Updates from . . .

STRAIN FOR THE BRAIN

www.StrainForTheBrain.org *Winter 2025*

Highlights

- SFTB awards $150,000 towards research grant 2024
- SFTB partners with Jackie Banana Foundation for travel grants
- Brain Tumor Support Group continues to thrive
- New this year – SFTB Swag!

Registration now open for the 15th Annual Event Sunday June 1st

Join us at the 15th annual Strain for the Brain Run/Walk at the Harley-Davidson Museum on the morning of Sunday, June 1st. Because of generous sponsorship, last year, 100% of donations went to support our mission. Click the link below to register and learn more details:

www.StrainForTheBrain.org



Over 75 Warriors participated in SFTB on June 2, 2024

Announcing the 15th Anniversary Celebration Store

To celebrate our 15th year, SFTB is offering you the opportunity to purchase your own SFTB Swag. Available to order at the time of race registration.

Important: All purchased merchandise must be picked up on race day at the venue, we do not offer delivery. We apologize for any inconvenience.



Items available at the SFTB Store

Become a Sponsor Today

Want to become a Strain for the Brain sponsor? Check out our sponsorship levels. If none of these levels work for you, we are open to discussing a customized package that best suits your organization's goals and values.

To pay via credit card complete our online sponsorship form click here: https://e.givesmart.com/events/Gg8/page/sftbsponsorship-form/

Alternatively, you may print the form and mail the completed form and a check made payable to Strain for the Brain. For Printable Form: https://e.givesmart.com/events/Gg8/page/SponsorItemDonation-page/

BENEFITS	Platinum $10,000	Gold $5,000	Grey $2,000	White $1,000	Blue $500
Logo featured prominently on race shirt, event banners and all promotional materials as top sponsor	✓				
Opportunity for company representative to speak at event	✓				
Public recognition during the event	✓	✓			
Signage at Race Site	✓	✓	✓		
Table at the event (upon request)	✓	✓	✓		
Logo on Race T-shirts	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Logo and Link on event website	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4 free race registrations	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Listing on Sponsor Board at Event	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sponsor Form

Our Mission: Support brain tumor patients and their families by raising community awareness and enhancing research and education to aid in the diagnosis, management and treatment of brain tumors.

Silent Auction Donation Items Needed

The success of our silent auction depends on the generous donations from organizations and individuals. Donation items can be vacation destinations, tickets, products, gift certificates, etc. We welcome donations of all types! Click here to donate an item: https://e.givesmart.com/s/:rqCpKuH-cwi/e/Gg8/donateNewItem/

Once you submit your donation item description a SFTB team member will reach out to you.

Alternatively, you can contact sftb.neuro.onc@gmail.com to donate items or for any questions about item donations.

Thank you for your Support!

Partnership with the Jackie Banana Foundation

SFTB is pleased to announce our partnership with the Jackie Banana Foundation. Jackie Banana Foundation is a 501(c)(3) helping advanced cancer patients find happiness through travel. Through this program, 25 patients received a travel/experience grant, totaling over $5,000. Susan, one of the recipients, said, “It was an amazing trip!”. Her family shared the following testimony:



Susan and her family on their long weekend up north at Lake Superior.

“Working with the Jackie Banana Foundation was a great reminder to make space for travel, adventure, and quality time with family. The grant helped us rent a totally accessible space that may have been out of reach otherwise. I feel so lucky to be recipients and grateful for the time we shared.”

○ LinkedIn ○ https://www.linkedin.com/company/jackiebanana/
○ Facebook/IG ○ https://www.facebook.com/TheBananaFund
○ Web https://www.jackiebanana.com

Brain Tumor Support Group continues to thrive

Brain Tumor Support Group, which is sponsored by SFTB, resumed in January 2024. The event takes place the third Tuesday of every month at the Froedtert Cancer Center – Main Campus in Conference Room M on the 3rd floor from 6:15 – 7:30 PM. There are a variety of topics throughout the year. During this past year, there were 226 attendees. Thank you to all who volunteer their time to make this event happen.

