services
  - 21% provides support services
- The first William Donald Nash Brain Tumour Fellowship was awarded in 2010 and provides two years of research funding to Dr. Tommy Alain at McGill University in Montreal.

Community Events Matter

Each year volunteers across Canada organize a variety of events that raise important funds for brain tumour support, education, information and research while increasing awareness about this disease. Community events provide the opportunity to pay tribute to the courage of a loved one affected by a brain tumour while meeting others in your community.

Popular types of events include:

**Bowling Events**

**Dress-down Days**

**Fitness Challenges**

**Garage Sales**

**Fashion and Talent Shows**

**Sports Tournaments**

**Craft Shows and Bazaars**

**Head-shaving/Haircut Events**

**Car Washes**

For help organizing a community event, contact: Eileen Quigg, Community Events Officer, at 1-800-265-5106 ext. 224 or equigg@braintumour.ca.
$219,782 Directed to Brain Tumour Research

Through the 2011 Brain Tumour Research Grants, $219,782 was awarded to nine researchers across Canada. The annual grants-in-aid program received 19 applications this year and proposed projects covered a range of topics important to the brain tumour community, including the cure or cause of brain tumours, treatment, quality-of-life, and pathology research.

Here is a look at the 2011 Brain Tumour Research Grant recipients:

**Dr. Jean-Claude Bertrand J.,** Associate Professor of Medicine/Medicinal Chemistry at McGill University in Montreal, was awarded $25,000 for his project that examines Glioblastoma Multiforme brain tumours. The research will study the ability of “combi-molecules” to penetrate the brain and strike tumours at multiple targets.

**Dr. Abhijit Guha,** a professor and Senior Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto, Ontario, has received $25,000 to extend the understanding of the metabolic alterations in gliomas.

**Dr. Pier Jr Morin,** Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Moncton, was awarded $20,050 for research that will help to understand the impact of a specific type of protein expression and function as it relates to Glioblastoma Multiforme brain tumours.

**Dr. Alan Nichol,** a radiation oncologist with the BC Cancer Agency, was awarded $25,000 for his research examining different types of imaging and whether they can lead to better tumour resections and improved survival.

**Dr. Tamra Ogilvie,** an assistant professor in the Regenerative Medicine Program in the Department of Biochemistry & Medical Genetics at the University of Manitoba, was awarded $25,000 for her research that compares the stem cell properties of the most invasive and non-invasive malignant brain tumour cells.

**Dr. Paula de Robles,** a clinical assistant professor at the University of Calgary, has received $25,000 to further research into Glioblastoma pseudo-progression.
New Research Funds Announced

With this year’s research granting complete, it’s time to start looking ahead to 2012. Next year marks the second round of funding through the William Donald Nash Brain Tumour Fellowship, a two-year funding program for young clinicians and scientists entering the field of brain tumour research.

Additionally, 2012 marks the first awarding of the new Richard Motyka Brain Tumour Fellowship, made possible through the generosity of Alison and Darrell Jones. This research fund was named in honour of Richard by his sister, Alison, and created to support researchers as they work toward cutting edge projects.

Applications for 2012 grants and fellowships can be submitted until January 13, 2012, and forms can be found online at www.BrainTumour.ca under the Research section of the website.

For more information about Brain Tumour Research Grants and Fellowships, contact:

Sue Ruypers,
Research and Education Specialist
1-800-265-5106 ext. 240
sruypers@braintumour.ca

Dr. James Rutka, a professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto and co-director of the Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), has been awarded $24,766 to further research that examines novel treatment strategies for pediatric Medulloblastoma patients.

Dr. Jaynie Yang, PhD and a professor at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, has been awarded $24,966 to develop enhanced recovery tactics to support children recovering from cerebellar tumours. The research also aims to inform surgeons on the critical regions for motor learning in the cerebellum.

Dr. Gelarah Zadeh, a neurosurgeon and clinician scientist at the University of Toronto, Toronto Western Hospital, has been awarded $25,000 to examine the use of molecular and genetic analysis to find the signature that distinguishes invasive from non-invasive Meningiomas.
Information About Brain Tumours is Available

If your life has been changed by a brain tumour, we’re here to help.

Information for anyone affected by a brain tumour (both malignant and non-malignant, as well as primary or secondary) is available, including:

- An Adult or Pediatric Brain Tumour Handbook (English and French)
- “A Friend in Hope” Children’s Storybook (Available in English, French and Italian)
- Information Sheets about commonly asked brain tumour questions

Brain Tumour 101: A good place to start learning about brain tumours.

This presentation explores things like:
- What is a brain tumour?
- The difference between ‘primary’ and ‘secondary’ as well as ‘non-malignant’ and ‘malignant’
- Brain tumour diagnosis
- Treatment and tumour types

Learn more at www.BrainTumour.ca or contact Janic Gorayeb, Health Information Specialist, at 1-800-265-5106 ext. 233 or jgorayeb@braintumour.ca.

Our Mission

Our mission is to reach every person in Canada affected by a brain tumour through support, education, information and research. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded solely through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations, employee groups and fundraising events.

BrainStorm is part of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s newsletter line-up. BrainStorm is available in print twice yearly and also monthly via email for timely news and information relevant to the brain tumour community. Additional electronic newsletters include:

- Supporting You E-News: Advice and resources for those facing the journey with a brain tumour
- BrainWAVE E-News: Advice and resources for those facing the journey with a pediatric brain tumour
- Health Care Professionals’ E-News: The latest news and information for medical and health care professionals

Sign up by clicking on the Subscribe button at www.BrainTumour.ca.