



SARCOMA SPOTLIGHT

JULY 2021

Sarcoma Awareness Month

The month of July, Sarcoma Awareness Month, is a time to raise awareness about the disease and the needs of the sarcoma community. It is a month to join together to honor patients and survivors, remember the loved ones we have lost, and advocate for more and better treatment options.

Progress is being made but more needs to be done. There are multiple ways you can get involved to raise awareness and increase outreach in support of sarcoma patients and survivors. We hope that you will join in these critical efforts.

SFA will be debuting a new sarcoma video co-produced with University of Maryland. The PSA features medical professionals and sarcoma patients discussing the basics of sarcoma. It will be shown on multiple platforms.

We will also share information on our social media channels using the hashtag #sarcomaawarenessmonth. Be sure to follow us on social media to share the information with your networks.

The Race to Cure Sarcoma (RTCS) National Virtual event will be held on July 24. Simply choose a park, gym or favorite treadmill and walk/run 5K or one mile to support sarcoma research. Sign up here: <https://p2p.onecause.com/nationalvirtual>

Join SFA and members of the sarcoma community for a dedicated sarcoma advocacy day on July 21. SFA and others will communicate with their Representative's offices on Capitol Hill to share information about the needs of the sarcoma community. To sign up: <https://www.curesarcoma.org/get-involved/be-an-informed-advocate/become-a-sarcoma-advocate/>

Share information about sarcoma through your social network and tag SFA @curesarcoma and use the hashtags #curesarcoma #sarcomaawarenessmonth #sarcoma. SFA and others can share your posts.

The most important thing we can do this month is join together to raise awareness about sarcoma and ensure patient's voices are represented. It takes all of us, together, to create change. Sarcoma Awareness Month is a great time to act.

Research Round Up

SARCOMA RESEARCH PRESENTED AT ASCO

SFA staff joined the 2021 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting held in June to learn about the latest in cancer research. The first day of the meeting included a sarcoma focused session. Many of the presentations were given by SFA funded researchers. Highlights of four studies discussed during the presentations are below.

The first study discussed was the SPEARHEAD-1 trial, which is a phase II trial of afami-cel in patients with advanced synovial sarcoma or myxoid/round cell liposarcoma. Afami-cel is a specific peptide enhanced affinity receptor (SPEAR) T-cell therapy that is engineered to target MAGE-A4 peptide expressed on tumor cells. Patients had to be HLA-A*02 positive and their tumors had to express an adequate amount of MAGE-A4 antigen. In this preliminary analysis, the overall response rate (ORR) was 39.4% with a disease control rate of 84.8%. Broken down by tumor type the ORR for patients with synovial sarcoma was 41.4% (n = 12) and 25.0% (n = 1) for patients with MRCLS. Additional ongoing analyses looks for ways to identify in which patients this treatment will be effective. This is promising research for synovial sarcoma patients who express these markers. This clinical trial is ongoing. You can learn more here: <https://www.adaptimmune.com/clinical-trials>

Information about a phase II study of two drugs called olaparib (an inhibitor of DNA repair) and temozolomide (which binds DNA preventing cell growth and division) in advanced uterine leiomyosarcoma was also presented. The study is based on the recognition that uterine leiomyosarcoma is associated with a relatively high incidence of DNA repair deficiency. The study was looking to determine the proportion of patients with tumor size reduction within six months. The treatment would be considered promising if at least five patients had at least a partial response to the treatment, meaning that the tumor burden decreased in those five patients. The study did meet its primary endpoint with five of the 24 patients responding to treatment within the first six months of treatment. Another 41% of patients had stable disease where the tumors did not grow, but they did not shrink either. The median progression free survival was 6.9 months. This is promising research for patients whose tumors are determined to have a deficiency in DNA repair. Here is the NCT link: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03880019>

A third study presented was the continued analysis of the SEAL study, which is a phase II/III randomized study of patients with advanced differentiated liposarcoma, in looking for a biomarker that may identify patients most likely to have significant response when treated with selinexor. Selinexor is a selective inhibitor of a protein that exports other proteins out of the cell nucleus. The study met its primary endpoint of an increased progression-free survival (PFS), but the improvement, while statistically significant, was fairly modest. PFS for patients treated with selinexor was 2.8 months versus 2.0 months in placebo. There were a small number of patients who had prolonged response the analysis of which is what was presented at this meeting. This analysis found that, the gene CALB1, or Calbindin, was significantly differentially expressed, with higher expression in patients with resistant tumors. Calbindin-negative tumors were associated with a median progression free survival in those patients, of 6.9 months. Calbindin-expressing tumors were associated with a median PFS of 1.68 months. This trial provides promising results for liposarcoma patients whose tumors do not express the Calbindin protein.

