

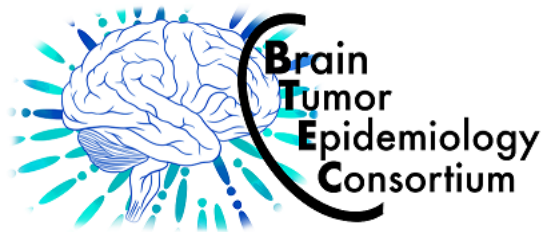
BTEC 2022 Annual Conference

**Pediatric Brain Tumors
Origins, Epidemiology, and Classification**

**Childhood Brain Tumors:
Epidemiology and Clinical Research**



**Radisson Blu Hotel
Lyon, France
June 20-22, 2022**



BTEC 2022 Annual Conference

Pediatric Brain Tumors Origins, Epidemiology, and Classification

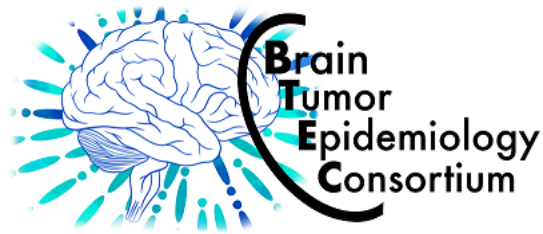
Childhood Brain Tumors: Epidemiology and Clinical Research

BTEC would like to thank the American Brain Tumor Association for its support of the 2022 BTEC annual meeting, especially for its generous and continued support of our Junior Investigators.



**American
Brain Tumor
Association[®]**

Providing and pursuing answers[™]



BTEC 2022 Annual Conference

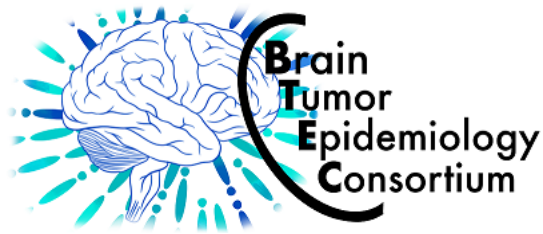
Pediatric Brain Tumors Origins, Epidemiology, and Classification

Childhood Brain Tumors: Epidemiology and Clinical Research

BTEC would like to thank the Uncle Kory Foundation for its unrestricted contribution to the meeting.



We've got brain cancer surrounded.



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**Pediatric
Brain Tumor
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The **Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium (BTEC)** is an open scientific forum organized to foster the development of multi-center, international and interdisciplinary collaborations that will lead to a better understanding of the etiology, outcomes, and prevention of brain tumors. During the process of attaining this mission, BTEC members mentor junior investigators or investigators who are new to brain tumor epidemiologic research. Depending on funding, young investigators awards are given during the BTEC annual meetings.

The Consortium was formed in 2003 after an initial meeting sponsored by the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), which is the intramural (in house) research component of the Institute, and the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Office of Rare Diseases (ORD), and has evolved as a self-directed consortium. BTEC members have formed several Working Groups developing ideas for coordinated research focusing on adult gliomas, meningiomas, pediatric brain cancers, and family-studies.

The **BTEC Board of Directors** consists of members and officers selected to represent the BTEC members. The group meets monthly via teleconference. Full listing [here](#).

BTEC holds annual meetings and webinars to discuss current and future collaborations and scientific findings.

BTEC meetings are the only yearly meetings that focus solely on the etiology and epidemiology of brain tumors. These meetings provide an opportunity for international researchers to exchange ideas and form novel collaborations. These forums also provide an opportunity for mentoring young investigators studying these tumors.

BTEC is a National Cancer Institute designated consortium. BTEC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. BTEC's mission is only to facilitate collaborative research; we are not a lobbying or advocacy organization.

BTEC website: <https://sites.usc.edu/braintumorcause/>

Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium Mentoring Fellowship

The Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium (BTEC) Mentoring Executive Committee is seeking applicants for fellowship training in brain tumor epidemiologic and clinical research. Applicants should have an MD or PhD in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Health Behavior, or related area of health or basic sciences and interest in receiving applied training and mentorship in brain tumor epidemiology. Qualified candidates should have access to an existing data set and have a research question of interest in process or with data for development. Fellowships will be awarded for a 1-year window, during which time fellows will receive mentorship on the development, biostatistical analysis, and writing of a manuscript appropriate for submission and publication in a prominent, peer-reviewed, health research journal. All fellows will be matched with a primary, academic mentor from the BTEC membership with international research experience in brain tumor epidemiology and successful publication record. The fellow will also receive advisement and assistance from a committee including academic mentors from clinical medicine, biostatistics, and epidemiology. Fellows will be expected to develop a research article in the theme of brain tumor epidemiology or clinical research for publication with guidance from their committee and guidance on biostatistical analysis. Fellows with a successful abstract submission to the BTEC annual meeting will also receive BTEC membership and registration to present at the annual BTEC consortium meeting in 2023.

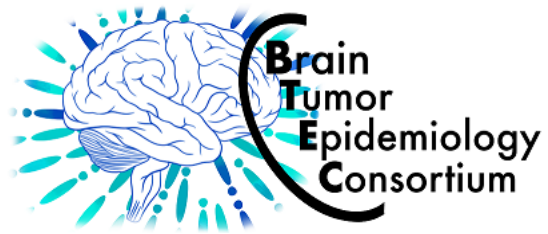
Interested applicants may send a copy of their curricula vitae, 1 page description of their research interests and desired areas of training and mentoring, and 1 page description of their available data and proposed research question. Applications are requested by September 1, 2022 and may be submitted to:

BTEC Mentoring Fellowship Executive Chairs:

Ching Lau, M.D, Ph.D, Martin J Gavin Endowed Chair and Head of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Professor of the Jackson Laboratory and University of Connecticut School of Medicine. ching.lau@jax.org

Roberta McKean-Cowdin, PhD, Professor Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, Department of Population and Public Health Science, Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center mckeanco@usc.edu

More information about BTEC may be found at [BTEC members – Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium \(usc.edu\)](#) and [Research Consortia & Collaborative Research Groups | EGRP/DCCPS/NCI/NIH \(cancer.gov\)](#)



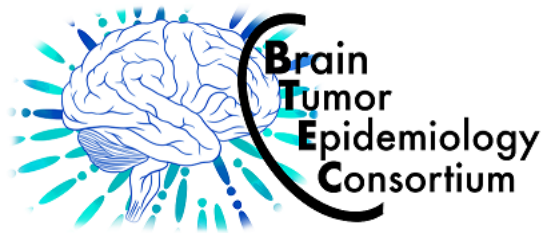
Meeting Location:

**Radisson Blu Hotel
129 Rue Servient
69003 Lyon
France**

Meeting room: Nova 1-2-3

BTEC Conference coordinator:

Bénédicte CLEMENT - Mobile: +33 6 10 25 38 96 email: benedictclement2507@gmail.com



BTEC 2022 Annual Conference

We want to thank our 2022 sponsors



The mission of the American Brain Tumor Association is to advance the understanding and treatment of brain tumors with the goals of improving, extending and, ultimately, saving the lives of those impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis.

We do this through interactions and engagements with brain tumor patients and their families; collaborations with allied groups and organizations; and the funding of brain tumor research.

For nearly 50 years the American Brain Tumor Association has been a leader in advancing the understanding and treatment of brain tumors. We were the first national brain tumor organization dedicated to both brain tumor research funding and providing supportive services to patients and caregivers.

The American Brain Tumor Association provides:

INFORMATION

The ABTA website (www.abta.org) offers more than 200 pages of information, programs, support services and resources, including brain tumor treatment center and support group locators, caregiver resources, research updates and tumor type and treatment information across all ages and tumor types.

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

- **ABTA Educational Meetings & Webinars**
 - In-person and virtual educational meetings and webinars led by nationally-recognized medical professionals.

- **ABTA Peer Support Mentor Program**
 - Connect with a trained patient or caregiver mentor to help navigate a brain tumor diagnosis
- **ABTA Connections Community**
 - An online support and discussion community of more than 30,000 members
- **ABTA Educational Brochures**
 - Educational brochures on a range of topics are available on our website or can be requested in hard copy format for free by calling the ABTA
- **ABTA CareLine**
 - For personalized information, resources and support call 800-886-ABTA (2282) or email abta cares@abta.org to connect with a CareLine staff member.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Since 1976, the ABTA has awarded more than \$33 million in research grants supporting early-career investigators, contributing to the modern brain tumor research and scientific community to advance the field's scientific understanding and medical treatment of brain tumors. Today, the ABTA's research alumni are leading some of the nation's most prestigious brain tumor centers and serving as mentors to a new generation of scientists.

An independent, multi-level review process ensures that ABTA grants are awarded for the most meritorious brain tumor research projects. Through the funding of research, ABTA supports projects that will change our understanding of the causes, effects, diagnosis, and treatment of brain tumors. We fund innovative discovery science that is developing new drugs, new imaging techniques, and advanced methods of diagnosis as well as research that will improve the quality of life of brain tumor patients and their caregivers.

American Brain Tumor Association
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 550
Chicago, IL 60631

Toll-Free: 800-886-ABTA (2282)
Email: info@abta.org
Web: www.abta.org



We've got brain cancer surrounded.

The Uncle Kory Foundation's mission is to advance innovative and collaborative brain cancer research to specifically improve the survival rate and treatment of those diagnosed with Glioblastoma (GBM). To date, UKF has donated over \$2.8 million dollars to brain cancer research globally for pediatric and adult brain tumor research.

More information here: www.unclekory.org



2022 Seed Grant Program

The Uncle Kory Foundation (UKF) Seed Grant Program is designed to allow Research Investigators to apply for much needed resources to begin or continue their research as it relates to brain cancer, and when possible, specifically Glioblastoma. The seed grants from UKF are established at \$50,000 for the first year and \$50,000 for the second year, if renewed. UKF grants do not include funds for institutional overhead.

APPLICATION DATES

Application Period: September 1st, 2022 – October 1st, 2022

Application Deadline: October 1st, 2022

Medical Advisory & Board Decision: November 15th, 2022

Funding Available: December 15th, 2022

More information here: <https://www.unclekory.org/grant-details>



**Pediatric
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Foundation®**

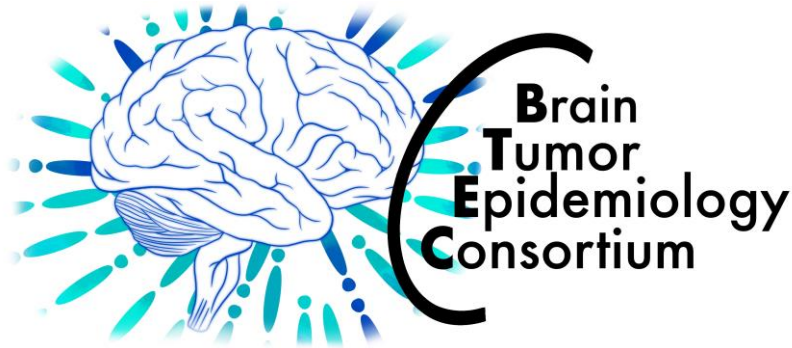
The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is the largest patient advocacy funder of pediatric brain tumor research and leading champion for patient families and survivors in the United States.

Through our funding, we're committed to:

- Solving the unique challenges of diagnosing & treating childhood brain tumors
- Providing patient families with education, emotional support, and financial relief
- Supporting all family members along the entire pediatric brain tumor journey
- Advocating for pediatric patients and survivors throughout the healthcare commun

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Visit curethekids.org/stay-connected to learn more about PBTF and stay up to date with our latest program news.



