



JOIN US TO CONQUER KIDS' CANCERS

St. Baldrick's Foundation and the American Cancer Society Partnership

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the American Cancer Society partnering with the St. Baldrick's Foundation?

A: The American Cancer Society (ACS) currently funds more than \$25 million in multi-year research projects related to childhood cancer. But the organization wants to do more. The Cancer Moonshot initiative from the National Cancer Institute as well as the Biden Initiative led by Joe and Dr. Jill Biden have emphasized the importance of collaboration; responding with a sense of urgency to bring a comprehensive approach to fighting cancer. It is in that spirit that the ACS and St. Baldrick's began this partnership. Together, we can achieve more with cooperation and partnership than we can by individually working alone.

Q: Why has the St. Baldrick's Foundation decided to partner with ACS?

A: St. Baldrick's sees enormous potential in amplifying its impact through strategic partnerships, like this one with ACS. Through this partnership, St. Baldrick's will be able to reach a broader audience through a shared vision to fund research with the greatest potential to quickly deliver new and improved treatments for kids with cancer. By joining forces with St. Baldrick's, a leader in the childhood cancer space, ACS can tap into St. Baldrick's knowledge, credibility, and experience in funding the best childhood cancer research. Like with all partnerships, St. Baldrick's has fully vetted this partnership and believes it will be beneficial to both organizations and will help fund a critical area of research that needs support. St. Baldrick's believes that collaboration amongst researchers, institutions, government and organizations is key to accelerating research and finding better treatments for childhood cancers. In this partnership, both organizations will have equal say and control over fundraising and money allocation and efforts will not interfere or overlap with other St. Baldrick's fundraising programs.

Q: Have the two organizations partnered before?

A: This is the first time St. Baldrick's and ACS have partnered to fund research but have collaborated in the past on building efficient peer review processes, grants administration, and other matters in the childhood cancer space. ACS' advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), has worked with St. Baldrick's through the Alliance for Childhood Cancer on a number of important public policy issues addressing childhood cancer, including a landscape report on childhood cancer research and the passage of the RACE for Children Act and the STAR Act, both of which advance pediatric cancer research.

Q. Will the money I raise through a St. Baldrick's head-shaving event, DWYW or Hero Fund, support this initiative?

A: No, this will be new money raised through new programs under the St. Baldrick's and ACS official partnership. Any fundraising program, partnership or donor who currently gifts to St. Baldrick's will continue to have their donations directed solely to St. Baldrick's funded research.

Q: How has ACS supported childhood cancer research in the past?

A: In addition to services ACS offers all cancer patients, like their 24-hour helpline and extensive online information, the American Cancer Society is committed to fighting childhood cancer with sustained research and advocacy efforts. Currently (as of December 2018), the ACS supports 49 active, multi-year research grants, totaling more than \$25 million, that are relevant to childhood cancer. For more information on the childhood cancer research at the American Cancer Society visit <https://www.cancer.org/research/currently-funded-cancer-research/childhood-cancer-research-highlights>. In addition, its advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), is a powerful voice in Washington D.C. and in statehouses and city halls across the country, advocating for policies that advance the childhood cancer research agenda and seek to improve children's access to quality cancer care, including strong support for the STAR Act. Learn more at <https://www.fightcancer.org/childhoodcancer>.

**Q: When will the St Baldrick's and American Cancer Society initiative begin?
What is the fundraising goal?**

A: In early February 2019, the St. Baldrick's Foundation and the American Cancer Society (ACS) will announce their partnership to raise \$11 million dollars to support and expedite funding for childhood cancer research.

Q: What type of research will this partnership support?

A: What ACS and St. Baldrick's are doing together is unlike any grant opportunity currently available to childhood cancer researchers. The new pool of grant money will allow researchers to pursue innovative new studies with the greatest potential to translate to patient application, in the context of existing clinical trials.

More than half of childhood cancer patients in the U.S. are treated on a clinical trial – and even those who are not benefit from past clinical trials. Each of these trials is created to learn the answers to specific questions, with the goal of increasing the number of children who survive or decreasing late effects. Very rarely is there enough funding to do anything outside of the trial's primary purpose, even though additional information gathered could help deliver new and improved treatments for kids with cancer. This new St. Baldrick's/ACS fund will provide the necessary financial support for these other studies that show promise for significant advances that are associated with clinical trials – arming researchers with more information to save more lives.

Q: Through this initiative, can you explain how much of my donated money will go to actual research in childhood cancer?

A: This initiative will assure that 85% of the funds raised will go to the research projects focused on child cancer. The 15% administrative portion will be split between the two organizations and used to defray organizational costs to assure the health of the organizations. This can include the costs associated with proposal review, management of the ensuing grants, and management and fundraising.

Q: Will any percentage of my donation go toward funding adult cancer research?

A: No, all money raised through this initiative will support childhood cancer research.

Q: How will you decide who receives grants and who will make that final decision?

A: The grants will be selected through a scientific review process, co-chaired by the Chair of the St. Baldrick's Scientific Advisory Committee and the Chair of the ACS Council for Extramural Research. Just as both organizations currently practice, a panel of research peer experts in childhood cancer will be assembled to review the submitted proposals. These will come from a pool acceptable to both St. Baldrick's and ACS.

Q: What is the criteria to receive grants?

A: Final details will be worked out in the Request For Applications (RFA) that will be co-developed by St. Baldrick's and ACS once the minimum value of \$4.4 million has been reached. But the following concepts will be used. Each applicant must submit an application and fulfill the criteria below:

- Focus on creative and innovative studies that are judged to have the greatest potential to bring novel advances to childhood cancer patients.
- Must be tied to an approved active, or soon-to-be funded, clinical trial.
- Studies will be primarily reviewed for the innovation and creativity they bring to the childhood cancer problem, and their potential for patient impact.

Note, a request for applications will not be shared until \$4.4 million has been raised.

Q: Will grant research be worldwide, or specific to the U.S.?

A: Applications will be accepted from researchers in the U.S. Since many clinical trials involve institutions in other countries, it is possible that the research funded will involve researchers from other countries, as well.

Q: How can I lend my support?

A: Get involved, donate or spread the word. To learn more about this initiative please visit www.stbaldricks.org/acs or www.cancer.org/stbaldricks.

Q: Where can I learn more about the initiative between St. Baldrick's and the American Cancer Society?

A: St. Baldrick's staff can email questions to Anja Kloch, Chief External Relations Officer, at Anja.Kloch@stbaldricks.org. ACS staff can send specific questions about the American Cancer Society's research program to research.integration@cancer.org. To learn more about this initiative please visit www.stbaldricks.org/acs or www.cancer.org/stbaldricks.