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TARA BEAN FOUNDATION

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*A Message
from
Tara's Mom*

While we can never bring Tara back, we can save lives today and for future generations to come by increasing research and treatment funding. More resources need to be directed toward finding a cure and improving the lives of children afflicted with brain tumors.

We believe that RNAi holds the key to curing not only brain tumors, but other cancers and diseases. We warmly welcome your support. Together, let's make a difference.

Karen L. Bean
President and Co-Founder



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The Tara Bean Foundation is a Massachusetts non-profit corporation and a recognized 501(c)(3) organization. All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent permissible by law. Tax ID# available upon request.



Our logo was inspired by the photo on the cover showing Tara and her younger brother Alex frolicking carefree at the beach in the summer of 1995.

Printed by DEERFIELD PRESS - Worcester, MA



Together Together
Funding advancements
Together in medical research Together
and treatments
Together Together



Tara Katherine Bean

1990 - 2000

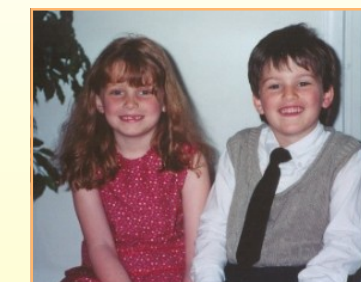


Although nine-year old Tara Bean of Shrewsbury, MA had no symptoms, a routine school eye exam found a vision problem that led to the discovery of a brain tumor. Just three short weeks after her diagnosis, and one day after the surgery that revealed a fragile and inoperable tumor, Tara died suddenly.

To honor her memory and to help other children suffering from brain tumors, Tara's family began raising money for research and treatments in 2000, and established the Tara Bean Foundation in July, 2005.



Tara and her brother Alex... always the best of friends.



www.TaraBeanFoundation.org

Our Mission

To secure and allocate funds for medical research and treatment advancements.

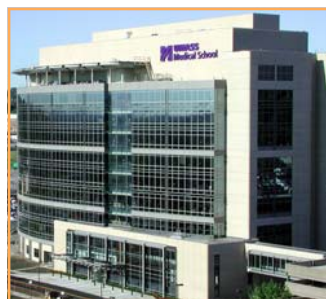


Why we need your support

In the seven years since Tara Bean lost her battle with cancer, tremendous advances have been made in medical research. Among these advances is the completion of the detailed inventory of all the genes in the human, known as the human genome sequence.

This inventory, consisting of roughly 3 billion letters of genetic code, allows doctors for the first time to understand diseases with incredible detail; at the level of precisely which genes are defective, absent or over-expressed.

Armed with this knowledge and using an array of advanced therapeutic strategies, doctors can potentially repair a patient's cells, replacing genes that are missing, and turning off genes that are hyperactive. But in order to produce and test life-saving therapies based on advances like RNAi, and completion of the human genome sequence, much more work is needed.



The University of Massachusetts Medical School

The University of Massachusetts Medical School is rising to the challenge. In 2007 they announced the creation of an *Advanced Therapeutic Center*. This center will recruit approximately 45 new doctors who, along with their research teams, will be housed in a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the development of gene-targeted therapies like RNAi.

Funding

RNA interference (RNAi)

~ A Next Generation Therapy ~

RNA interference (RNAi) is a gene-silencing mechanism co-discovered by 2006 Nobel Laureate Craig C. Mello, PhD, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. RNAi is a natural mechanism inside cells.



Craig C. Mello, PhD
2006 Nobel Laureate

The discovery of RNAi has led to methods to precisely switch off genes including genes involved in disease. Consequently, **RNAi has tremendous potential for curing or treating a wide range of diseases**, from the most prevalent— such as cancer, diabetes, ALS and Alzheimer's disease— to less pervasive “orphan” diseases that get little funding for research, such as developmental disorders and brain tumors.

RNAi therapies could one day provide hope for children like Tara. By activating the natural RNA interference mechanism inside a patient's cells, **doctors may someday be able to treat tumors without surgery** by directly turning off genes that allow tumor cells to divide out of control.

Imagine a day when radiation and chemotherapy treatments are a thing of the past for cancer patients.

In addition to international recognition through the Nobel Prize, RNAi has received numerous accolades since its discovery in 1998, including:

- *Science Magazine* selects RNAi as the #1 Breakthrough Discovery of the Year in 2002.
- *USA Today* lists RNAi as #11 in the “Top 25 Scientific Breakthroughs”.
- RNAi is ranked #13 in the “100 Greatest Discoveries” of all time by *The Science Channel*.
- The journal *Science* listed RNAi in the Top 10 Scientific Advances in 2003.

Funding Brain Tumor Research and Treatment Advancements

The Tara Bean Foundation has supported research efforts focused primarily on early detection, causes and advanced treatments at Children's Hospital Boston as well as UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center in Worcester, MA.

UMass Memorial Medical Center



Children's Hospital Boston

How The

TARA BEAN FOUNDATION

Has Made a Difference



Tara Bean Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship

In order to help meet the growing need for highly skilled surgeons, in 2006, The Tara Bean Foundation (TBF) funded the establishment of the *Tara Bean Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship* at UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center in Worcester, MA, under the direction of Oguz I. Cataltepe, MD, Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

Biomarker Test for Brain Tumors

TBF funded a biomarker urine test developed at Children's Hospital Boston by Dr. R. Michael Scott and Dr. Edward Smith. This test can soon be used to screen children for brain tumors at a young age – where early intervention might mean the difference between life and death. Often, by the time a brain tumor exhibits symptoms, it is too advanced to treat effectively.

Acquisition of Specialized Equipment for Advanced Precision Treatments

TBF has purchased state of the art neurosurgical operating room and diagnostic equipment for UMass Memorial Children's Center. This equipment enables a neurosurgeon to use a flexible scope to see and biopsy a brain tumor without invasive, traumatic surgery and with minimal risk or damage to surrounding tissue. In addition to diagnosing and treating brain tumors and other neurological diseases, this equipment can also mean the difference between life and death to a child or adult with head trauma caused by an accident.