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Childhood Brain Tumors: Epidemiology and Clinical Research

June 20-22, 2022

AGENDA

Monday, June 20th	
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Cocktail reception and networking time
Tuesday, June 21st	
7:45 – 8:15 am	Welcome coffee and badge pick-up
8:15 – 8:30 am	Welcome Remarks <i>Kim Johnson (Washington University in St. Louis – USA) & Luc Bauchet (University Hospital of Montpellier – France)</i>

Session 1: Overview: Origins & Epidemiology	
8:30 – 9:00 am	<p>Keynote lecture: Developmental Origins of Pediatric Brain Tumors <i>Silvia Marino (Centre for Genomics for Child Health, Queen Mary, University of London – United Kingdom)</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Johannes Hainfellner (Medical University of Vienna – Austria)</i></p>
9:00 – 9:15 am	Q&A
9:15 – 9:45 am	<p>Keynote lecture: Overview of the epidemiology of childhood central nervous system tumors <i>Joachim Schüz (International Agency for Research on Cancer, IARC, – France)</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Michael Scheurer (Baylor College of Medicine – USA)</i></p>
9:45 – 10:00 am	Q&A
10:10 – 10:30 am	Coffee break
Session 2: Classification	
10:30 – 11:00 am	<p>Keynote lecture: Updates on the classification of childhood central nervous system tumors – impact on etiology and clinical investigations. <i>Eva Steliarova-Foucher (International Agency for Research on Cancer, IARC – France)</i></p> <p><i>Introduction by Johannes Hainfellner (Medical University of Vienna – Austria)</i></p>
11:00 – 11:15 am	Q&A
11:15 – 11:45 am	<p>Keynote lecture: Classification and Reporting of the Global Burden of Pediatric Brain Tumors: Incidence and Survival <i>Fabio Girardi (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine – United Kingdom)</i></p> <p><i>Introduction by Luc Bauchet (University Hospital of Montpellier – France)</i></p>
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Q&A
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch and BTEC Advisory Board Meeting

Session 3: Data Collection & Reporting	
1:00 – 1:30 pm	<p>Keynote lecture: Addressing Collection of Global Data on Brain Tumors <i>Nickhill Bhakta (St Jude Children’s Research Hospital – USA)</i></p> <p><i>Introduction by Kim Johnson (Washington University in St. Louis – USA)</i></p>
1:30 – 1:45 pm	Q&A
1:45 – 2:15 pm	<p>Keynote lecture: Pilocytic Astrocytoma: Solving the Conflict in Reporting <i>Tarik Tihan (University of California San Francisco – USA)</i></p> <p><i>Introduction by Carol Kruchko (Central Brain Tumor Registry of the U.S. – USA)</i></p>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Q&A
Session 4: Abstract Presentations	
2:30 – 3:00 pm	<p>ABTA Young Investigator Award presentations</p> <p><i>Introduction by Kim Johnson (Washington University in St. Louis) & Luc Bauchet (University Hospital of Montpellier – France)</i></p>
2:30 – 2:45 pm	<p>US ABTA Young Investigator Award recipient: Understanding racial disparities in pediatric malignant glioma management: A United States perspective <i>Victor M. Lu (University of Miami – USA)</i></p>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	<p>Non-US ABTA Young Investigator Award recipient: Population-based whole-genome sequencing with constrained gene analysis identifies predisposing germline variants in children with central nervous system tumors <i>Jon Foss-Skiftesvik (Rigshospitalet – Denmark)</i></p>
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Coffee break
3:30 – 5:00 pm	<p>Accepted abstracts session <i>Chairs: Roberta Mckean-Cowdin (University of Southern California – USA) and Quinn Ostrom (Duke University – USA)</i></p>
3:30 – 3:45 pm	<p>A novel classification of pediatric CNS tumors for cancer registries using a clustering analysis <i>Nickhill Bhakta (St Jude Children’s Research Hospital – USA)</i></p>
3:45 – 4:00 pm	<p>Prevalence of brain and central nervous system tumors in children and adolescents in the US, 2022 <i>Quinn T. Ostrom (Duke University School of Medicine – USA)</i></p>

4:00 – 4:15 pm	Incidence trends of childhood central nervous system tumors in Finland 1990–2017 <i>Jad Abuhamed (Tampere University – Finland)</i>
4:15 – 4:30 pm	Central nervous system tumours in children in the European Cancer Information System (ECIS) <i>Carmen Martos (European Commission’s Joint Research Centre – Italy)</i>
4:30 – 4:45 pm	Epidemiology of childhood brain tumors in France: preliminary results of a nationwide study <i>Luc Bauchet (University Hospital of Montpellier – France)</i>
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Spatial Clustering of Pediatric Brain Tumors in Texas, USA <i>Thanh T. Hoang (Baylor College of Medicine – USA)</i>
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Collaborative updates: Occupational and Environmental Risk Factors, Lower grade glioma, and other collaborative projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Elizabeth Claus (Yale University School of Public Health – USA)</i>• <i>Margaret Wrensch (University of California at San Francisco – USA)</i>• <i>Paige Bracci (University of California at San Francisco – USA)</i> <i>Introduction by Stephen Francis (University of California—San Francisco – USA)</i>
5:30 – 5:40 pm	Day 1 wrap up
7:00 pm	Conference Dinner (not sponsored by the conference)
Wednesday, June 22	
8:00 – 8:30 am	Welcome coffee
8:30 – 09:00 am	Keynote lecture: Epigenome deregulation and the origin of childhood brain tumours <i>Zdenko Herceg (International Agency for Research on Cancer – France)</i> <i>Introduction by Joe Wiemels (University of Southern California – USA)</i>
9:00 – 9:15 am	Q&A
Session 5: New Data Sources/Methods/Collaborations	
9:15 – 9:45 am	Keynote lecture: Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Data Sources: Children’s Oncology Group and the National Childhood Cancer Registry

	<p><i>Amie Hwang (University of Southern California – USA)</i></p> <p><i>Introduction by Yan Yuan (University of Alberta – Canada)</i></p>
9:45 – 10:00 am	Q&A
10:00 – 10:20 am	Coffee break
Session 6: Abstract Presentations	
10:20 – 11:20 am	<p>Accepted abstract sessions</p> <p><i>Chairs: Judith Schwartzbaum (The Ohio State University) and Luc Bauchet (University Hospital of Montpellier – France)</i></p>
10:20 – 10:35 am	<p>Early mortality in children diagnosed with CNS-tumors in Denmark and Sweden: the role of social background in a setting with universal health care</p> <p><i>Hanna Mogensen (Karolinska Institutet – Sweden)</i></p>
10:35 – 10:50 am	<p>Mortality after a brain tumor diagnosis in children with cancer-linked birth defects: a Swedish register-based study of 40 years</p> <p><i>Christina-Evmorfia Kampitsi (Karolinska Institutet – Sweden)</i></p>
10:50 am – 11:05 am	<p>Presence of antibodies to Varicella-Zoster virus and three other herpes viruses and survival in adults with glioma</p> <p><i>Geno Guerra (University of California San Francisco – USA)</i></p>
11:05 am – 11:20 pm	<p>Breastfeeding and Risk of Childhood Brain Tumors: An International Pooled Analysis</p> <p><i>Michael Scheurer (Baylor College of Medicine – USA)</i></p>
11:20 – 12:10 pm	<p>Brainstorming sessions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survivorship 2. Etiology 3. Global registration
12:10 – 12:30 pm	<p>Brainstorming reports</p>
12:30 – 1:45 pm	Lunch and BTEC Business meeting

Session 7: Abstract Presentations

1:45 – 4:00 pm	<p>Accepted abstract sessions <i>Chairs: Michael Scheurer (Baylor College of Medicine – USA) and Quinn Ostrom (Duke University – USA)</i></p>
1:45 – 2:00 pm	<p>Survival Trends in Primary Brain Tumors by Malignant and Non-Malignant Status from National Program of Cancer Registries, 2004-2017 <i>Jacob Edelson (National Cancer Institute – USA)</i></p>
2:00 – 2:15 pm	<p>Survival Experience and Prevalence of Central Nervous System (CNS) Tumour by Sex in Canada -- a report from The Brain Tumour Registry of Canada Surveillance Research Collaboration Group <i>Yan Yuan (University of Alberta – Canada)</i></p>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	<p>Facility volume and survival among individuals diagnosed with malignant central nervous system tumors <i>Kimberly J. Johnson (Washington University in St. Louis – USA)</i></p>
2:30 – 2:45 pm	<p>Midline versus Hemispheric Pediatric High-Grade Gliomas; first-line treatment and survival characteristics in the Netherlands during the period 2003-2017 - a population-based study <i>Raoull Hoogendijk (Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology – The Netherlands)</i></p>
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Coffee break
3:15– 3:30 pm	<p>Pooled Analysis of Meningioma Risk Following Treatment for Childhood Cancer <i>Diana R Withrow (University of Oxford – United Kingdom)</i></p>
3:30 – 3:45 pm	<p>Novel specific susceptibility loci identified for pediatric and adult ependymoma in first histology-specific genome-wide association study <i>Maral Adel Fahmideh (Baylor College of Medicine – USA)</i></p>
3:45 – 4:00 pm	<p>Functional consequence of low-grade glioma risk SNP in modified HEK293T cells <i>Adam Rosenbaum (Umeå University – Sweden)</i></p>
4:00 – 4:15 pm	<p>Meeting wrap-up <i>Kim Johnson (Washington University in St. Louis) and Luc Bauchet (University Hospital of Montpellier – France)</i></p>

Abstract Presentations available on demand on our website:

Long-term medical and functional outcomes of ependymoma survivors: a population-based, matched cohort study

Hallie Coltin (Hospital for Sick Children – Canada)

Localized variation in ancestral admixture identifies pilocytic astrocytoma risk loci among Latino children

Shaobo Li (University of Southern California – USA)

AGENDA BTEC Business Meeting

Wednesday, June 22nd, 12:30-1:45 pm (lunch)

The Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium (BTEC) is a self-directing consortium committed to developing multi-center, interdisciplinary collaborations that will lead to a better understanding of the etiology of brain tumor development and outcomes.

Co-Presidents: Kim Johnson (2020-2022)
Luc Bauchet (2021-2023)

Co-Vice Presidents: Michael Scheurer (2020-2022)
Yan Yuan (2021-2023)

Secretary: Carol Kruchko (2019-)

Treasurer: Quinn Ostrom (2020-2024)

The Consortium is grateful to the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA), the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTf), and the Uncle Kory Foundation for providing funding for the BTEC Meeting, Lyon, France, June 20-22, 2022.

Business Meeting Agenda

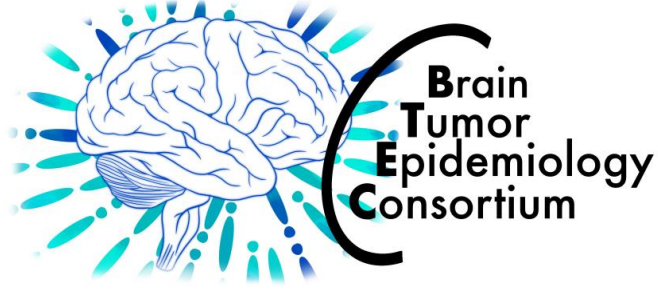
1. **Administrative Update..... Kim Johnson & Michael Scheurer**
 - a. **Funding Support & Acknowledgement**
 - b. **Membership**
 - c. **Financial Report..... Quinn Ostrom**
2. **Nominations/Voting Luc Bauchet & Yan Yuan**

Biographical sketches of nominee found in program materials

 - a. **Nomination slate**
 1. US Vice-President: Roberta McKean-Cowdin
 2. Nominations from floor
 3. Voting
3. **BTEC Mentor Program..... Kim Johnson**
4. **BTEC Webinar Program..... Kim Johnson**
5. **Service Award..... Luc Bauchet**
6. **Co-Presidents Comments.....Michael Scheurer & Luc Bauchet**
7. **Future Meeting in US..... Michael Scheurer**



Roberta McKean-Cowdin is an epidemiologist at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, specializing in cancer and neuro-epidemiology. She completed a Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor Michigan in 1988 and completed a Master of Public Health in 1990 at the University of Alabama, Birmingham while completing an internship affiliated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, followed by a PhD in Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at the University of California Los Angeles in 1996. She focused her initial career on pediatric brain tumors, evaluating the role of nitrosatable compounds found as contaminants in common products or foods used in the home or the parent's work environment. Dr. McKean-Cowdin further evaluated the role of genetic-environmental interactions on the risk of pediatric brain tumors focusing on genetic susceptibility to pesticides. For adult glioma, she led one of the early investigations organized through BTEC on the role of DNA repair genes in glioblastoma and contributed to consortium analyses of pooled genome wide association data for glioblastoma and medulloblastoma. She has extensive experience in the design and statistical analysis of both cohort and case-control designs and specifically in multiethnic studies of cancer and eye conditions and disease in population-based settings. She is a Professor at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, the Vice-Chair for Education in the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, a member of the BTEC mentoring committee, and a board member of the Central Brain Tumor Registry.



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Keynote speakers



Silvia Marino, MD, FRCPath

Silvia Marino is Professor of Neuropathology at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London and also Honorary Consultant Neuropathologist at Barts Health NHS Trust. After studying Medicine at the University of Turin in Italy, Professor Marino trained in Neuropathology and Histopathology at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. She trained in molecular genetics with Professor Anton Berns at The Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam as a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow of the European Community studying the role of the tumour suppressor Rb and p53 in the pathogenesis of medulloblastoma in genetically engineered mouse models. She established her own laboratory research group in 2002 firstly at the Institute of Pathology, University of Zurich and then since 2006 at the Blizard Institute in London.

Silvia Marino is the Director of the Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence, a partnership between QMUL and the charity Brain Tumour Research.

