Updates from . . .

STRAIN FOR THE BRAIN

www.StrainForTheBrain.org *Summer 2024*

Highlights

- $121,452 raised at 14th annual run/walk
- Brain tumor support group resumes thanks to SFTB
- SFTB awards two $50,000 research grants in Spring 2024

14th Annual Run/Walk Another Successful Event!



Over 75 Warriors participated in SFTB on June 2, 2024

On Sunday, June 2nd, over 1,200 people whose lives have been impacted by a brain tumor gathered at Milwaukee's Harley Davidson Museum. Participants had the option of a 5K run/walk or a 1 mile walk to support our Warriors who were recognized by yellow t-shirts while everyone else wore grey. Family and friends created teams to raise funds for the cause. The top individual fundraiser was Brian's Brainiacs and the top team fundraiser was NSFF Brain Brigade.

Due to everyone's generosity, over $121,000 was raised of which 100% will go towards brain tumor research!

Look at pictures from the event at:
https://runsignup.com/Race/Photos/WI/Milwaukee/STRAINFORTHEBRAIN



Gold medals all around!

Thank you to the SFTB Planning Committee for their time, energy and hard work in making this year's event possible!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Because of the generosity of our sponsors, 100% of all donations made to Strain for the Brain this year will go to support brain tumor research at Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin. A silent auction also took place thanks to many generous donors. Items included a signed Jordan Love football, a weekend in Door County and a Breakfast by Dr. Connelly Basket.

A special thank you to Lexie Peterson and Cathy "Drex" who photographed participants throughout the event.



SFTB Sponsors Brain Tumor Support Group

Brain tumors are rare diseases with less than 100,000 newly diagnosed cases per year in the United States, with nearly one-quarter of those being malignant or cancerous. When first diagnosed, patients and caregivers can easily be overwhelmed with the information regarding the tumor and the recommended plan of care.

Brain tumor support group was started over a decade ago to help patients and caregivers not feel alone – to connect with others who have walked on that same journey. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, support group was suspended and funding was no longer available.

After a nearly 5-year hiatus, the SFTB committee is happy to report one of the first decisions of 2024 was to bring back brain tumor support group with SFTB sponsoring the monthly event.

Brain Tumor Support Group 2024 Schedule

Jan. 16 – Open session
Feb. 20 – Dr. Krucoff (Neurosurgery)
Mar. 19 – Social work team
Apr. 16 – Optune Support Group
May 21 – Spiritual well being
June 18 – Understanding Clinical Trials
July 16 – Ask the Doc! (Dr. Connelly)
Aug. 20 – Caregiver Breakout Session
Sept. 17 – Dr. Butts (Neurocognition)
Oct. 15 – Optune Support Group
Nov. 19 – Dr. Molinaro (Psychiatry)
Dec. 17 – Holiday gathering/Book Club

Brain tumor support group is led by several of the neuro-oncology providers who arrange guest speakers on a variety of educational topics. Brain tumor support group is open to anyone who has been impacted by a brain tumor.

Brain tumor support group takes place the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:15 PM. The support group meets at the Froedtert Cancer Center on the main campus in Wauwatosa in Conference Room L.

SFTB Awards Two $50,000 Research Grants in Spring 2024

As a result of many years of successful run/walk events, SFTB was able to offer two $50,000 research grants this year. Six excellent research proposals were submitted. These went through a rigorous review process by SFTB committee members as well as an external review panel. Dr. Yonggang Lu and Dr. Sam Bobholz were this year's recipients.



Froedtert & MCW Team at SFTB June 2024

SFTB anticipates awarding another one to two $50,000 research grants this fall and will begin accepting applications in September.