Lastly a phase III study of catequentinib (originally known as AL3818 and also known internationally as anlotinib) compared to dacarbazine in patients with metastatic or advanced synovial sarcoma was discussed. Catequentinib is an inhibitor targeting VEGF receptors, FGF receptors, cKIT, and PDGFR-beta. In a study conducted in China, catequentinib was shown to have activity and was associated with a significant PFS benefit compared to placebo in treatment of synovial sarcoma (SS), alveolar soft part sarcoma (ASPS), leiomyosarcoma (LMS) and other metastatic soft tissue sarcoma subtypes. This study did meet its primary endpoint, with catequentinib having a modest significantly longer median progression-free survival than dacarbazine. Pazopanib is a different inhibitor of the same proteins and is approved in the US for treatment of advanced non-adipocytic soft tissue sarcomas after treatment with anthracyclines. However, it is unknown if any of these inhibitors are better than the other because there have not been studies comparing these drugs. Unfortunately, there also is no reliable established biomarker to identify patients most likely to benefit from these drugs. More information: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02606461>

SFA News

Join the Sarcoma Foundation of America for a night to honor the sarcoma community!

The Sarcoma Foundation of America's signature fundraiser, Stand Up to Sarcoma, will take place on Tuesday, September 29 in-person and virtually.

Stand Up to Sarcoma is the flagship event for SFA, featuring extraordinary honorees, tributes to sarcoma cancer survivors and advocates, and recognizing important advances in science and research. The event takes place from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM in

person at the Edison Ballroom in Manhattan. This event will also be streamed live to virtual participants. We sincerely hope you will join SFA in recognizing the honorees, sarcoma patients and survivors, and share in an evening of warmth and celebration.

The 2021 Honorees include:

Nobility in Science Award

Eugenie Kleinerman, MD
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Vision of Hope Award

Epizyme, Inc.

Courage Awards

Team Langbein, Race to Cure Sarcoma Chicago
Trent Williams, Offensive Tackle for the San Francisco 49ers

Stand Up to Sarcoma, now in its 19th year, is a night of celebration and community as we gather attendees from coast to coast, and internationally, to join together in solidarity to support sarcoma patients and survivors. Funds raised from the Stand Up to Sarcoma gala will be used to support research and education

To learn more about the event or to purchase a ticket or become a sponsor, please visit curesarcoma.org/nycelebration.

National Virtual Race to Cure Sarcoma event on July 24!

Join the sarcoma community for the National Virtual Race to Cure Sarcoma to **raise awareness and research dollars**.

Last year, thousands of people participated and hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised in support of sarcoma research. Join us again this year to raise awareness about the needs of the sarcoma community and funds to support much needed research.

You can run, walk, bike, or roll in your neighborhood, at a local park, or on your treadmill on **July 24**. Wear your National Virtual RTCS t-shirt and bib and share on social media using the hashtag **#RTCSNationalVirtual**.



Registered participants will receive the official 2021 Race to Cure Sarcoma medal. Start your collection now!

We will host a live virtual program on event day and will be awarding top team fundraisers and individual fundraisers, most team participation, best social media presence!

Visit [National Virtual Race to Cure Sarcoma](https://nationalvirtualrtcs@curesarcoma.org) to register and set up your participant page. You can post pictures and personalize your page with your story and why you are supporting sarcoma research and patients. To make an even bigger impact, encourage friends and family to join you by starting your own team!

Follow the [National Virtual Race to Cure Sarcoma Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nationalvirtualrtcs) page for updated information.

Contact us at nationalvirtualrtcs@curesarcoma.org.

Upcoming Events



ALL OF OUR EVENTS HAVE AN IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTION

Milwaukee - July 10	Philadelphia - September 26
National Virtual - July 24	San Diego - October 2
San Francisco - August 1	St. Louis - October 10
Louisville - August 14	Chicago - October 16
Denver - August 28	Richmond - October 23
Baltimore - September 4	Cleveland - October 30
Kansas City - September 18	Tampa - November 6
New Jersey - September 19	Los Angeles - November 7
	Nashville - November 20

www.curesarcoma.org/race

To learn more or to register for any of our events please visit www.curesarcoma.org/race.

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