The focus of the Marino research group is on the biology of stem cells and progenitor cells, on the pathways and genes involved in control of their maintenance, proliferation and differentiation, in particular the Polycomb group genes. The group is currently investigating the role of deregulated epigenetic mechanisms in initiation and progression of brain tumours –medulloblastomas and glioblastomas- in experimental models and in human tumour samples.

Prof Marino is the lead of the Barts Brain Tumour Centre, a clinical research platform at QMUL/Barts Heath funded by Barts Charity to take basic science discoveries to the clinic more effectively with the aim of increasing the availability of experimental treatments to brain tumour patients.

In her clinical role as a consultant neuropathologist, she specialises in the neuropathological assessment of neuro-oncological surgical specimen and muscle biopsies.

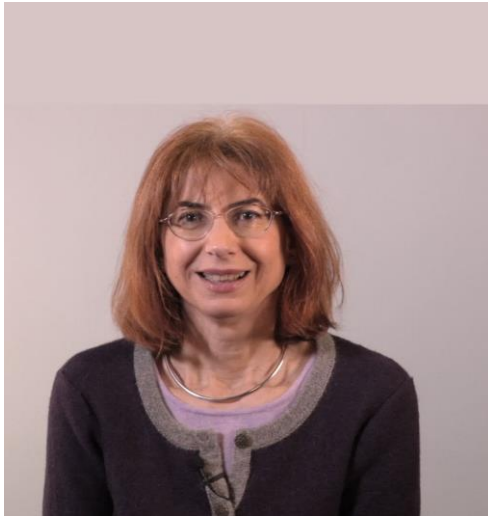
Prof Marino is the Academic Training Programme Director for Pathology at Health Education England and the immediate past President of the British Neuro-Oncology Society (BNOS).



Joachim Schüz, PhD

Dr Joachim Schüz is Head of the Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology Branch at the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the cancer research agency of the World Health Organisation, located in Lyon, France (IARC/WHO). The Branch leads the IARC/WHO research on causes and primary prevention of cancer on occupational hazards, environmental contaminants (e.g., pesticides and other chemicals), some lifestyle factors, and radiations (nuclear accidents, medical radiation, electromagnetic fields).

Dr Schüz is a cancer epidemiologist with 28 years of experience in these fields. He is also Chair of Cancer Prevention Europe, a network of cancer research and prevention institutions in Europe, and Principal Investigator of the European Code against Cancer. Dr Schüz has been heading the environmental research at IARC/WHO for the past 10 years; before arriving at IARC/WHO he worked in cancer epidemiology at the Danish Cancer Society Research Center (Copenhagen, Denmark) and at the University of Mainz (Germany), where he received his PhD in cancer epidemiology in 1997 and his habilitation in 2002.



Eva Steliarova-Foucher, PhD, MS

Dr Eva Steliarova-Foucher leads the childhood cancer team in the Section of Cancer Surveillance at IARC.



Fabio Girardi, MD

Dr. Fabio Girardi MD is Honorary Assistant Professor at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.



Nickhill Bhakta, MD, MPH

Nickhill Bhakta, MD, MPH is an assistant member in the Department of Global Pediatric Medicine at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Dr. Bhakta came to St. Jude in 2013 as a Clinical Fellow in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. In 2016, he joined the faculty of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital to lead two programs. As Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region, Dr. Bhakta coordinates St. Jude Global capacity building efforts in the region. Additionally, as Director of the Disease Burden and Simulation Unit, Dr. Bhakta has developed an epidemiology research program focusing on global disease burden, cancer survivorship, and cost-effectiveness.

Dr. Bhakta earned his bachelor’s degree with honors in history from Brown University, medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and master’s in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health.



Tarik Tihan, MD, PhD

Professor of Pathology at UCSF.

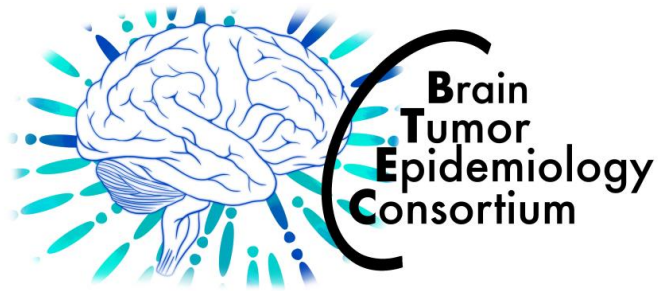
My goal is to develop a better understanding of the critical elements for histological classification of primary CNS neoplasms with specific emphasis on pediatric brain tumors, their distinctive subtypes and prognostic markers for each subtype. Our observations contributed to the understanding of biological behavior and molecular features in some tumors such as pilomyxoid astrocytomas. My laboratory actively collaborates with many colleagues from the Brain Tumor Research Center, UCSF, and scientists from national and international organizations and universities to better define tumor entities, their molecular signatures and novel diagnostic or prognostic markers. I participate in the activities of California Childhood Brain Tumor Consortium, Children's Oncology Group and WHO Classification of Tumours of the Nervous System as well as the WHO Classification of Tumours of Endocrine Organs. I take an active role in professional pathology organizations including national and international societies.

Teaching and educational activities form a crucial part of my activities with a primary emphasis on international outreach. I do hope that with efforts of colleagues from developed countries, we can close the technological and economical gaps that prevent our colleagues in the developing world from fully contributing to world science. I work with numerous individuals and organizations to create a more integrated world across the oceans and to advance science as one people and one world.



Amie Eunah Hwang, PhD

Director of USC Master of Public Health Program at USC and cancer epidemiologist with 9 years of experience in cancer surveillance and population-based research on utilizing innovative strategies to address burden of cancer among young people by assessing risks of adverse consequences of cancer and its treatment for childhood cancer survivors.



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Junior Investigator Awards

*Supported with a generous grant from
the American Brain Tumor Association*

US JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR AWARDEE



Victor M. Lu M.D. Ph.D.

Address: Department of Neurological Surgery
University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine
Miami, FL 33136
Phone: (507) 271-5948
Email: mrvictorlu@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9470-5890 PubMed: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=lu+vm>
Twitter: [@drvictorlu](https://twitter.com/drvictorlu)

Victor Lu grew up in Canberra, Australia, and after his degree in chemistry at the University of Sydney, graduated from Sydney Medical School with first class honors, where he also completed a Masters in surgical outcomes. He then pursued his Masters in neuroscience at the University of Oxford, before completing his PhD in brain tumor nanomedicine back in Sydney, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neurosurgical research at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota. Outside the hospital, Victor enjoys table tennis, being by the ocean and Cuban coffee.

Understanding racial disparities in pediatric malignant glioma management: A United States perspective.

Victor M. Lu MD PhD¹, Toba N. Niazi MD^{1,2}

1. Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL, US.
2. Department of Neurological Surgery, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Miami, FL, US.

Background:

The diagnosis of malignant glioma confers a poor prognosis in the pediatric population. What remains to be understood is if racial disparities impact management and survival amongst this demographic. Correspondingly, the aim of this study was to determine if racial disparities in the management and survival of pediatric malignant glioma within the United States (US) existed and what their predictors would be.

Materials and Methods:

All pediatric malignant gliomas patients with known race status (White, Black, Other) in the US National Cancer Database (NCDB) between the years 2005-2016 were retrospectively reviewed. Demographic, socioeconomic and clinical data were then abstracted and analyzed by comparison and regression techniques.

Results:

A total of 1803 pediatric malignant glioma cases were identified, with 48% female and a median age of 8 years old. Brainstem locations were reported in the 48% of cases. Socioeconomically, there were statistical differences with respect to insurance status, yearly income, household education level and metropolitan residences between the racial groups (all $P < 0.01$). With respect to treatment, there was only statistical difference in the proportion of patients treated with surgical resection (White 43% vs Black 34% vs Other 37%, $P = 0.02$). There were no differences between race groups for radiation therapy ($P = 0.73$) or chemotherapy ($P = 0.12$). The odds of surgical resection were significantly less in the Black group compared to the White group (OR 0.69, $P < 0.01$), although there was no difference in overall survival between the two groups in those treated with ($P = 0.44$) or without ($P = 0.27$) surgical resection. Primary predictors of surgical resection in the Black group were deep tumor location ($P < 0.05$) and low yearly income ($P = 0.02$).

Conclusions:

Racial disparities can exist amongst the management of pediatric malignant gliomas, however the impact on overall survival collectively remains to be seen. In this US perspective, we identified predictors of racial disparity in surgical treatment for this devastating diagnosis. There is a need to evaluate for hospital-dependent initiatives to ensure management is not sabotaged by racial inequality in the future as we continue to advance our treatment of pediatric malignant gliomas.

NON-US JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR AWARDEE



Jon Foss-Skiftesvik, MD

Curriculum vitae: Jon Foss-Skiftesvik (AUT-ID 09PM1)

Address: Parsbergsvej 48, 2830 Virum Phone no.: +4553633677 Email: jon.foss-skiftesvik@regionh.dk

Education

- 2007-2013 Copenhagen University: Cand. Med./M.D. GPA 11,5
- 2011 Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, USA: Clinical clerkships in cardiology, plastic surgery and anesthesiology
- 2013 McKinsey Alpine University, Austria: Fundamentals of business strategy, finance, micro-economics and operating optimization

Current & Most Recent Positions Held

- 2020- Rigshospitalet, PhD fellow in pediatric CNS tumors. *Topic: Genetic predisposition to CNS tumors in children. Also responsible for establishing and coordination a nationwide tissue collection and biobanking program for children with brain tumors*
- 2017- Statens Serum Institute: Post-graduate researcher
- 2017- Rigshospitalet, Dept. of Neurosurgery: Four-year residency in neurosurgery
- 2016- Region H, Specialist education for ICU-Nurses: Tutor in neurosurgery
- 2016-2017 Nordsjællands Hospital, Emergency Dept.: Part-time emergency room doctor
- 2015-2016 Rigshospitalet, Dept. of Neurosurgery: One-year residency in neurosurgery
- 2014-2015 Region Zealand: One-year internship with 6- months rotations in emergency and family medicine
- 2014 Rigshospitalet, Dept. of Neurosurgery: 6-months internship
- 2013-2014 McKinsey & Company: Management consultant (pharmaceutical industry and public health)
- 2011-2013 Various hospitals, Locum doctor; orthopedics, thoracic surgery, psychiatry
- 2009-2011 Bispebjerg Hospital, The Research Laboratory for Neuroscience: Pre-graduate research assistant

Population-based whole-genome sequencing with constrained gene analysis identifies predisposing germline variants in children with central nervous system tumors

Jon Foss-Skiftesvik*, **Ulrik Kristoffer Stoltze***, Thomas van Overeem Hansen, Anna Byrjalsen, Astrid Sehested, David Scheie, Torben Stamm Mikkelsen, Simon Rasmussen, Mads Bak, Henrik Okkels, Michael Thude Callesen, Jane Skjøth-Rasmussen, Anne-Marie Gerdes, Kjeld Schmiegelow**, René Mathiasen**, Karin Wadt**

/Contributed equally*

Abstract:

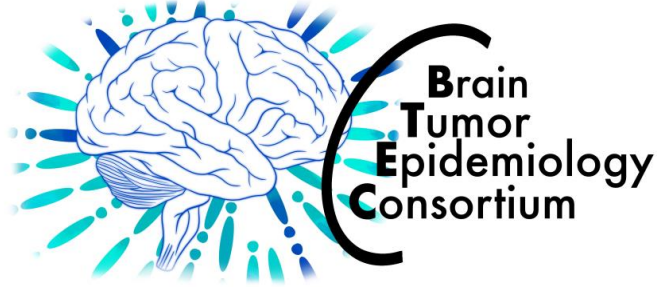
Background: The underlying cause of central nervous system (CNS) tumors in children is largely unknown. In this nationwide, prospective population-based study we investigate rare germline variants across known and putative CPS genes and genes exhibiting evolutionary intolerance of inactivating alterations in children with CNS tumors.

Methods: One hundred and twenty-eight children with CNS tumors underwent whole-genome sequencing of germline DNA. Single nucleotide and structural variants in 315 cancer related genes and 2,986 highly evolutionarily constrained genes were assessed. A systematic pedigree analysis covering 3,543 close relatives was performed.

Results: Thirteen patients harbored rare pathogenic variants in nine known CPS genes. The likelihood of carrying pathogenic variants in CPS genes was higher for patients with medulloblastoma than children with other tumors (OR 5.9, CI 1.6-21.2). Metasynchronous CNS tumors were observed exclusively in children harboring pathogenic CPS gene variants (n=2, p=0.01).