Dr. Yonggang Lu recipient of SFTB Spring 2024 grant

Project: A Thermal Physics Informed Neural Network (PINN) to Improve MRI-Guided Laser Induced Thermal Therapy (MRIgLITT) for Brain Tumors



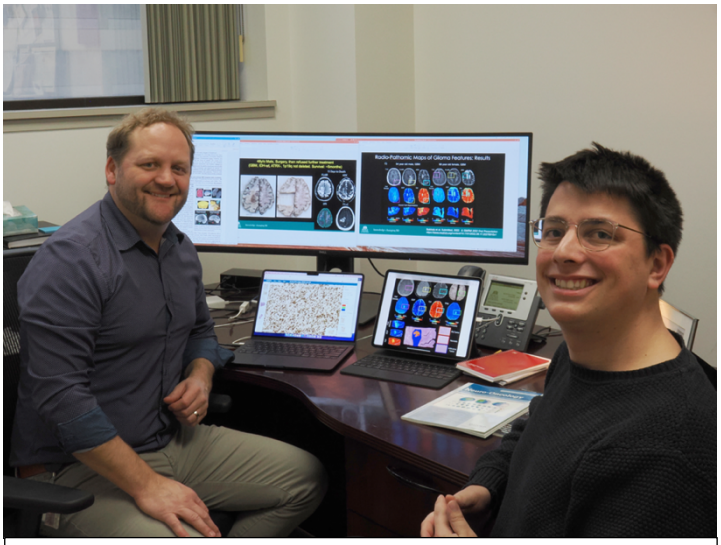
Dr. Lu working on improving the MRI-Guided Laser Induced Thermal Therapy. (MRIgLITT)

Dr. Lu is an assistant professor in the department of radiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has more than a decade of experience in scientific research and clinical service in the field of diagnostic imaging, particularly in MRI and CT imaging. He will collaborate with Dr. Max Krucoff, assistant professor of neurosurgery, in improving MRI guided LITT treatment for brain tumor patients.

As for a fun fact about Dr. Lu, he is a fish-food enthusiast, always on the hunt for the freshest catch and most inventive recipe.

Dr. Samuel Bobholz recipient of SFTB Spring 2024 grant

Project: Prospective Analysis of Radio-pathomic Maps of Tumor Probability



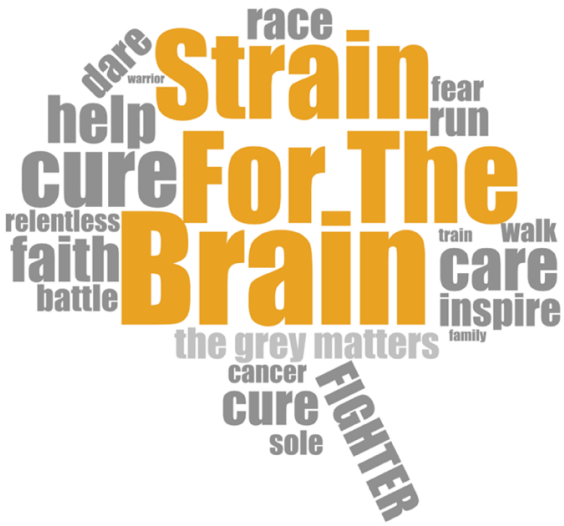
Dr. Bobholz (right) and his mentor Dr. Peter LaViolette

Dr. Bobholz joined the Dr. Peter LaViolette's Lab in 2018 where he began his research in applying machine learning algorithms to MRI scans and digitized large tissue samples. Now a post-doctoral fellow, Dr. Bobholz's algorithms generate Tumor Probability Maps (TPMs) for identifying non-enhancing tumor invasion from conventionally acquired MRI. His project involves prospective validation through surgical biopsies, integrating TPMs into surgical planning and developing tools for wider clinical use. The goal is to improve patient outcomes and extend survival through more aggressive resections guided by TPMs.

Save the Date!

15th Annual SFTB Run/Walk

Sunday, June 1, 2025



Questions? E-mail: sftb.neuro.onc@gmail.com

Want to donate? Visit www.StrainForTheBrain.org and click “Contribute Today” or “Donate”

Interested in being a Sponsor for next year’s event or volunteering on the planning committee or the day of the event?

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