Friends of T.J. Foundation
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
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2018 Newsletter

Hope for tomorrow.

Your support enables breakthroughs in cancer research.

Foundation Highlights 2018

Over the past five years, the Foundation has been instrumental in spurring rhabdomyosarcoma research around the world. With your support and the efforts of so many, we have funded groundbreaking research and established awards to honor T.J.'s legacy. We continue to fundraise so that we can advance scientifiic research to transform the treatment of pediatric/young adult sarcomas.

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Research Update

Efforts Tripled

Dr. Chris Vakoc's research team at Cold Spring Harbor Lab (CSHL) has grown, with three expert researchers now exploring the causes and potential treatments for rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS). Their three cutting-edge projects bring us hope that they will have far reaching results in the treatment of RMS.

Dr. Martyna Stroka

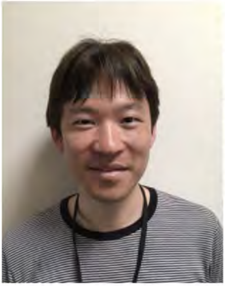
Originally from Poland, Dr. Stroka graduated from the Watson School of Biological Sciences with her Ph.D.

Martyna's work has been called the Holy Grail of research. Using CRISPR gene-editing technology, she turns on and off individual genes in human RMS tissue, in the hope of transforming human cancer tissue into normal tissue.

Dr. Cristian Lopez-Cleary

As an M.D./Ph.D. student at Stony Brook University, Dr. Lopez-Cleary is now working with Dr. Vakoc's lab to find ways to improve standard of care therapies for RMS.

Christian is using CRISPR tools to find targets in tumor cells that will make the drugs currently used in the clinic more effective, lowering dosages and helping to reduce unwanted side-effects.



Dr. Toyoki Yoshimoto

Our visiting scientist, Dr. Yoshimoto, practiced internal medicine in Japan for four years and then earned his Ph.D. in pathology. He practiced pathology in Japan for an additional five years before joining CSHL in April 2018.

Toyoki is now using CRISPR technology in Dr. Vakoc's lab to find effective drug combinations and gene knockouts that could powerfully inhibit sarcoma growth.

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Your Support at Work

Accelerating Sarcoma Research

Friends of T.J. Foundation
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
$ 50,000
Fifty Thousand Dollars and 00/100

In October 2018, Nancy and Tom Arcati, on behalf of the Friends of T.J. Foundation, presented a $50,000 donation to support ongoing sarcoma research in Dr. Chris Vakoc's at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Meeting Of the Minds

Rose Medical Center - Denver

On May 12, 2018, leading researchers from around the world joined advocacy groups at the Rose Medical Center in Denver for the Third RMS Workshop. After an open session on new therapeutic targets and immunotherapies, the group focused on community building, strategic alliances and innovative grant mechanisms.

This 2018 meeting followed the inaugural RMS Conference, held in 2013 at CSHL's Banbury Campus. That meeting, supported by Friends of T.J. Foundation, revealed open avenues for discovery and spurred new collaborations among leaders in the field.

At the latest 2018 workshop, Dr. Chris Vakoc, Director of Sarcoma Research at CSHL, presented his research into the causes and potential therapies for RMS. His presentation was lauded as the highlight of the meeting. In return, Dr. Vakoc met with preclinical and translataional experts and formed new collaborations with leading institutions.

This year's meeting was organized by Dr. Sharon Hammond, co-founder of the Summer's Way Foundation. Sharon and Sterling Hammond founded the organization to honor their daughter's legacy. Summer was a sophomore soccer player at Darthmouth when she was blindsided by this diagnosis. Many thanks to Dr. Hammond for supporting this meeting!

Remembering T.J.

The Young Scholars Award

This year, the Harvard Young Scholars Award honored T.J.'s legacy and his pursuit of research for RMS. Dr. David Langenau, Associate Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School and Director of Molecular Pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital, chose Madeline Hayes as the recipient. The Young Scholars Award will help Hayes, a basic biology researcher at Mass General Hospital/Harvard, to attend workshops and think tank sessions.

SAVE THE DATE
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019
T.J. ARCATI OUTING

Volunteer Spotlight

"Say it ain't so"

Tom Arcati and Ray Malone

One of our best volunteers and a dear friend, Ray Malone, is moving to a warmer climate. Since 2013, Ray has been to every Friends of T.J. event - from the crack of dawn until late evening.

We are excited for the Malones, and wish them the very best in their new digs in North Carolina. You will be greatly missed!