In general, known pCPS genes were shown to be significantly more constrained than both genes associated with risk of adult-onset malignancies (p=5e⁻⁴) and all other genes (p=5e⁻¹⁷). Forty-seven patients carried 66 loss-of-functions variants in 60 constrained genes, including eight variants in six known pCPS genes. A deletion in the extremely constrained *EHMT1* gene, formerly somatically linked with sonic hedgehog medulloblastoma, was found in a patient with this tumor.

Conclusions: ~10% of pediatric CNS tumors can be attributed to rare variants in known CPS genes. Analysis of evolutionarily constrained genes may increase our understanding of pediatric cancer susceptibility.



BTEC 2022 Annual Conference

**Pediatric Brain Tumors
Origins, Epidemiology, and Classification**

**Childhood Brain Tumors:
Epidemiology and Clinical Research**

Submitted Abstracts

A novel classification of pediatric CNS tumors for cancer registries using a clustering analysis

Daniel Moreira, Yichen Chen, Ibrahim Qaddoumi, Gino Cioffi, Kristin Waite, Quinn Ostrom, Carol Kruchko, Jill Barnholtz-Sloan, Meenakshi Devidas, Nickhill Bhakta

Background:

To accurately evaluate the burden of pediatric central nervous system (CNS) tumors, estimate resources for cancer control, and monitor outcomes, a classification system that segregates tumors into clinically relevant groups is essential. The current classification of pediatric CNS tumors included in the third revision of the International Childhood Cancer Classification does not identify key clinical groups, such as low- and high-grade gliomas. To address this need, a novel classification was embarked upon using ICD-O-3 codes, CBTRUS grouping, incidence, survival, and treatment modalities as inputs.

Materials and Methods:

For each ICD-O-3 code with >50 new cases/year in CBTRUS from 2000 to 2016, 2 clinicians reached consensus defining the efficacy of three treatment modalities: surgical resection, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy. Then, patient level 5-year overall survival (OS) times were simulated based on total incidence and 5-year OS for each code. Subsequently, 5 factors were included as potential classifiers: tumor behavior, CBTRUS sub-group, and efficacy of the three treatment modalities. A “survival tree” was developed using recursive partitioning. Starting with the patient cohort (root), univariate cox proportional hazards model was used to identify statistically significant ($P < 0.05$) factors. The factors with the largest hazard ratio were selected manually to create child nodes. Within each child node, the partitioning process was repeated on remaining factors until no statistically significant factor remained.

Results:

This process yielded 17 clusters. Subsequently, these clusters were compiled into 4 main groups based on survival: low- (>90% OS), intermediate- (75-90% OS), high- (50-75% OS), and very high-risk (<50% OS) tumors. The 4 groups include 11 subgroups, including subgroups like “low-risk glial and glioneuronal tumors” that includes pilocytic astrocytoma or “high-risk neuroepithelial tumors” that includes anaplastic ganglioglioma. Further validation of the classification will be sought through three processes: a) using patient-level data from the CBTRUS registries; b) utilizing additional datasets that include pediatric CNS tumor survival from other countries or regions; and c) through a structured consensus process using multidisciplinary experts.

Conclusions:

This systematic method to develop a classification for pediatric CNS tumors is novel and incorporates not only morphology codes, but treatment and survival data. This classification would

allow for more relevant estimations of outcomes and better estimation of resource utilization for cancer control. Furthermore, this strategy could be replicated for other disease groups.

Prevalence of brain and central nervous system tumors in children and adolescents in the US, 2022

Quinn T. Ostrom¹⁻⁴, Corey E. Neff¹⁻², Gino Cioffi^{1,5}, Carol Kruchko¹, Kristin Waite^{1,5}, Jill S. Barnholtz-Sloan^{1,5-6}

¹Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States, Hinsdale, IL ² Department of Neurosurgery, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC ³ The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC ⁴ Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC ⁵ Trans-divisional Research Program, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, NCI, Bethesda, MD ⁶Center for Biomedical Informatics and Information Technology, NCI, Bethesda, MD

Background:

Brain tumors are among the most common childhood and adolescent cancers, as well as the leading cause of death among solid childhood cancers. There are various methods to estimate the burden of brain tumors on the pediatric population, including years of potential life lost (YPLL), median survival, and complete prevalence. Complete prevalence is the measure of people alive with a disease at a specified time, theoretically capturing all previous diagnoses. Estimating complete prevalence poses many methodological issues due to the inherent “incompleteness” of modern population-based cancer registries. In this analysis, the prevalence of childhood and adolescent brain tumors is estimated by histology and sex for the year 2022.

Materials and Methods:

Incidence data from 2000-2018 by histology, sex, and single age at diagnosis for malignant and non-malignant brain tumors was obtained from the Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States (CBTRUS) (2004-2018 for non-malignant tumors), a merged dataset of the National Program of Cancer Registries US Cancer Statistics (USCS) and National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results. Incidence data from 2001-2018 was obtained for International Classification of Childhood Cancer (ICCC)-defined histologies by sex, and single age at diagnosis from USCS. Incidence data by sex and single age and survival data for children ages 0-19 at time of diagnosis were obtained from SEER 9 for 1975-2018. Prevalent case counts were estimated by histology and behavior for the year at prevalence, 2022, using prevEst in R 4.0.

Results:

There were 41,965 prevalent brain tumor cases in children and adolescents ages 0-19 in 2022. The histologic group with the highest prevalence was gliomas, with 26,052 cases and a PR of 34.97. The next most prevalent histologic groups were embryonal tumors (3,789 cases) and tumors of the sellar region (3,636 cases). Prevalence of brain tumors was higher than any ICCC-defined histology, where leukemias, myeloproliferative & myelodysplastic diseases were the most prevalence non-brain cancer type (37,027 cases), followed by lymphomas and reticuloendothelial neoplasms (12,143 cases). Prevalence of most brain tumor histologies did not differ substantially by sex, with the exception of medulloblastoma (1,815 cases in males as compared to 1,056 cases in females), tumors of the pituitary (1,493 cases in females as compared to 750 cases in males), and germ cell tumors (539 cases in males as compared to 354 cases in females).

Conclusions:

Brain tumors have higher prevalence than any other cancer type in children and adolescents in the US. Childhood brain tumor survivors have unique needs due to both tumor and treatment effects, and prevalence estimates allow for estimation of the total population with these needs.

Incidence trends of childhood central nervous system tumors in Finland 1990–2017

Jad Abuhamed¹, Atte Nikkilä², Jani Raitanen^{1,3}, Wafa Alimam¹, Olli Lohi⁴, Janne Pitkaniemi^{1,8,9}, Hannu Haapasalo⁵, Anssi Auvinen^{1,6,7}

¹*The Health Sciences Unit, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tampere University, Tampere, Finland*

²*TamCAM - Tampere Center for Child, Adolescent and Maternal Health Research, Tampere University, Tampere, Finland* ³*UKK Institute for Health Promotion Research, Tampere, Finland* ⁴ *Department of Pediatrics and Tays Cancer Center, Tampere University Hospital, Tampere, Finland* ⁵*Fimlab Laboratories, Tampere, Finland* ⁶*STUK – Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, Helsinki, Finland* ⁷*Tampere University Hospital, Tampere, Finland* ⁸*Finnish Cancer Registry, Institute for Statistical and Epidemiological Cancer Research, Helsinki, Finland* ⁹*Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland*

Background: Central nervous system (CNS) tumors are a leading cause of cancer-related morbidity and mortality in children. Higher incidence rates of CNS tumors have been reported in the Nordic countries than other European countries. As the etiology of CNS tumors is still largely unknown, monitoring changes in cancer incidence is critical for instigating hypothesis-based research on potential environmental risk factors and assessing the public health burden. Our aim is to characterize incidence rates and trends of pediatric CNS tumors in Finland over the last three decades.

Materials and Methods: Data on all benign and malignant incident CNS tumors diagnosed in children aged 0–14 years in 1990–2017 were extracted from the Finnish Cancer Registry and classified according to the 2016 WHO classification of CNS tumors. We included only first primary cancers. CNS lymphomas were excluded. We analyzed age-standardized incidence rates (ASR) for pediatric CNS tumors overall and by sex, age, tumor histology, grade and location using Poisson regression. In addition, we used joinpoint regression to evaluate changes in trends.

Results: Overall, 1117 pediatric CNS tumor cases were registered in Finland with a 1.2:1 male to female ratio. Tumors were most frequent in the age group 0-4 years (428 tumors). The predominant tumor location was the infratentorial area (42% of tumors), followed by the supratentorial brain (31%) and the spinal cord (6%). The average annual ASR was 4.3 per 100,000 person-years (95% CI 4.26, 4.34). The most common tumor type was pilocytic astrocytoma (30% of tumors), followed by medulloblastoma (10%) with incidence rates of 1.30 and 0.45 per 100,000 person-year, respectively. Overall, 96% of the tumors were histologically verified with benign tumors (grade I) comprising 48% of the tumors. The overall incidence of pediatric CNS tumors increased steadily by an annual percentage change (APC) of 0.8% (95% CI 0.2, 1.4). We observed no major changes

in incidence trends of tumor histology groups or tumor location groups. The ASR of benign tumors increased by an APC of 1.0 (95% CI 0.1, 2.0).

Conclusions: Utilizing the high-quality and completeness of data in the Finnish Cancer registry, we found that the incidence of pediatric CNS tumors in Finland has increased slightly but steadily from 1990 until 2017. Although variations in diagnostic and registration practices over time might have affected the rates, the trend may also reflect a true increase in incidence.

Central nervous system tumours in children in the European Cancer Information System (ECIS)

Carmen Martos, Giorgia Randi, Francesco Giusti, Luciana Neamtii, Manuela Flego, Tadeusz Dyba, Raquel N Carvalho, Nicholas Nicholson, Nadya Dimitrova, Manola Bettio

Background:

Central nervous system (CNS) tumours are the most frequent solid tumours in childhood, accounting for around 15-20% of all paediatric malignancies.

Early detection and treatment improvements have increased their survival.

Computation and dissemination of reliable indicators to monitor childhood cancer burden is the goal of the European Cancer Information System (ECIS), developed and maintained by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and based on data from registries affiliated to the European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR).

The current study focuses on childhood CNS tumours, analysing incidence indicators and reporting on data quality and variable completeness.

Materials and Methods:

Data were collected via the 2015 data call to European cancer registries (CRs), and come from both childhood-specific and general registries contributing with an incidence period of at least 5 years. Childhood CRs were prioritised when their areas overlap with those of the general CRs.

The data call protocol included demographic variables, incidence date, tumour variables, follow-up, cause of death and treatment variables.

Tumours were coded according to the International Classification for Childhood Cancer.

Internal consistency and multiple primary tumours were checked through the JRC-ENCR Quality Check Software.

Number of new diagnosis, crude incidence rates, age-standardised incidence rates (ASR) and cumulative risk are some of the indicators available in the ECIS web application, detailed by diagnostic group and subgroup, CR and incidence period (<https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php>). Moreover, the percentage (%) of tumours microscopically verified (MV) and the % of cases with unspecified morphology (UM) were calculated. The completeness of variables included in the protocol was analysed.

Results:

47265 CNS malignant and non-malignant tumours (germ cell tumours excluded) in children (age group 0-19) from 111 CRs in 32 countries were considered, accounting for 18% of all childhood tumours.

Malignant tumours represented 75% of CNS tumours, 20% of uncertain behaviour tumours and 5% of benign. The majority of the cases (99%) qualified as first tumours while 624 occurred as second primary tumours. Astrocytoma was the most frequent CNS tumour (39%).

%MV was 80% (higher than 70% in 77% of CRs). %UM accounted for 14% of tumours (lower than 15% in 52% of CRs)

ASRs presented a huge variability among CRs. ASR in the period 2010-2013 corresponded to 41 per million children (aged 0-14) in Hungary and 35 in Switzerland. ASRs in 2010-2013 corresponded to 41 and 21 per million children (aged 0-19) in Modena and Naples respectively.

Grade was missing in 84% of CNS tumours, vital status in 7% and cause of death in 61%.

Surgery variable was missing in 64% of tumours and bone marrow transplantation variable in 94%.

Conclusions:

Incidence indicators available in the ECIS web application quantify the share of CNS tumours burden in children and basis for research. Contribution in ECIS by National French, German and Romanian CRs and other regional childhood CRs is essential to achieve a registration coverage of nearly 95% in the European Union. Timeliness of ECIS indicators is of utmost importance to provide an up-to-date overview of childhood cancer burden in the EU and Europe.

Epidemiology of childhood brain tumors in France: preliminary results of a nationwide study

Luc Bauchet^{1,2,3}, Alice Rolland¹, Sam Ng^{1,2}, Sonia Zouaoui¹, Mohamed Khettab^{2,4}, Emilie Aloy¹, Amélie Darlix^{2,3,5}, Fabienne Bauchet³, Brigitte Trétarre⁶, Valérie Rigau^{2,3,7}, Thomas Roujeau¹,

With the participation of Société Française de Neurochirurgie (SFNC) and Club Neuro-Oncologie of the Société Française de Neurochirurgie (CNO-SFNC), Société Française de Neuropathologie (SFNP), and Association des Neuro-Oncologues d'Expression Française (ANOCEF).

