Our Mission

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation is a volunteer and donor powered charity committed to supporting the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives.
About Us

What started as a challenge between three friends in 2000 has grown into the world’s largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants.

Since then, volunteers have held more than 15,100 events and more than 560,000 shaves have taken place to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer.

Childhood Cancer Treatments Require Childhood Cancer Research

How Big Is The Problem?

- Every 2 minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer worldwide.
- Before they turn 20, about 1 in 264 children in the U.S. will have cancer.
- Childhood cancer is the #1 disease killer of children in the U.S.
- Even when kids get cancers that adults get — like lymphoma — they must be treated differently. Children are not simply smaller adults!
- In the U.S., 1 in 5 kids with cancer won’t survive, and for those who do the battle still isn’t over.
- By age 50, 99% of survivors have had a chronic health problem, and 96% have experienced a severe or life-threatening conditions. With research, we can give kids being treated today a better outcome.
How We Fundraise

Fundraising

Donations raised through St. Baldrick’s support the development of childhood cancer treatments to cure every child.

Head-Shaving Events

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation coordinates signature head-shaving events worldwide, giving volunteers the opportunity to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer and to raise money to support the best childhood cancer research, wherever it takes place.

TO DATE:

591,840+ Shaved Heads

85,000+ Woman Shavees

15,100+ Events Worldwide

In 2021, more than 8,200 supporters, including nearly 200 female shavees, shaved their heads at more than 440 events.

Do What You Want

If going bald isn’t your thing, you can Do What You Want to raise funds. Let your creativity flow!

Find out how you can get involved at StBaldricks.org/get-involved
Research

To date, St. Baldrick's has committed more than $322 million to lifesaving research, making it the largest non-government funder of childhood cancer research grants.

Research Focus Areas

Grant Types

**Research Grant**
Funding for one-year research projects that look to find new and better cures for childhood cancers.

**Cooperative Research Grant**
A multi-million dollar grant to the Children’s Oncology Group, distributed to 200+ institutions for clinical trials, funding virtually every institution qualified to treat children with cancer.

**Consortium Research Grant**
Funding given to groups of researchers at multiple institutions who are collaborating on projects with great promise.

**St. Baldrick’s – Stand Up To Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team**
A multi-million dollar grant focused on curing the most hard-to-treat childhood cancers by bringing together the fields of genomics and immunotherapeutics.

**St. Baldrick’s Summer Fellow**
Funding for medical school or college students to work in a pediatric-oncology research lab for one summer, possibly encouraging them to choose childhood cancer research as a specialty.

**St. Baldrick’s Fellow**
Two to three years of funding to provide new doctors with training in childhood cancer research.

**St. Baldrick’s Scholar**
Three or more years of funding given to early career professionals who are pursuing exciting research and without funding might not be able to continue.

**Supportive Care Research Grant**
Funding for research to improve the management of patients’ symptoms during treatment, to improve family coping skills and compliance with therapy, to help with the many issues that survivors face, and more.

**International Beneficiary**
Funding shared with a childhood cancer beneficiary outside the U.S., from monies raised by St. Baldrick’s events held in their country.

**International Scholar**
Awards to train researchers from low- and middle- income countries to prepare them to answer specific research questions related to childhood cancer in their home country.

**Infrastructure Grant**
Funding to help institutions treat more children on clinical trials or for resources to make more research possible.

**St. Baldrick’s Foundation Robert J. Arceci Innovation Award**
In memory of the renowned Dr. Robert J. Arceci, this award offers $250,000 a year for three years for unrestricted research by early-to mid-career pediatric oncologists. Researchers may not apply, they must be nominated in recognition of their innovative work. Each year the award goes to one recipient from the U.S. or Canada, the other international.

Learn more about St. Baldrick’s funding at [StBaldricks.org/grants](http://StBaldricks.org/grants).
Funding Impact

The research we fund has the potential to impact every kid diagnosed with cancer. When you give to St. Baldrick’s, you don’t just give to one institution – you give to more than 380 institutions that are treating kids with cancer across the U.S. and beyond.

Here are some examples of the impact from St. Baldrick’s funding:

Research Highlights

St. Baldrick’s — SU2C Dream Team Combines Immunotherapy and Genomics

In a multi-million dollar project supported by the St. Baldrick’s Foundation in partnership with Stand Up To Cancer, Dream Team researchers from nine institutions across North America are working together to find new ways to use genomics (the study of genes and their functions) to create new immunotherapies to target cancer cells.

Achievements include:

- More than 1,113 patients have been treated on SBF-SU2C Dream Team clinical trials, offering cutting-edge treatments and giving hope to children for whom no other successful treatment was available.

