

2025

State of Sarcoma

PRESENTED BY



SAT. 9/20/2025
9 AM - 10:30 AM
JW MARRIOTT
WASHINGTON D.C.

Summer



TJ



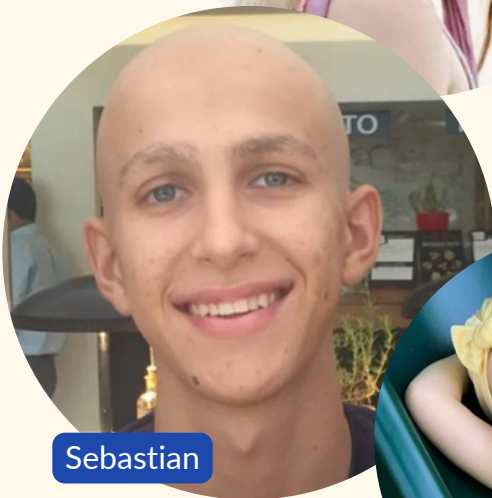
Maddie



Justin



Sebastian



Millie



Welcome to the State of Sarcoma

We invite you into an important conversation about sarcoma research and the challenges facing children and families both now and in the years ahead.

This event is about more than science. It is about connection. Together, families, survivors, advocates, and leading researchers are working toward positive change and meaningful progress in the fight against sarcoma.

Many of the organizations represented here were founded in honor of children whose lives were cut short by this disease. Many of the families and individuals in attendance may have a similar story or are walking through treatment today. And we are grateful to also stand alongside survivors, the true goal of all our work, who represent the hope for better outcomes for every child.

The State of Sarcoma is a place where stories and science meet, where loss turns into action, and where collaboration fuels discovery.

Thank you for joining us in this shared mission.

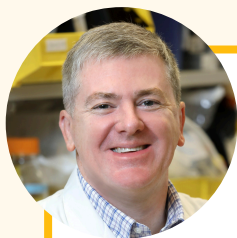
SPEAKERS



Dr. Giselle Saulnier Sholler, MD

Division Chief of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Penn State Health Children's Hospital
Director of Pediatric Oncology Research, Penn State College of Medicine

Dr. Sholler is a board-certified pediatric hematologist-oncologist leading pediatric oncology and research at Penn State. She founded and chairs the Beat Childhood Cancer Research Consortium, uniting over 55 hospitals in a global network of childhood cancer clinical trials. Her laboratory's preclinical work has catalyzed more than 20 clinical trials, focusing on cancer stem cells and targeted therapies. In December 2023, her 20-year effort contributed to the FDA approval of DFMO; a promising maintenance therapy for reducing relapse in neuroblastoma patients.



Dr. Jack F. Shern, MD

Lasker Clinical Research Scholar & Tenure-Track Investigator Head, Tumor Evolution and Genomics Section, Pediatric Oncology Branch, NCI

Dr. Shern is a pediatric oncologist-scientist at the National Cancer Institute's Pediatric Oncology Branch. He earned his MD at the Medical College of Georgia (2007), followed by pediatric training at University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. At NCI, he heads the Tumor Evolution and Genomics Section, where he leads precision-medicine research—including single-cell sequencing—to define and target genetic drivers of relapse and refractory disease in children's cancers

SPEAKERS



Dr. Elizabeth A. Stewart, MD

Associate Member, Solid Tumor Division,
Department of Oncology, St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital

Dr. Stewart is a pediatric hematologist-oncologist at St. Jude who balances clinic care of children with solid tumors and leading-edge research into tumor recurrence. Her lab uses advanced preclinical modeling—especially patient-derived xenografts—to understand the aggressive biology of recurrent pediatric solid tumors and uncover vulnerabilities for new therapies. Her work is deeply personal; inspired by the memory of a childhood friend, she vows “we’re not going to stop until every single one of them gets a chance for a cure.”



Dr. Javed Khan, MD

Deputy Branch Chief & Senior Investigator,
Genetics Branch, NCI Head, Oncogenomics
Section

Dr. Khan, trained at the University of Cambridge in immunology, parasitology, and medicine (including MRCP), leads the Genetics Branch's Oncogenomics Section at the National Cancer Institute. Since joining NCI in 2001, he has pioneered artificial neural network-based diagnostic models and built international collaborations applying next-generation sequencing to pediatric cancer genomes. He is passionate about translating this large-scale genomic knowledge into better outcomes for children, advocating for comprehensive data collection and sharing.



FOUNDING MEMBERS



Oscar Ortiz



Sharon Hammond



Ann McCoy



Nick Mracek



Robyn Spoon



Tom Arcati
Kevin DeHond

Alan Ehrlich

BrandiLee Sawyer

ABOUT

The Rhabdo Coalition is a network of nonprofits, advocates, and families working together to advance research and improve outcomes for children with rhabdomyosarcoma, an aggressive childhood cancer.

With lived experience at the heart of our mission, we push for better treatments and brighter futures.

RhabdoCoalition.org

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