1. Department of Neurosurgery (adult and pediatric units), CHU Montpellier, France 2. IGF, University of Montpellier, CNRS, INSERM, Montpellier, France 3. French Brain Tumor DataBase, Registre des Tumeurs de l'Hérault, ICM Montpellier, France 4. Department of Oncology, Reunion University Hospital, Saint-Pierre, Reunion Island, France 5. Department of Medical Oncology, ICM Montpellier, France 6. Department of Epidemiology, Registre des Tumeurs de l'Hérault, ICM Montpellier, France 7. Department of Neuro-Pathology, CHU Montpellier, France

Background: Primary central nervous system tumors (PCNST) among children (0-19 years) represent a heterogeneous group of pathologic entities that remain a real challenge to deal with. We present an exhaustive record of histologically-proven pediatric PCNST in France.

Materials and Methods: Patients were identified through the French Brain Tumor Database, a national database that includes, in a prospective manner, all histologically-confirmed cases of PCNST in France. Patients (0-19 years old), with histologically-confirmed PCNST diagnosed between 2006 and 2015 were included. Number of cases, incidence rates, gender distribution, type of surgery (resection/biopsy) and number of cryopreserved samples were provided for each histological subtype (included rare subtypes).

Results: 6692 cases of newly diagnosed and histologically confirmed PCNST (males/females: 3692/3000) have been recorded over ten years. Main histological results included 4864 tumors of neuroepithelial tissue (72.68%) [2830 gliomas (42.29%), 819 neuronal and mixed neuronal-glioma tumors (12.24%), 1005 embryonal tumors (15.02%), 210 others (3.14%)], 746 tumors of the

meninges (11.15%) [140 meningiomas (2.09%), 551 mesenchymal tumors (8.23%), 55 others (0.82%)], 251 tumors of cranial and paraspinal nerves (3.75%), 223 germ cell tumors (3.33%), 284 craniopharyngiomas (4.24%), and 324 all others (4.84%).

The overall crude incidence rate (CR) was 4.334 per 100,000 person-years. The CR in the 0-4 years old population was 4.418 per 100,000 person-years, 4.184 per 100,000 person-years in the 0-14 years old and 4.789 per 100,000 person-years in the 15-19 years old. Age-standardized incidence rates will be detailed in the presentation. Moreover, the specific characteristics of the 0-4 and 15-19 years groups, according to histological subtypes and sex predominance, will be also detailed. For example, anaplastic ependymomas accounted for 101/171 (59.06%) of all ependymoma cases in the 0-4 years population, and for 16/99 (16.16%) of all ependymoma cases in the 15-19 years population. Embryonal tumors accounted for 422/1715 (24.61%) of all PCNST in the 0-4 years population, and for 100/1835 (5.45%) of all PCNST in the 15-19 years population. Among mesenchymal tumors, lipomas accounted for 98 cases in the 0-4 years population, and for 10 cases in the 15-19 years population.

Discussion: Changes in histological classifications over time have led to bias in the comparison of incidence rates according to the time periods. One of the solutions to minimize this bias could be to record not only the international code but also the precise title of each tumor subtype. One of the advantages of our study is to have collected not only the international coding system, but also the precise name of each tumor subtype. Even if our study refers to the 2007 WHO classification, our results will make it possible to better compare epidemiological studies that will be made with the 2016 and/or 2021 WHO classification.

Conclusions: To the best of our knowledge, this is the biggest French report of all histologically-confirmed cases of PCNST diagnosed in children and adolescents. All histological subtypes are detailed with their frequency and distribution. This may have major epidemiological, clinical and research implications.

Spatial Clustering of Pediatric Brain Tumors in Texas, USA

Thanh T. Hoang, Omar Rosales, Elyse Burgess, Philip J. Lupo, Abiodun O. Oluyomi, Michael E. Scheurer

Background: Brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related mortality and morbidity in children and adolescents. Thus, preventing the onset of pediatric brain tumors is the best-case scenario; however, few known risk factors have been identified. Given the rarity of these tumors, geospatially mapping these cases may provide insight into socio-environmental factors that may increase risk.

Materials and Methods: The Texas Cancer Registry is one of the largest statewide, population-based cancer registries in the U.S. In Texas, 5,199 primary brain tumors were diagnosed among patients ≤ 19 years old from 1995 to 2017. Residential address at diagnosis was geocoded. Using the 2000 U.S. Census, we summed the number of pediatric brain tumors in each block group (BG) in Texas. A BG contains 600 to 3,000 people. Incidence of pediatric brain tumors was calculated using total population ≤ 19 years old in each BG. To evaluate whether incidence of pediatric brain tumors had any meaningful geographic patterns, we performed hot spot analysis in ArcGIS pro using the Getis-Ord G_i^* cluster analysis method. Getis Ord G_i^* compares the BG's neighborhood incidence to the state and identifies statistically significant spatial clusters of low (cold spots) or high (hot spots) incidence. The *contiguity edges only* option was used to conceptualize spatial relationships among the BGs that form a neighborhood.

Results: After removing BGs with ≤ 10 people below age 20 years, 14,392 BGs remained for analysis. The median incidence of pediatric brain tumors within a BG in Texas during the study period was 43.3 cases per 1,000,000. The global spatial autocorrelation test (Global Moran's I) indicated significant but moderate spatial clustering of pediatric brain tumors across the entire state ($I = 0.035$; $p < 0.001$). There was a high degree of local spatial clustering of pediatric brain tumors in Texas, with 194 BGs (1.3%) being in a hot spot cluster. Majority (88.1%) of the hot spots were located inside metropolitan areas, outside of the Texas-Mexico Border region. We plan to further refine our analysis to reduce the temporal incongruency between date of diagnosis and census data, which may improve the precision of our findings. We also plan to repeat the analyses for the three major tumor types: astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, and ependymoma.

Conclusions: In Texas, we found a non-random distribution of high incidence of pediatric brain tumors clustered by BG. It is also notable that most of the hot spots were observed in the most populous metropolitan areas. Future work may assess characteristics unique to these hot spots to identify potentially modifiable risk factors for these tumors.

Early mortality in children diagnosed with CNS-tumors in Denmark and Sweden: the role of social background in a setting with universal health care

Hanna Mogensen, Friederike Erdmann, Luzius Mader, Mats Talbäck, Thomas Tjørnelund Nielsen, Henrik Hasle, Mats Heyman, Jeanette Falck Winther, Maria Feychting, Giorgio Tettamanti*, Line Kenborg*

*These authors contributed equally to this work and share the last authorship

Background: A growing body of research has demonstrated social inequalities in survival from childhood cancer, including tumors of the central nervous system (CNS). In fact, one study found a particular pronounced association between lower parental education and poorer survival after a CNS-tumor. Survival inequalities between socioeconomic groups have been observed also in high-income countries, including the Nordic countries, where universal health care is offered.

The mechanisms behind these associations, however, remain poorly understood, but differences in adherence to treatment has been one suggested pathway. However, this pathway may be more important for cancer types for which much of the treatment is given in the child's home, as for acute lymphoid leukemia, than for cancer types primarily treated in hospitals. Moreover, there are indications that the differences in survival between children of different social backgrounds start already within the first year after diagnosis, or even within the first month as indicated by a previous study from the U.S. Social differences occurring this early in the disease course are unlikely to be related to treatment adherence but are more likely to have other explanations.

It is, however, unclear if social inequalities are already seen for early mortality in settings with universal health care. Thus, we aimed at investigating the association between parental social factors and early mortality in children diagnosed with CNS-tumors in a register-based cohort study combining data from Denmark and Sweden. Moreover, we sought to assess whether potential associations with early mortality differed from corresponding associations for later mortality.

Materials and Methods: All children diagnosed with cancer at ages 0-19 years, during 1991-2014, were identified from the Danish and Swedish national cancer registers. From national administrative registers we collected information on parental social characteristics before the child's cancer diagnosis. We estimated odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) of early mortality (i.e. death within three months after cancer diagnosis) by parental education, income, employment, cohabitation and country of birth using logistic regression models, adjusting for country, sex, age at diagnosis, and time period of diagnosis. We also estimated ORs and 95% CI of the outcome later mortality (i.e. deaths occurring one to five years after cancer diagnosis).

Results: Among the 3,383 children diagnosed with a CNS-tumor, 117 (3.5%) died within three months after cancer diagnosis. Early mortality was higher among the disadvantaged groups, with the most pronounced associations observed for lower parental education, lower paternal income, maternal unemployment and single parents. The adjusted ORs of early mortality, comparing children of parents with lower education to children of parents with higher education was 1.84 (95% CI 1.10-3.09) and 1.79 (95% CI 1.05-3.06) for mothers and fathers respectively. No similarly elevated odds were observed for these associations with later mortality.

Conclusions: This population-based study revealed inequalities in early mortality from childhood CNS tumors by social background, also in countries with universal health care. Social differences occurring early in the disease course, rather than later, might indicate differences in the timing of diagnosis.

Mortality after a brain tumor diagnosis in children with cancer-linked birth defects: a Swedish register-based study of 40 years

Christina-Evmorfia Kampitsi, Hanna Mogensen, Maria Feychting, Giorgio Tettamanti

Background: Childhood brain tumor survival has tangibly improved over the past decades owing to effective multidisciplinary treatment and care. However, how children with birth defects—one of the factors most consistently associated with childhood cancer—fare after a brain tumor diagnosis is less clear. Evaluating brain tumor outcomes and survival in these malformations could help guide clinical practice and decision-making. As such, we aimed to assess survival after a brain tumor diagnosis in children with distinct groups of cancer-linked birth defects, to determine whether they might also influence the brain tumor prognosis.

Materials and Methods: This register-based nationwide cohort was conducted in Sweden, spanning the years 1970–2015. The National Cancer Register was used to identify the child population of Sweden with a brain tumor diagnosis (n=2,370). Diagnoses of CHD (n=32), Down syndrome (n<5), and neurocutaneous syndromes (n=72) in this population were retrieved from the National Medical Birth Register, Patient Register, and Cause of Death Register, while recorded deaths were retrieved from the Cause of Death Register. The effect of the syndromes under study on 5-year survival after a brain tumor diagnosis was evaluated using Cox proportional hazards regression models.

Results: We observed an increased 5-year mortality after a brain tumor diagnosis among children with CHD (HR 1.6, 95% CI 0.9–3.0), or Down syndrome (HR 5.1, 95% CI 1.2–21.3). Neurocutaneous syndromes overall, on the other hand, were associated with a markedly decreased 5-year mortality (HR 0.3, 95% CI 0.1–0.7), which also held true for neurofibromatosis type 1 (HR 0.2, 95% CI 0.1–0.9). Among children with a neurocutaneous syndrome, brain tumors were more commonly benign (79.2% versus 63.8% in children without a neurocutaneous syndrome) and predominantly belonged to low-grade astrocytomas (67.7% versus 34.4%) and, to a lesser extent, optic nerve gliomas (9.7% versus 1.3%). Finally, fewer relapses after a brain tumor diagnosis were reported in children with a neurocutaneous syndrome (18.5% versus 31.3%).

Conclusions: Even though CHD and Down syndrome are not customarily linked to childhood brain tumors, children with these syndromes fared worse after a brain tumor diagnosis compared to their syndrome-free counterparts. Children with neurocutaneous syndromes, however, experienced favorable five-year survival, likely due to the less aggressive brain tumor types observed in the context of these syndromes. While small numbers might have rendered some of these findings amenable to chance, understanding brain tumor outcomes in children with cancer-linked syndromes is important in the wake of improved survival for these syndromes and childhood brain tumors both.

Presence of antibodies to Varicella-Zoster virus and three other herpesviruses and survival in adults with glioma

Geno Guerra, Lucie McCoy, Helen Hansen, Terri Rice, Annette M. Molinaro, John K. Wiencke, Margaret Wensch, Stephen S. Francis

Background: Both self-reported and serological measures of Varicella-Zoster virus (VZV) have been consistently inversely associated with glioma risk, but the association with survival for glioma patients has not been investigated. There is growing evidence from clinical trials that some antiviral medications may offer potential avenues to improve glioma treatment. In this study we analyzed overall survival in relation to glioma patient antibody seropositivity to 4 common viral infections, including VZV, measured post-diagnosis.