- In 2017, the Dream Team was a major driving force of getting the first gene therapy FDA approved for cancer in the U.S., specifically for a type of pediatric leukemia. Building on this groundbreaking step, it is now focusing on immunotherapies for both blood cancers and solid tumors. Already there are examples of prolonging life in children who had no other hope.

- The team has since opened several clinical trials for pediatric solid tumors, with positive results in immunotherapy treatments for pediatric sarcomas and glioblastomas. They have also demonstrated durable complete remissions in some patients with osteosarcoma and rhabdomyosarcoma, and have initiated novel trials for a variety of pediatric solid tumors with several others in development.

- Dr. Crystal Mackall, co-leader of the Dream Team, led a study published in Nature in April 2020, showing new advances to train immune cells in pediatric patients to target deadly brain tumors. This showed that administering these cancer fighting immune cells into the cerebrospinal fluid was most effective and may offer prolonged protection against cancer relapse.

Protecting Kids’ Hearts While Fighting Their Cancer

Two St. Baldrick’s researchers, Dr. Greg Aune and Dr. Eric Chow, are studying how traditional cancer treatments impact kids’ hearts. Dr. Aune has developed promising pre-clinical results that will support future clinical trials using different chemotherapies with similar ability to kill cancer cells, while being less toxic to the heart and cardiovascular system. Dr. Chow is investigating a potentially beneficial drug, dexrazoxane, by following childhood cancer survivors who received chemotherapy either alone or in conjunction with dexrazoxane while on clinical trials in the 1990s.

Genetic Sequencing and Pediatric Tumors

Surprising early findings from the NCI-COG Pediatric MATCH precision medicine clinical trial for pediatric cancer patients, led by St. Baldrick’s Innovation Award recipient Dr. Will Parsons: Genetic sequencing of the tumors of children whose cancer does not respond to treatment led to about a quarter of these patients being matched with therapies to target their specific genetic alteration, more than double the predicted 10% match. It is exciting to see so many patients are benefitting from the trial.

Making Cancer History

Immunotherapy

Using the immune system to kill only cancer cells does less long-term damage to young bodies.
Research Highlights (cont.)

**Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Differences in Pediatric Genetic Mutations in Children**

Dr. Alex Kentsis, a recipient of the prestigious St. Baldrick’s Robert J. Arceci Innovation Award, and his colleagues explored the genetic landscape of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and showed that the mutations behind the disease in children are different from those that trigger the same disease in adults. This helps to explain why AML is so difficult to treat in children and suggests new approaches for more accurate diagnosis and better therapies.

**Reducing Treatment While Keeping Survival Rate High**

Reducing therapy for subsets of intermediate-risk neuroblastoma patients can be achieved without reducing excellent survival rates, we know as a result of a Children’s Oncology Group (COG) clinical trial, for which St. Baldrick’s is the primary non-government supporter. The study was led by Dr. Sue Cohn, currently chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for St. Baldrick’s, and Dr. John Maris, co-leader of the SBF-SU2C Dream Team. This study used a biology-and response-based algorithm to determine treatment for a subset of intermediate-risk patients and maintained a three-year overall survival rate of more than 95%. More effective treatment strategies are still needed for infants with unfavorable biology stage four disease.

**New Imaging Techniques to Help Kids With Brain Tumors**

St. Baldrick’s Scholar Dr. Peter de Blank and his colleagues are the first to explore the benefits of magnetic resonance fingerprinting (MRF) for children and young adults. Measurements from MRF were able to distinguish tumor tissue from healthy tissue and tell the difference between high- and low-grade (more and less aggressive) tumors. If larger studies confirm these results, MRF may be particularly useful in pediatric brain tumors, helping diagnose tumors rapidly and reducing the need for sedation in some children.
Advocacy

Collaboration is essential in bringing about change for kids with cancer. Our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill are most effective when we are unified as one voice with our coalition partners in our quest to make childhood cancer a higher national priority.

Through our work, including community partners, accomplishments include:

- Full funding for the Childhood Cancer STAR Act for FY 2019 - FY 2021 – the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill in history.

- The creation and full funding of the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative, a new program at the National Cancer Institute to enhance data collection for childhood cancers and incentivize the cancer research community to develop new treatments for children with cancer.

- Empowering St. Baldrick’s advocates through education, training, and advocacy events to speak up for kids with cancer and grow our legion of congressional childhood cancer champions.

St Baldrick’s advocates have been nominated and placed on committees at NCI, FDA and other key committees that ensure the voice of kids with cancer are at the table.

Learn more about Advocacy at: StBaldricks.org/advocacy
Other Ways to Get Involved

Donate, volunteer, involve your business, give a matching gift, make a tribute or memorial gift, create a Hero Fund or spread the word!

Media Contact

Interested in speaking with a St. Baldrick's Foundation representative?

Reach out to our media team, Media@stbaldricks.org,