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Congrats Andreas

This year, Andreas Bigger was honored with The T.J. Arcati Perpetual Hockey Award. The award is presented to a mature, hard-working young man who loves the game, just like T.J. did.

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"Fish For a Cure"

Harbor Boating Club - September 2018

Fishing was one of T.J.'s passions, and he shared it with his good friend Howie Einhorn. So, it was no surprise when Howie and his brother Pat suggested a fishing tournament to raise awareness and funds for sarcoma research.

The rest is history! Prizes, t-shirts and all the ingredients for a great BBQ contributed to a shark-tacular afternoon for all!

A tremendous thank you to the Harbor Boating Club, High-Hook Bait and Tackle, Vintage Prime Restaurant and Six Harbor Brewery for their generous contributions. Kudos to Howie and Pat - you are truly Friends of T.J.

You Can Make a Difference - For Free!

Amazon Smiles Program

You can support the Friends of T.J. Foundation every time you shop! Amazon will donate 0.5% of all your purchases to the T.J. Foundation. All you have to do is visit the **Friends of T.J. Amazon link** to enroll. Then, each time you shop, start by visiting www.smile.amazon.com. Everything else stays the same, and it costs you nothing! Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to do this!

Where Friends, Fundraising and Cancer Research Meet

2018 Friends of T.J. Outing

A picture is worth a thousand words!

Thank you so much for your love, support, enthusiasm and generosity this year!

Enjoy the photos provided by Bob Kopprasch.

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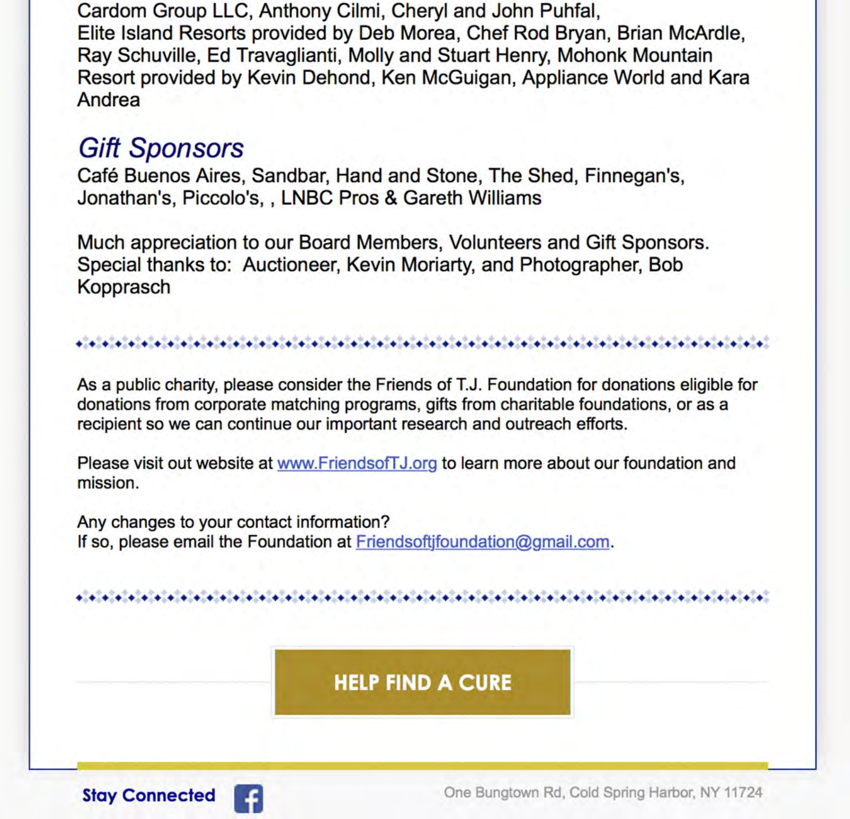

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Much appreciation to our Board Members, Volunteers and Gift Sponsors. Special thanks to: Auctioneer, Kevin Moriarty, and Photographer, Bob Kopprasch

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As a public charity, please consider the Friends of T.J. Foundation for donations eligible for donations from corporate matching programs, gifts from charitable foundations, or as a recipient so we can continue our important research and outreach efforts.

Please visit out website at www.FriendsofTJ.org to learn more about our foundation and mission.

Any changes to your contact information?
If so, please email the Foundation at Friendsoftjfoundation@gmail.com.

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HELP FIND A CURE

Stay Connected

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