Materials and Methods: We utilized immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody seropositivity measurements to VZV, CMV, HSV, and EBV collected from 1377 patients with newly enrolled in the UCSF Adult Glioma Study (AGS) between 1991 and 2010, spanning 4 subject recruitment series. Blood was obtained a median of 3 months after the diagnostic surgery. Subject follow-up for survival is ongoing. The associations of glioma patient IgG levels with overall survival were estimated using Cox models adjusted for age, sex, self-reported ancestry, and current dexamethasone usage at time of blood draw. As the AGS is a decades-long study, results were also analyzed by recruitment series and then meta-analyzed to account for time-dependent treatment effects.

Results: These 1377 glioma patients had median survival of 2.1 years. VZV antibody seropositivity was associated with improved survival outcomes in glioma patients (Hazard ratio, HR=0.67, 95% Confidence Interval 0.52-0.86, $p=0.002$), with a grade-IV glioma specific association (HR=0.59, 0.44-0.80, $p=0.0007$). Antibody seropositivity to three other common viruses (CMV, EBV, HSV) were not associated with overall survival for glioma patients ($p=0.826$, $p=0.382$, $p=0.469$, respectively). In a meta-analysis across AGS series, VZV seropositivity remained significant (meta-HR=0.63, 0.45-0.89, $p=0.007$), while associations with seropositivity to the other viruses remained null. There was no evidence of between-series heterogeneity ($p<0.05$).

Conclusions: This is the first study, to our knowledge, to associate VZV seropositivity with survival among glioma patients. The association was exclusive to VZV, and not present for three other common viruses studied, potentially suggesting VZV-specific glioma immune interaction. Our results controlled for dexamethasone usage, a known immunosuppressor. IgG seropositivity measurements were taken post-glioma diagnosis, therefore further study is needed to determine the direction of causation, and if anti-VZV treatment, such as VZV vaccination, might be beneficial in glioma prognosis.

Breastfeeding and Risk of Childhood Brain Tumors: An International Pooled Analysis

Jeremy M. Schraw¹, Eleni Th. Petridou^{2,3}, Maria Karalexi⁴, Evangelia Ntzani⁵, Claire Infante-Rivard⁶, Jacqueline Clavel⁷, Audrey Bonaventure⁷, Eve Roman⁸, Eleanor Kane⁸, John D. Dockerty⁹, Friederike Erdmann^{10,11}, Joachim Schüz¹⁰, Beth A. Mueller^{13,14}, Michael E. Scheurer^{1,*}
*Presenting author

¹Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX USA. ²National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece. ³Hellenic Society for Social Pediatrics and Health Promotion, Greece. ⁴Brown University, Providence, RI USA. ⁵University of Ioannina School of Medicine, Ioannina, Greece. ⁶McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada. ⁷Université de Paris, INSERM UMR-1153, Villejuif, France. ⁸University of York, York, United Kingdom. ⁹University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. ¹⁰International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization (IARC/WHO), Lyon, France. ¹¹University Medical Center Mainz, Mainz, Germany. ¹²Section of Environment and Radiation, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO), Lyon, France. ¹³Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA USA. ¹⁴University of Washington, Seattle, WA U

Background: Childhood brain tumors (CBT) have overtaken leukemia as the leading cause of cancer mortality in young people. There is evidence that allergic conditions and infectious exposures are associated with CBT, but studies have reported mixed findings regarding breastfeeding, which influences the developing immune system and may protect against childhood leukemia. Our objective was to determine whether breastfeeding is associated with reduced risk of CBT.

Materials and Methods: We pooled data from ten studies in the Childhood Cancer & Leukemia International Consortium. Nine used case-control designs whereas one used a registry linkage design. Studies were performed in Canada, France, Germany, Greece, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America between 1974 and 2019. We evaluated associations between ever breastfeeding and breastfeeding ≥ 6 months with CBT collectively, and astrocytoma, medulloblastoma/primitive neuroectodermal tumor (PNET), and ependymoma specifically. We computed unconditional logistic regression models in the pooled dataset, adjusting for study, sex, mode of delivery, birthweight, age at diagnosis, and maternal age, education, and race/ethnicity, and confirmed our results by random effects meta-analysis.

Results: The present study included 2,701 cases with CBT (N=1,279 cases of astrocytoma, N=709 cases of medulloblastoma/PNET, and N=265 cases of ependymoma) and 8,268 controls. Breastfeeding prevalence was 59.4% among controls and 58.8% among cases. Neither ever breastfeeding nor breastfeeding ≥ 6 months were associated with CBT or the evaluated subtypes in pooled or meta-analyses.

Conclusions: In this large international pooled analysis, we found no evidence that breastfeeding was associated with reduced risk of CBT collectively or with astrocytoma, medulloblastoma/PNET, or ependymoma specifically. Although breastfeeding should be encouraged as the optimal means of providing nutrition to neonates, additional research will be necessary to identify modifiable risk factors for CBT and facilitate prevention efforts.

Trends in Primary Brain Tumors by Malignant and Non-Malignant Status from National Program of Cancer Registries, 2004-2017

Jacob L. Edelson¹, Gino Cioffi^{1,2}, Kristin A. Waite^{1,2}, Carol Kruchko², Quinn T. Ostrom^{2,3,4,5}, Jill S. Barnholtz-Sloan^{1,2,6}

¹Trans Divisional Research Program, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA. ²Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States, Hinsdale, IL, USA Department of Neurosurgery, ³Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC, USA; ⁴The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC, USA; ⁵Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA, ⁶Center for Biomedical Informatics & Information Technology National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA

Background: Despite advances in cancer diagnosis and clinical care, survival rates for many primary brain and other central nervous system (CNS) histologies remain poor. This study performs a comprehensive update to date survival analysis on primary brain and CNS tumors.

Materials and Methods: Survival differences by time-period of diagnosis were determined using the National Program of Cancer Registries Survival Analytic file for primary brain and CNS tumors overall, and by the 5 most common histologies within age groups (for diagnosis years 2004-2017. Survival was compared for time periods: 2004-2007, 2008-2012 and 2013-2017. Kaplan-Meier and age-stratified multivariable Cox proportional hazards models were constructed to evaluate survival differences. Models were adjusted for sex, race/ethnicity, extent of surgery and radiation. Malignant and non-malignant tumors were assessed separately

Results: Aside from Hemangioma in ages 40+ years, no notable changes in survival were observed across time periods for non-malignant tumors. Significant survival improvements were observed for younger patients (0-14 years) with embryonal tumors and ependymal tumors. Significant improvements in survival were also observed in ages 15-39 years for anaplastic astrocytoma and for patients >40 years diagnosed with an anaplastic astrocytoma or glioblastoma. Patients >40 years diagnosed in 2013-2017 with a primary malignant CNS tumor had a significant survival improvement compared to those diagnosed in 2004-2007. When compared to 2004-2007, there were improvements in survival in 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 in all age groups.

Conclusions: Overall survival for malignant brain and other CNS tumors in 2013-2017 improved slightly compared to earlier years for all age groups. Survival trends are essential to identify population-level effects of diagnostic and treatment improvements.

Survival Experience and Prevalence of Central Nervous System (CNS) Tumour by Sex in Canada -- a report from The Brain Tumour Registry of Canada Surveillance Research Collaboration Group

Yan Yuan¹, JiaQi Liu¹, Emily Walker¹, Faith Davis¹

¹School of Public Health, University of Alberta

Background: Established in 2016, the Brain Tumour Registry of Canada Surveillance Research Collaboration aims to address the gap in knowledge on CNS tumours within the Canadian setting. Using recent death-linked Canadian Cancer Registry (CCR) data, we present detailed survival and prevalence information for all primary CNS tumours (excluding Quebec).

Material and methods: Patients diagnosed with primary CNS tumours during 2010-2017 were included. Vital status was obtained through linkage by Statistics Canada to the Canadian Vital Statistics Death Database and the T1 personal income tax returns file with a cut-off date of December 31, 2017. For prevalence, January 1, 2018 was used as the index date with the last CNS tumour diagnosis of a patient contributing towards prevalence estimates. For net survival, the Pohar-Perme method of estimation through the period approach was used including the first CNS tumour diagnosis in a patient under 100 years of age. International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (3rd edition) site/histology codes were grouped into 25 histological categories, irrespective of tumour behaviour, according to the schema developed by the United States Central Brain Tumour Registry.

Results: Overall, 37575 persons were living with a CNS tumour in Canada on Jan 1, 2018 with 7360 having malignant diagnoses (4170 males and 3190 females) and 30215 having a nonmalignant diagnoses (12185 males and 18385 females). Female prevalent counts outnumbered males in malignant meningioma (70 vs. 55) and four non-malignant histology types including meningioma (8610 vs. 3635), tumours of cranial and spinal nerves (2030 vs. 1960), mesenchymal tumours (80 vs. 70) and the “unclassified tumours or not classified by CBTRUS” group (3615 vs. 2480). No sex difference in rare histology types is observed when the histology specific prevalence counts were lower than 100.

The survival experience of CNS tumours are in general similar between sexes when stratified by behaviour for most histology groups. The median survival for males and females respectively are 8.3 and 7.8 months for glioblastoma, 14.2 and 11.4 months for malignant glioma NOS, and more than 8 years for all but one non-malignant histology group. Females have better 5-year net survival rates than males among patients with malignant meningioma (0.60, 95%CI 0.49-0.69 vs. 0.44, 95%CI 0.32-0.55), non-malignant meningioma (0.87, 95%CI 0.86-0.88 vs. 0.81 95%CI 0.79-0.84), non-malignant ependymal tumours (0.97, 95%CI 0.85-0.99 vs. 0.89 95%CI 0.79-0.95), and non-malignant unclassified tumours (0.66, 95%CI 0.63-0.69 vs. 0.59, 95%CI 0.55-0.62). In contrast, males have better 5-year net survival rates than females among patients with pilocytic astrocytoma (0.92, 95%CI 0.83-0.96 vs. 0.85, 95%CI 0.72-0.92), non-malignant neuronal and mixed neuronal-glial tumours (0.92, 95%CI 0.85-0.96 vs. 0.85, 95%CI 0.76-0.91).

Conclusion: We report the most comprehensive and up-to-date data on primary CNS tumour survival experience among Canadians. An estimated 37575 individuals are living with a CNS tumour diagnosed within last 8 years complementing previous estimates that an average of 5941 new cases are diagnosed each year. The overall 5-year net survival rate varies widely by tumour subtype.

Facility volume and survival among individuals diagnosed with malignant central nervous system tumors

Kimberly J. Johnson, MPH, PhD, Arash Delavar, MPH, Caitlin O'Connell, Justin M. Barnes, MS, Xiaoyan Wang, MD, PhD

Background: Prior research has indicated that the volume of central nervous system (CNS) tumor patients seen by a facility is associated with patient outcomes. However, most prior studies have only examined short-term survival. In the current study, we examined whether facility CNS tumor patient volume is associated with survival overall and by CNS tumor subtype.

Materials and Methods: We obtained data from the National Cancer Database (NCDB) including all individuals diagnosed with CNS tumors from 2004 to 2016. All analyses were stratified by age group (0-14, 15-39, 40-64, and ≥ 65). We used Kaplan-Meier curves, Cox Proportional Hazards (PH) regression, and restricted mean survival time (RMST) analyses to examine associations between survival and facility volume quartile (Q) by age group. Models were adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, zip-code level income and education, insurance, sex, and CNS tumor subtype. We used robust standard errors to account for the clustering of patients within facilities.

Results: A total of 130,830 malignant first primary CNS tumor cases (0 to 14: n=9719, 15 to 39: n=20,324, 40 to 64: n=55,306, ≥ 65 : n=45,481) were included in analyses. There was a consistently reduced hazard rate of death for individuals reported by Q4 vs. Q1 facilities in each age group ($HR_{0-14}=0.82$ 95% CI 0.68-0.98, $HR_{15-39}=0.88$ 95% CI 0.79-0.98, $HR_{40-64}=0.82$ 95% CI 0.76-0.88, $HR_{\geq 65}=0.79$, 95% CI 0.74-0.86). Similarly, there was a consistently longer survival times within 5 years for Q4 vs. Q1 facilities ($RMST_{0-14}=1.87$ months, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.75-2.99; $RMST_{15-39}=1.05$, 95% CI 0.29-1.81; $RMST_{40-64}=3.17$, 95% CI 2.72-3.62; $HR_{\geq 65}=2.97$, 95% CI 2.56-3.38). Associations were modified by cancer type (likelihood ratio test $p<0.01$) for all age groups with significant inverse associations between the hazard rate of death and facility CNS tumor patient volume for other glioma (all age groups), glioblastoma and anaplastic astrocytoma (40-64 and ≥ 65), and astrocytoma not otherwise specified (40-64 and ≥ 65).

Conclusions: These results suggest facility-level factors influence CNS tumor survival with longer patient survival for those reported by higher volume facilities. Identifying these factors will be critical to designing strategies that eliminate disparities in CNS tumor survival by facility volume.

