Updates from . . .

STRAIN FOR THE BRAIN

www.StrainForTheBrain.org *Summer 2025*

Thank you for another record-breaking year!

Highlights

- $187,000 raised at the 15th annual run/walk
- Nearly 2,000 people registered
- 95 Warriors participated



Over 95 Warriors participated in SFTB on June 1, 2025

On Sunday, June 1st, nearly 2,000 people gathered at Milwaukee's Harley Davidson Museum to support patients and families who have been impacted by a brain tumor. 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. Froedtert & MCW employees wore blue while everyone else wore grey. Family and friends created teams to raise funds for the cause. We would like to recognize our top five team fundraisers: *Team Hoff, Papa's Pit Crew, Team Craig, Team Amy P and Team Ted Whatcha Gonna Do*. Collectively, they raised over $43,000!

Due to everyone's generosity, over $187,000 was raised of which 100% will go towards the SFTB's mission!

Check out photos from this year's event at:
https://runsignup.com/Race/Photos/WI/Milwaukee/STRAINFORTHEBRAIN



View from the drone at SFTB 2025

New this year – video capturing highlights of the event!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIoBzDNhfh0

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.

Grateful for our Sponsors

Thank you to all our sponsors which help make this event happen year after year. A special acknowledgement to the Wisconsin Institute of NeuroSciences (WINS) as the first Platinum Sponsor in the history of SFTB. WINS is a partnership of Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the Zablocki VA Medical Center with the goal to advance neurosciences through world class clinical care, groundbreaking research and innovative education. One unique aspect is the focus on lifespan care for patients with neurologic conditions. Dr. Michael McCrea attended the event representing WINS and shared that "It is an honor for WINS to sponsor the SFTB event and support all those dedicated to advancing research, care, and quality of life for those affected by a brain tumor. This event is a powerful demonstration of how our WINS team is dedicated to our patients and our community."





Joey, Eli and Matthew at BTSG in February 2025

Three 8th grade students present at Brain Tumor Support Group

At one local school, a service project is required to graduate from 8th grade. We were fortunate to have Joey, Eli and Matthew volunteer their time to research Aromatherapy. They presented and shared knowledge on a variety of scents at the February Brain Tumor Support Group. Afterwards, they worked with patients and families one-on-one to find the scent combination that provided them the relaxation and calming energy they desired.

Feel free to join us at Brain Tumor Support Group which meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:15 PM in Conference Room M on the 3rd floor of the Froedtert Cancer Center – Main Campus. Registration is not required.

Jul. 15	Ask the Neuropathologist
Aug. 19	Ask the New Docs
Sep. 16	Caregiver Support Group Breakout
Oct. 21	Optune Support Group
Nov. 18	TBD
Dec. 16	Holiday Gathering

West Allis Nathan Hale Girls Soccer Team rally behind SFTB

The West Allis Nathan Hale Girls Soccer Team rallied behind their assistant coach, Mark Clementi, whose motto is "Never give up." While it was intended for the soccer field, it became so much more after his wife, Jill, was diagnosed with a glioblastoma. To show their love and support for their coach, they dedicated one of their games in early May in her memory. Admission fees were waived, and donations were collected, all of which went to support SFTB.


West Allis Hale Girls Soccer Team May 2025

Research updates

Dr. Rupen Desai received a *Strain for the Brain* award in Fall 2024 for his project titled, “Spatially integrating transcriptomic and radiomic data to noninvasively predict tumor and immunologic composition of glioblastoma.” His research combines advanced genomic technologies with MRI imaging to (1) identify key features of tumor and immune cells, and (2) use MRI to noninvasively classify tumors based on these features. This work has the potential to enable more personalized and targeted treatment approaches for patients with glioblastoma. Thanks to the generous support from *Strain for the Brain*, Dr. Desai has expanded this project into a multidisciplinary collaboration with Drs. Pete LaViolette, Samuel Bobholz, and Jennifer Tuscher.

Together, this team has begun working with brains donated by patients with glioblastoma, which will significantly increase the number of tumor samples available for analysis. The group has developed and optimized protocols that allow them to study these donations, even when stored under conditions not traditionally compatible with advanced genomic technologies. Importantly, these protocols open the door for researchers studying all types of tumors to make use of stored tissue samples that were previously considered unusable. The team is deeply grateful to the patients and families whose generous and selfless decisions to donate have made this work possible—their contributions are driving meaningful advances in brain cancer research.

Join our team!



Core volunteer team for SFTB

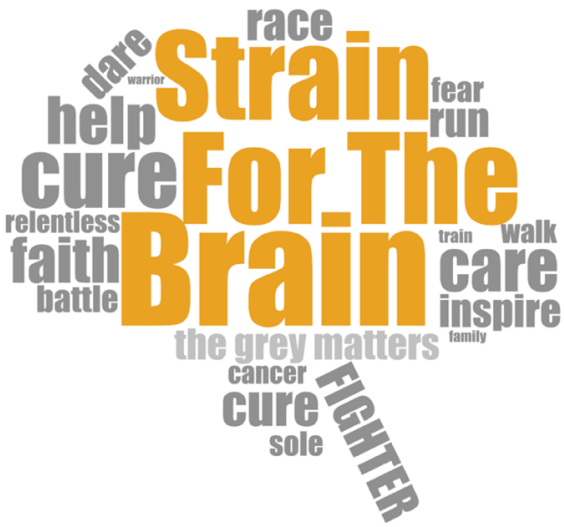
SFTB is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to support brain tumor patients and their families by raising community awareness and enhancing research and education to aid in the diagnosis, management and treatment of brain tumors. The main source of fundraising comes from the yearly run/walk. As the event has grown, planning for the next event literally starts the month after the event takes place. There is a small core group of volunteers. There are a variety of subcommittees including seeking sponsors, collecting items for the silent auction, gathering snacks and managing volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team, please email us at sftb.neuro.onc@gmail.com.

And a special thanks to our core team – none of this is possible without you!

Save the Date!

16th Annual SFTB Run/Walk

Saturday, May 30, 2026



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?

Email us at sftb.neuro.onc@gmail.com

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