



Ian's Friends Foundation

July 2022 Newsletter

2022 Awards & Highlights

IFF is so excited to announce that in the last few months, projects seed funded by YOU have garnished recognition and National Institute of Health (NIH) grants. One of the projects seed funded by IFF at Johns Hopkins All Children's Foundation has received a R01 NIH grant for over \$2 million. R01 NIH grants are highly sought after. Only 10% of R01 grant applications are funded and it takes a great deal of advance work to receive one. Ranjan J. Perera, Ph.D., and George Jallo, M.D., at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital have partnered there to research the difficulty of distinguishing between two forms of medulloblastoma, one of the most common types of brain tumors in children, according to the American Cancer Society. Perera and his team discovered a cancer-forming novel RNA molecule that could be used as a therapeutic target to treat medulloblastoma in children. They are now ready to embark on the next research phase seeking ways to destroy this molecule in the brain. It is the first Research Project grant — known as an R01 — Johns Hopkins All Children's has received to study pediatric cancer research...all because of YOU!

Emory University provost and biomedical scientist Ravi Bellamkonda has received the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director's Transformative Research Award for his work using electrical fields to treat a particularly aggressive pediatric cancer. Bellamkonda's five-year grant supports a project to use low-voltage electrical fields to induce cancer cells to migrate out of the tissues they have invaded: a strategy he calls a "tumor tractor beam." The concept was fully supported by IFF. The team includes Tobey MacDonald from Emory Pediatrics and Nassir Mokarram from Emory Neurosurgery, Warren Grill from Duke Biomedical Engineering, and Johnathan Lyon. We are honored to be a part of this most important project.

IFF Gala

Save the date for the 15th Annual Evening of Inspiration, Saturday November 12, 2022 at the Intercontinental Buckhead. We will honor our most special friend, **Ian Yagoda** this year. Please consider sponsoring this amazing event by visiting our website.



WhatIFF Symposium

We are excited to announce that the WhatIFF Symposium is returning to Atlanta, September 9th & 10th, 2022. WhatIFF brings together the best and brightest doctors and researchers in the field to discuss and share their ideas in a "shark-tank style event." We will keep you updated on the details as the WhatIFF date gets closer.

IFF Open

We were thrilled by the turnout and support of the Inaugural IFF Open Pickleball Tournament that was held on April 24, 2022. We had a wonderful afternoon of community, pickleball and raising awareness. We again thank all who participated and supported this great event. We look forward to seeing you all next year on the court!