Midline versus Hemispheric Pediatric High-Grade Gliomas; first-line treatment and survival characteristics in the Netherlands during the period 2003-2017 - a population-based study

Raoull Hoogendijk¹, Jasper van der Lugt¹, Joshua Baugh¹, Pieter Wesseling^{1,2}, Mariëtte Kranendonk¹, Leontien Kremer^{1,3}, Eelco Hoving^{1,4}, Dannis van Vuurden¹, Henrike Karim-Kos^{1,5}

¹ Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology, Utrecht, The Netherlands ² Department of Pathology, Amsterdam University Medical Centers/VUmc, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ³ Department of Pediatrics, Emma Children's Hospital/ Amsterdam University Medical Centers/AMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands ⁴ Department of Neurosurgery, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands ⁵ Department of Research and Development, Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organization (IKNL), Utrecht, The Netherlands

Background: Pediatric high-grade gliomas (pHGG) are among the most devastating childhood cancers. Due to their limited treatment options and tumor biology, pHGG located in the midline are considered to have worse survival outcomes compared to hemispheric pHGG. In this study we investigated differences in, and factors associated with, survival for midline and hemispheric pHGG.

Materials and Methods: Detailed population-based clinical data were gathered by trained registrars for all children (<18 years) diagnosed with a pHGG (including radiologically diagnosed brainstem tumors) in the Netherlands for the period 2003-2017. Tumors were grouped into midline and hemispheric tumors based on the clinical data and pathology reports. Differences in clinical characteristics were tested by Chi-squared, Fisher exact or Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test. Median survival time was determined by Kaplan-Meier method. Survival differences and associations were tested with Cox Proportional-Hazards Models.

Results: In total, 272 pHGG patients (midline n=217, 80%, hemispheric n=55, 20%) were diagnosed during 2003-2017. Midline and hemispheric pHGG differed significantly in sex (midline: females 53% versus hemispheric: females 35%, p=0.02) and age (midline: median 7 years versus hemispheric: median 11 years, p<0.001). Significant differences were found for first-line neurosurgical intervention (41% of midline versus 98% of hemispheric pHGG patients, p<0.001) and systemic therapy (32% of midline versus 71% of hemispheric pHGG patients p<0.001). Notably, 20% of midline patients received temozolomide compared to 62% of hemispheric pHGG patients (p<0.001). No significant difference was found for first-line radiotherapy. However, total cumulative dose and number of fractions differed significantly between midline (median 45 Gy and 17 fractions) and hemispheric pHGG (median 59.4 Gy and 30 fractions, both p<0.001), reflecting hypofractionation regimens in midline pHGG in the Netherlands. Median survival for midline pHGG (9 months) differed significantly from hemispheric pHGG (14 months, p=0.01).

When interrogating midline pHGG, median survival for females (8.8 months) was worse compared to males (9.7 months, p=0.045). Females had significant longer symptom duration (42 days) before their first contact with an oncologist compared to males (37 days, p<0.001). In addition, first-line dexamethasone use was higher in females (70%) than in males (55%, p=0.035). The risk of dying was significantly higher among females compared to males (HR1.33 (95%CI 1.01-1.77)). This significance disappeared after adjustment for symptom duration, neurosurgery, radiotherapy, systemic therapy and dexamethasone, and only dexamethasone remained significantly associated (HR 1.68 (95%CI 1.2-2.35)) with poorer survival, while radiotherapy showed a borderline significance for better survival (HR 0.68 (95%CI 0.46-1)).

Conclusions: Midline pHGG had significantly lower survival outcome compared to hemispheric pHGG. Female midline pHGG patients had even a poorer survival outcome than their male counterparts. It is unclear why survival for both midline and hemispheric pHGG in this retrospective population-based study is substantially inferior to international published data. Underlying reasons may be found in differences in treatment characteristics, data type (hospital/trial-based versus population-based data) or incompleteness of non-microscopically verified cases. Gender survival differences for midline pHGG disappeared when adjusting for first-line treatment, and only dexamethasone remained significantly associated with survival. If the use of dexamethasone is related to a more severe disease presentation at diagnosis is subject to further research.

Pooled Analysis of Meningioma Risk Following Treatment for Childhood Cancer

Diana R Withrow PhD¹, Harald Anderson PhD², Gregory T Armstrong MD³, Michael Hawkins DPhil⁴, Neige Journy PhD⁵, Joseph P Neglia MD⁶, Florent de Vathaire PhD⁵, Margaret A Tucker MD⁷, Peter D Inskip ScD⁷, Alina V Brenner PhD⁸, Marilyn A Stovall PhD⁹, Ibrahima Diallo PhD⁵, Amy Berrington de Gonzalez DPhil⁷, Lene HS Veiga PhD⁷

¹Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, Medical Sciences Division, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, ²Representing the Nordic Countries Childhood Survival Group, Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Lund University, Lund, Sweden, ³Department of Epidemiology and Cancer Control, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, USA, ⁴Centre for Childhood Cancer Survivor Studies, Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham, The Robert Aitken Institute for Clinical Research Building, Birmingham, UK, ⁵Inserm U1018, Centre for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health, Laboratory of Radiation Epidemiology & Cancer Survivorship Research, Paris-Saclay / Paris-Sud University, Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, Villejuif, France, ⁶Department of Pediatrics, Medical School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA, ⁷Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA, ⁸Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Hiroshima, Japan, ⁹The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA

Background: Childhood cancer survivors who received cranial radiotherapy are at high risk of developing subsequent meningiomas; however, the magnitude of the radiation-related risk, possible effects of chemotherapy, and modifiers of the dose-response relationships are not well characterized.

Materials and Methods: We conducted a pooled analysis of four matched case-control studies from Europe and North America with estimates of radiation dose in gray (Gy) to the subsequent tumor location in cases and comparable locations in controls. The pooled odds ratios (ORs), excess odds ratios (EORs) and associated 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated using multivariable conditional logistic regression.

Results: The pooled data included 273 meningioma cases and 738 controls after a median follow-up of 22 years. Odds of meningioma increased with increasing radiation dose (EOR/Gy=1.44, 95% Confidence Interval [CI]:0.62-3.61) and there was no evidence of departure from linearity ($p>0.50$). Participants who received exposures of 24 Gy or more had more than 30-fold higher odds of meningioma compared to unexposed childhood cancer survivors (OR=33.7, 95% CI: 14.1-80.3). The radiation dose-response association showed lower risk among patients treated after age 10 years than before age 10 (EOR/Gy=0.57, 95% CI: 0.18-1.91 vs 2.20, 95% CI: 0.87-6.31, $p=0.03$), but there was no clear trend in the radiation dose-response by age at treatment among patients under age 10 (p -trend=0.41). A non-significantly lower EOR/Gy was observed for survivors of CNS tumors and leukemia than among survivors of other first cancers ($p=0.15$) and results remained unchanged with age at exposure also included in the model as effect modifier ($p=0.23$). There was no evidence for a difference in the EOR/Gy with sex ($p=0.34$), calendar year of follow-up (p -trend=0.46), attained age (p -trend=0.50). There was a non-significant increase in the EOR/Gy with time since exposure ($p=0.11$) and radiation-related risk remained significantly elevated 30 years after exposure (EOR/Gy=3.76, 95% CI: 0.77-29.15). After controlling for radiation dose and type of first cancer (CNS, leukemia and other), we found an increased risk of meningioma after any methotrexate (OR=3.43, 95% CI:1.56-7.57), but no evidence of a dose-response relationship or interaction with radiation dose ($p>0.11$).

Conclusions: This pooled study shows that the meninges are highly sensitive to radiation, with notably higher risks for children irradiated before age 10. Radiation-related risks remain elevated for decades following exposures underscoring the need for long-term follow-up of childhood cancer survivors who received cranial irradiation.

Novel specific susceptibility loci identified for pediatric and adult ependymoma in first histology-specific genome-wide association study

Maral Adel Fahmideh, Spiridon Tsavachidis, Jinyoung Byun, Stephen C. Mack, Xiao Xiangjun, Terri S. Armstrong, Mark R. Gilbert, NCI-Connect, Lisa Mirabello, Smita Bhatia, Wendy M. Leisenring, Lindsay M. Morton, Gregory T. Armstrong, Jon Foss-Skiftesvik, Christian Munch Hagen, iPSYCH Consortium, Jonas Bybjerg-Grauholm, Manel Ghozal, Audrey Bonaventure, Jacqueline Clavel, Melissa L. Bondy (on behalf of GICC), Christopher I. Amos, Michael E. Scheurer

Background: Despite extensive research, a small proportion of the variants contributing to the genetic architecture of brain tumors have been reported. The published genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have been largely performed on pooled histological subtypes of glioma and most of these studies have been conducted primarily for adult tumors. Therefore, we aimed to perform the first GWAS specifically for ependymoma to identify the genetic variants associated with the risk of these tumors and to investigate the similarities/differences between the genetic architectures of adult and pediatric ependymomas.

Materials and Methods: Germline SNP-array data of ependymoma cases were obtained from eight studies or biobanks across the United States and Europe. Controls were randomly selected with the ratio of 10:1 from two of those studies and a separate publicly available database. Additionally, germline whole genome sequencing data on cases and controls from St Jude Cloud were utilized. In total, 397 pediatric cases and 228 adult cases and 4321 controls were included. The same quality control procedures were applied to all studies. Data were imputed based on the Haplotype Reference Consortium (r1.1) using EAGLE (v2.4). The association between genetic variants and ependymoma risk was investigated using logistic regression as well as GMMAT, which is a mixed model and uses random effects to account for population structure and relatedness. The results were adjusted for sex, ancestry, and principal components. Meta-analyses were performed based on GMMAT and logistic regression. PAINTOR was used to identify the plausible causal variants, and eQTL and gene enrichment analyses were performed.

Results: We identified eight independent significant SNPs which were specifically associated with pediatric ependymoma risk, of which six SNPs were plausible causal. The significant variants were located on 6p21.32 (*HLA-DQA*), 6p21.33 (*BX927178/CR759828*), 7p21.3 (*UMAD1*), 11p12 (*LRRC4C*), 11q24.2 (*KRT18P59*), and 21q11.2 (*LOC112268283/FEMIAP1*). The 17 identified independent significant SNPs associated with risk of adult ependymoma were located on 2q33.1 (*ALS2CR12*), 4p16.1 (*SORCS2*), 6p11.2, 6p21.33 (*XXbac-BPG248L24.13*), 7q31.32, 8p23.1 (*LOC157273*), 8q24.3 (*PLEC*), 10p13 (*PTER*), 11q23.3 (*GRIK4*), 19q13.11 (*CEP89*), and 22q11.1 (*XKR3*), of which ten variants were plausible causal. One intronic variant associated with susceptibility of both pediatric and adult ependymomas was detected; rs68160486 (*CCDC85A*, 2p16.1 $P_{\text{Pediatric}}=3.41 \times 10^{-8}$, $P_{\text{Adult}}=1.75 \times 10^{-9}$).

Conclusions: The genetic architectures of adult and pediatric ependymomas appear to largely differ from one another. We identified novel variants for these tumors that have not been previously reported for GWAS of combined glioma subtypes. This analysis highlights the need to conduct additional GWAS of more refined glioma subtypes, perhaps even utilizing newer data on molecularly defined subtypes that are emerging in updated pathological classification schemes.

Functional consequence of low grade glioma risk SNP in modified HEK293T cells.

Adam Rosenbaum, Anna M Dahlin, Ulrika Andersson, Benny Björkblom, Wendy Yi-Ying Wu, Håkan Hedman, Carl Wibom, Beatrice Melin

Background:

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have contributed to our understanding of glioma susceptibility. To date, 25 risk loci for development of any of the glioma subtypes are known. However, GWAS studies reveal little about the molecular processes that lead to increased risk, this is especially the case for non-coding single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP). A particular SNP, *rs11706832*, residing in the second intron of *LRIG1*, has been shown to increase the susceptibility for *IDH1* mutated low grade gliomas (LGG). Leucine-rich repeats and immunoglobulin-like domains protein 1 (LRIG1) has been shown to be important in cancer development, acting as a negative regulator of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), however the mechanism of this particular risk SNP, and its potential effect on *LRIG1*, is not known.