Brain Tumor Support Group 2025 Schedule
Jan. 21 – Ask the Pharmacist
Feb. 18 – Aromatherapy
Mar. 18 – Optune Support Group
Apr. 15 – Caregiver Breakout Session
May 20 – Neurocognition
June 17 – Journaling through cancer
July 15 – Ask the Neuropathologist
Aug. 19 – Ask the New Docs!
Sept. 16 – Caregiver Breakout Session
Oct. 21 – Optune Support Group
Nov. 18 - Pending
Dec. 16 – Holiday gathering

Research Updates - SFTB Awarded Three $50,000 Research Grants in 2024

Updates from Dr. Yonggang Lu Spring Grant Recipient


Dr. Yonggang Lu

Your Support at Work: Advancing Laser Treatment for Brain Tumors

Thanks to Strain for the Brain's support, researchers at Medical College of Wisconsin are developing innovative technology to make laser surgery for brain tumors more precise and effective. Led by Drs. Yonggang Lu and Max Krucoff, this project is improving a treatment called MRI-guided Laser Induced Thermal Therapy (MRIgLITT) - a minimally invasive procedure that uses laser heat to treat brain tumors.

Key Achievements:

- Created a computer program that helps surgeons plan the safest and most effective path for the laser probe during treatment. When tested on seven patient cases, the program successfully predicted surgical paths very similar to those chosen by experienced surgeons.

- Developed a patient-specific model that can show how heat from the laser will spread through the tumor, helping doctors better plan treatments for each individual patient.

- Built a laboratory testing system that includes artificial brain tissue to test and perfect their techniques before using them in real surgical situations.

The work is already gaining recognition in the medical community, with the team presenting their findings at two major medical conferences in 2024.


Dr. Samuel Bobholz

Updates from Dr. Samuel Bobholz Spring Grant Recipient

Your Support in Action: Advancing Brain Cancer Care Through Imaging Technology

Thanks to the generous support of Strain for the Brain donors, researchers at the Medical College of Wisconsin are making significant progress in developing innovative tools to help surgeons better identify and treat brain tumors. The funded project, "Prospective Analysis of Radio-Pathomic Maps of Tumor Probability," is creating breakthrough technology that could revolutionize how doctors visualize and target brain tumors during surgery.

Key Achievements:

- The research team has successfully developed specialized imaging software that helps surgeons see beyond the traditional boundaries of brain tumors visible on standard MRI scans

- The technology has been successfully tested for use during surgery, allowing doctors to make real-time decisions about tumor removal

- The team is working to make this tool freely available to clinicians everywhere and is developing a system for automatic tumor mapping that could be integrated directly into hospital workflows

- The project has attracted additional support and collaboration with the University of California - San Francisco, expanding its potential impact

Project leader Dr. Samuel Bobholz has been promoted to Assistant Professor in Radiology and has secured additional resources to support this important work. The team is preparing to begin patient enrollment for clinical validation in early 2025, which will help prove the effectiveness of this new technology. Their findings are gaining recognition in the medical community, with multiple presentations given at the Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Meeting 2024. This work represents a significant step forward in improving brain cancer surgery and treatment planning, directly impacting patient care. Your continued support helps make these advances possible, bringing us closer to better treatments for brain cancer patients.

Publications:

“Multi-Site Retrospective Assessment of Diffusion and Perfusion Correlates of Glioma Characteristics Derived from Radio-Pathomic Maps”, Samuel A. Bobholz, Daniel Aaronsen, Aleksandra Winiarz, Savannah R. Duenweg, Allison K. Lowman, Michael Flatley, Fitzgerald Kyereme, Jennifer Connelly, Kelly Mrachek, Max O. Krucoff, Anjishnu Banerjee, and Peter S. LaViolette, Neuro-Oncology, under review .

Fall 2024 grant awardee - recognize Dr. Desai

Your Support Helps Unlock the Mysteries of Brain Cancer


Dr. Rupen Desai

Thanks to Strain for the Brain funding, a $50,000 grant was provided to Dr. Rupen Desai, a neurosurgeon who recently joined MCW. His team is pioneering new ways to understand and treat glioblastoma. Currently, doctors can only examine brain tumors through invasive biopsies, which limits how much they can learn about the cancer. This new research project aims to change that by combining advanced MRI techniques with cutting-edge genetic analysis. The team will collect detailed genetic information from different areas of brain tumors during surgery and match this information with special MRI scans. Using artificial intelligence, they'll create tools that could allow doctors to better understand a patient's specific type of tumor without requiring additional surgeries. This could help doctors choose the most effective treatments for each patient and better monitor how well those treatments are working. This innovative approach could be a game-changer in personalized brain cancer treatment, potentially leading to more effective care strategies for patients with glioblastoma. Your support is making this crucial research possible.

We look forward to seeing you at the

15th Annual SFTB Run/Walk

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Be sure to register today!

www.StrainForTheBrain.org



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

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

Follow us social media: Facebook – MCW Brain & Spine Tumor Program

Instagram - @strainforthebrain

Twitter - @JenConnellyMD