Materials and Methods:

Using CRISPR-CAS9, *rs11706832* was edited in HEK293T cells. Four HEK293T clones with the risk allele were compared to four clones with the non-risk allele, with regards to gene expression of *LRIG1* using RT-qPCR, global gene expression with RNA-seq, and the abundance of a small set of metabolites using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

Results:

The experiment did not reveal any effect of the SNP on the expression levels of *LRIG1*. The neighboring gene *SLC25A26* show a low, non-significant, over expression for the risk allele. Global gene expression analysis revealed an upregulation of several mitochondrial genes, and by applying a gene enrichment analysis of 74 differentially expressed genes, a significant enrichment of type I interferon response genes was seen, where many genes in this program was downregulated in cells carrying the risk allele C. Using gene count data of *IDH1* mutated LGGs from the cancer genome atlas (TCGA), a similar under expression of type I interferon genes was associated with the risk allele

Conclusions:

The SNP does not show to affect expression or alternative splicing in *LRIG1*, but a weak non-significant overexpression for *SLC25A26*. Cell lines with risk SNP show an under expression of type I interferon response program, which is also seen in TCGA.

Long-term medical and functional outcomes of ependymoma survivors: a population-based, matched cohort study

Hallie Coltin^{1,2}, Priscila Pequeno³, Ning Liu³, Derek S. Tsang^{1,4}, Michael D. Taylor^{2,5}, Eric Bouffet¹, Paul C. Nathan^{1,3*}, Vijay Ramaswamy^{1,2*}

1) Division of Haematology/Oncology, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada 2) Programme in Developmental and Stem Cell Biology, Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada 3) ICES, Toronto, Ontario, Canada 4) Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada 5) Division of Neurosurgery, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

*Co-senior authors

Background:

Ependymoma is the third most common pediatric central nervous system tumour. Treatment approaches are intensive and may include surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. There are no longitudinal population-based cohort studies evaluating the long-term medical and functional outcomes of survivors of childhood ependymoma.

Materials and Methods:

Using a provincial pediatric cancer registry, all five-year ependymoma survivors diagnosed between 1987-2015 in Ontario, Canada were identified and matched to cancer-free population controls based on age, sex, and geographical location. Cases were followed from the index date (5 years from latest of diagnosis, or relapse/subsequent malignancy prior to age 18 years) until December 31, 2020 or censorship (death, or relapse/ new cancer after age 18 years). Clinical data were linked to administrative health databases to estimate the cumulative incidences and cause-specific hazard ratios (HR) of mortality, hospitalizations, strokes, hearing loss requiring a hearing aid, receipt of homecare services, and subsequent malignant neoplasms (SMNs) between cohorts, accounting for matching and competing risks.

Results:

Of 166 ependymoma diagnoses in the study period, 70 (42.2%) were excluded, most commonly due to early death prior to the index date. Ninety-six cases [61.5% female; median diagnostic age: 7 years, interquartile range (IQR) 2-11; median attained age: 22 years, IQR 15-30] were matched to 480 controls. Twenty-five cases (26.1%) received craniospinal irradiation. The 10-year survival probability after the index date was 92.8% in cases and 99.6% in controls (HR 9.3, 95% CI 2.3-45.2, $p=0.002$). Compared to controls, cases were at higher risk of hospitalization (HR 3.2, 95% CI 2.2-4.6, $p<0.0001$), stroke (HR 33.3, 95% CI 5.7-629.1, $p<0.0001$), and receiving homecare services (HR 4.1, 95% CI 2.5-6.5, $p<0.0001$). Cases were at high risk of hospitalizations, strokes, hearing loss, and SMNs, with cumulative incidences of 64.7% (95% CI 46.6-78.0), 9.7% (95% CI 3.4-19.9), 13.5% (95% CI 5.3-25.5), and 12.8% (95% CI 4.7-24.9) at 20-years post index date, respectively.

Conclusions:

As survival of pediatric ependymoma improves, establishing the burden of late morbidity is critical. Dedicated screening programs for late sensory and neurovascular sequelae are warranted, as are interventions during and following treatment to mitigate the risk of developing such complications.

Localized variation in ancestral admixture identifies pilocytic astrocytoma risk loci among Latino children

Shaobo Li, Charleston W.K. Chiang, Swe Swe Myint, Katti Arroyo, Tsz Fung Chan, Libby Morimoto, Catherine Metayer, Adam J. de Smith, Kyle M. Walsh, Joseph L. Wiemels

Background:

Pilocytic astrocytoma (PA) is the most common pediatric brain tumor. PA has at least a 50% higher incidence in populations of European ancestry compared to other ancestral groups, which may be due in part to genetic differences.

Materials and Methods:

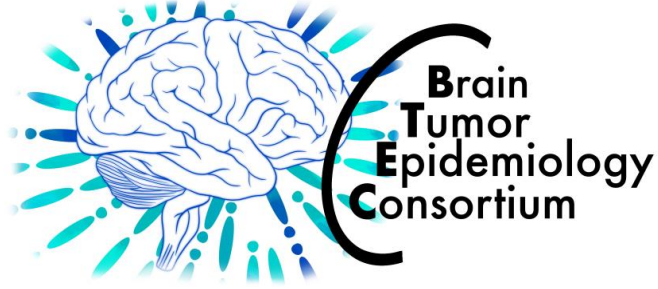
We first compared the global proportions of European, African, and Amerindian ancestries in 301 PA cases and 1185 controls of self-identified Latino ethnicity from the California Biobank. We then conducted admixture mapping analysis to assess PA risk with local ancestry.

Results:

We found PA cases had a significantly higher proportion of global European ancestry than controls (case median = 0.55, control median = 0.51, P value = 3.5×10^{-3}). Admixture mapping identified 13 SNPs in the 6q14.3 region (*SNX14*) contributing to risk, as well as three other peaks approaching significance on chromosomes 7, 10 and 13. Downstream fine mapping in these regions revealed several SNPs potentially contributing to childhood PA risk.

Conclusions:

There is a significant difference in genomic ancestry associated with Latino PA risk and several genomic loci potentially mediating this risk.



BTEC 2022 Annual Conference

**Pediatric Brain Tumors
Origins, Epidemiology, and Classification**

**Childhood Brain Tumors:
Epidemiology and Clinical Research**

Attendees Listing

Jad Abuhamed

Tampere University
Kalevantie 4,
33100 Tampere,
Finland

jad.abuhamed@uni.fi

Manushak Avagyan

International Agency for Research on Cancer
180 Cours Albert Thomas
69008 Lyon
France

avagyanm@iarc.fr

Luc Bauchet

CHU Gui de Chauliac
80, avenue Augustin Fliche
34000 Montpellier
France

l-bauchet@chu-montpellier.fr

Nickhill Bhakta

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
262 Danny Thomas Place
Memphis, TN 38105-3678
USA

Nickhill.Bhakta@stjude.org

Elizabeth Claus

Yale University
60 College St. LEPH 205
New Haven, CT 06520
USA

elizabeth.claus@yale.edu

Hallie Coltin

Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
57 Aspinwall Ave.
Brookline, MA 02446
USA

hallie.coltin@sickkids.ca

Anna Dahlin

Umeå University
Building 6M, 3rd floor
Umeå 90187
Sweden

anna.dahlin@umu.se

Maria del Carmen Martos Jimenez

Moffitt Cancer Center
12902 Magnolia Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
USA

Carmen.MARTOS@ec.europa.eu

Eric Durbin

University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center
2365 Harrodsburg Rd, Ste A230
Lexington, KY 40504
USA

ericd@kcr.uky.edu

Jacob Edelson

NIH-NCI
9609 Medical Center Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
USA

jacob.edelson@nih.gov

Maral Adel Fahmideh

Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza
Jewish Building, MS: 307, Room 606D
Houston, TX 77030
USA

maral.adel@bcm.edu

Paul Graham Fisher

Stanford University
750 Welch Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
USA

pfisher@stanford.edu

Jon Foss Skiftesvik

Stanford University
750 Welch Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
USA

jon.foss-skiftesvik@regionh.dk

Stephen B. Francis

UCSF
1450 3rd St, HD442
San Francisco, CA 94158
USA

stephen.francis@ucsf.edu

Fabio Girardi

London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
London, WC1E 7HT
UK

Fabio.Girardi@lshtm.ac.uk

Geno Guerra

University of California San Francisco
1450 Third St
San Francisco, CA 94158
USA

Geno.Guerra@ucsf.edu

Johannes A. Hainfellner

Medical University of Vienna
Waehringer Guertel 18-20 # AKH 4J
Vienna 1097
Austria
Johannes.Hainfellner@muw.ac.at

Zdenko Herceg

International Agency for Research on Cancer
180 Cours Albert Thomas
69008 Lyon
France
HercegZ@iarc.fr

Thanh Hoang

Baylor College of Medicine
6620 Main St. Suite 1100D
Houston, TX 77030
USA
thanh.hoang@bcm.edu

Raoull Hoogendijk

Princess Maxima Center for Pediatric Oncology
Heidelberglaan 25
Utrecht 3584CS
The Netherlands
r.hoogendijk@prinsesmaximacentrum.nl

Amie Hwang

Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California
1845 N. Soto St. MC 9238
Soto Building I, Suite 305G.
Los Angeles, CA 90089
USA
amiehwan@usc.edu

Kimberly J. Johnson

Washington University in St. Louis
One Brookings Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63119
kijohnson@wustl.edu

Linda Kachuri

Stanford University School of Medicine
300 Pasteur Drive
Alway Building, Room 105A
Stanford, CA 94305
USA
lkachuri@stanford.edu

Christina-Evmorfia Kampitsi

Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm 17177
Sweden
christina.evmorfia.kampitsi@ki.se

Carol Kruchko

Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States (CBTRUS)
244 East Ogden Ave., Suite 116
Hinsdale, IL 60521
USA
ckcbtrus@aol.com

Martha Linet

National Cancer Institute
9609 Medical Center Drive
SG-7E536
Bethesda, MD 20892-9778
USA
linetm@mail.nih.gov

Victor Lu

University of Miami
Miller School of Medicine
1095 NW 14th Terrace
Miami, FL 33136
USA
mrvictorlu@gmail.com

Philip Lupo

Baylor College of Medicine
MS: BCM622
Houston, TX 77030
USA
philip.lupo@bcm.edu

Sylvia Marino

Queen Mary University of London
4 Newark Street
London E1 2AT
UK
s.marino@qmul.ac.uk

Christian Mirian Larsen

Copenhagen University Hospital
Blegdamsvej 9
Copenhagen 2100
Denmark
christian.mirian.larsen@gmail.com

Hanna Mogensen

Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm 17177
Sweden
hanna.mogensen@ki.se

Daniel Moreira

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
262 Danny Thomas Pl, MS 721
Memphis, TN 38105
USA
daniel.moreira@stjude.org

Quinn Ostrom

Duke University School of Medicine
571 Research Drive, MSRB-1, Rm 442
Durham, NC 27710
USA
gostrom@gmail.com

Sonia Partap

Stanford University
750 Welch Rd - Suite 317
Palo Alto, CA 94304
USA
spartap@stanford.edu

Miguel Quaedvlieg

Princess Maxima Center for Pediatric Oncology
Heidelberglaan 25
Utrecht 3584CS
The Netherlands
miguelquaedvlieg@gmail.com

Terri Rice

University of California, San Francisco
505 Parnassus Avenue, Room M551
San Francisco, CA 94143
USA
terri.rice@ucsf.edu

Kathy Riley

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
6065 Roswell Road NE, Suite 505
Atlanta, GA 30328
USA
kriley@curethekids.org

Adam Rosenbaum

Umea University
6065 Roswell Road NE, Suite 505
Atlanta, GA 30328
USA
adam.rosenbaum@umu.se

Michael Scheurer

Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza MS-BCM622
Houston, TX 77030
USA
scheurer@bcm.edu

Joachim Schuzj

International Agency for Research on Cancer
50 Cours Albert Thomas
69372 Lyon
France
schuzj@iarc.fr

Judith Schwartzbaum

Ohio State University
1841 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
USA
ja.schwartzbaum@gmail.com

Eva Steliarova-Foucher

International Agency for Research on Cancer
50 Cours Albert Thomas
69372 Lyon
France
spitztoledodiasn@iarc.fr

Tarik Tihan

University of California, San Francisco
505 Parnassus Avenue, Room M551
San Francisco, CA 94143
USA
Tarik.Tihan@ucsf.edu

Claudia Tissera

Instituto de Neurocirugia
553 Jose Manuel Infante. Providencia
Santiago 7701007
Chile
cctissera@gmail.com

John Villano

University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center
800 Rose St, CC401
Lexington, KY 40536
USA
jlvillano@uky.edu

Lindsay Williams

University of Minnesota
420 Delaware Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55129
USA
almqu046@umn.edu

Diana Withrow

University of Oxford
The Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road
Oxford, Oxfordshire OX2 6GG
UK
diana.withrow@phc.ox.ac.uk

Margaret Wrensch

University of California, San Francisco
1450 3rd St, HD287
San Francisco, CA 94143
USA
mwrensch@yahoo.com

Yan Yuan

University of Alberta
11405 87 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6G 1C9
Canada
yyuan@ualberta.ca

