Grateful and Thankful

By: Brandi Felser, CEO

Giving thanks and being grateful—that’s what this time is dedicated to each year. It is a time we gather together with loved ones to celebrate and remember the things for which we are thankful. It is also a time we enjoy overeating and wear elastic waisted pants to compensate for the sudden growth of our midsection! Though, there are some missing from my table, and maybe yours too.

I lost both of my parents to cancer. My mother’s journey taught me a lot about what I did not know and it motivated me to help others who may find themselves in the same situation. When my father’s journey arrived, we were better prepared. But can one ever really be prepared? Every journey is different, every experience is different, every cancer is different. I think of them often, especially during this time. But I remain thankful for all the blessings in my life, despite noticing the empty spaces at my table.

I’m especially thankful for my family, those present and those gone before me, for infusing a spirit of gratitude for every gift of love and time shared with people I care about in my life. I am also thankful for SFA. The legacy, the 21 years of work to better the lives of people affected by sarcoma, the commitment to finding a cure, and all our staff, who make our work to end sarcoma a true team effort.

I am grateful for the sarcoma community that inspires me every day to work harder, push further, and remind me why I joined SFA two years ago. I am grateful to work in honor of the loved ones not with me, to share my passion to ensure no one else has to experience what my family experienced, and to find a cure for sarcoma. Every day, I work on your behalf, thinking of your journey, and making certain the work of SFA is making a difference. I am grateful that I am able to do this.

Thank you to the many supporters who support SFA’s mission. We are so thankful for your support, your commitment to SFA, and for joining us on our journey to better the lives of people affected by sarcoma. We could not progress without you.

Although this time of year can be bittersweet, this Thanksgiving, I hope you have lots to be thankful for and are surrounded by your loved ones.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Research Round Up

2022 Grant Cycle

The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) is now accepting research grant proposals for pre-clinical, translational, and clinical research on the etiology, molecular biology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of human sarcomas. For each grant awarded, funding of up to $50,000 in total cost is available to cover equipment, supplies and other expenses in support of research within the period of performance.

This grant opportunity is in support of our overall mission to fund research and increase awareness and advocacy for sarcoma patients and their families. The goal of the SFA grant program is to encourage research that results in improved therapeutic options for sarcoma patients.

The SFA encourages applications in all areas of sarcoma research, however the following areas of research are of particular interest: Immunotherapy; Omic characterization of sarcomas and definition of novel targets; Omic patterns of sensitivity and resistance to existing agents; Systemic therapy combinations; Gene therapy.

The application deadline is February 1, 2022 at 5:00pm ET

For details and guidelines, please visit our website.

Advocacy In Action

Get Involved with SFA!

Sarcoma Advocacy Leadership Committee

Because sarcoma is a rare cancer with many subtypes, it can be difficult to bring the collective voices of the sarcoma community together with one voice for advocacy. Although rare means there are less voices, it does not mean that collectively our voice is not powerful. It does not mean that we do not have the ability as a community to bring about increased awareness, more and better treatment options, and a cure for sarcoma.

Sarcoma is included with other rare diseases and SFA participates with several rare disease advocacy coalitions, which is important to leverage our voice. But we also need to focus on advocacy priorities that specifically impact people affected by sarcoma.

That’s why, SFA is convening the Sarcoma Advocacy Leadership Committee to assist SFA in identifying and evaluating legislation and policy issues that affect the sarcoma community. The Committee will help SFA prioritize public policy issues and concerns; identify those that SFA should focus its attention and resources; develop action plans for addressing these issues; expand the sarcoma community and public awareness of the needs of the sarcoma community and public policy priorities.

The SALC represents the needs and interests of the sarcoma community on issues that impact sarcoma patients and survivors. The Committee also works with the sarcoma action network to advocate for public policies that enhance the ability to end sarcoma and provide a better quality of life for people living with sarcoma particularly by adding funding resources to the effort.

Learn more or sign up to be a part of the sarcoma advocacy network and the Sarcoma Advocacy Leadership Committee.
What better way to celebrate the holiday season than by giving the gift of hope.

Celebrate the giving season by making a holiday donation in the honor or memory of a loved one, friend, or colleague.

When you participate in SFA’s Holiday Giving Card donation program, those who receive your best wishes will know your support and commitment to helping SFA continue to fund lifesaving research, educate patients about the latest science, grow much needed awareness, and provide hope to people affected by sarcoma.

Know that your charitable gift will go to help advocate for sarcoma patients by funding research and by increasing awareness about the disease.

https://www.curesarcoma.org/holiday-gift/

#GivingTuesday

Please join the Sarcoma Foundation of America on Tuesday, November 30th, for #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity.

SFA has set a goal of $55,000 to fund a 2022 research grant. Last year, thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to award a grant in honor of everyone who donated to our 2020 #GivingTuesday campaigns.

Endoglin CAR T cells for Immunotherapy of Ewing Sarcoma
Sujith Kurian Joseph, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine

Can we count on you to help us fund a grant in 2022?
We are so excited to kick off planning for the 2022 Race to Cure Sarcoma events. Thank you for your continued support during these past two challenging years. We are hopeful that 2022 brings a return to in-person events! We miss seeing everyone.

We are working on confirming dates and locations for all of our races across the country. We’ll be updating the website soon and will continue to update as we confirm more dates and venues. In the meantime, save these dates.

**WE NEED YOU!**

As this year’s race season comes to a close, we’d like to thank the many, many volunteers that have served on the event planning committees and volunteered on race day. We could not do it without you!

We are looking to expand our volunteer base for 2022 and we want you! We’re looking for both event committee and race day volunteers.

Race to Cure Sarcoma events raise funds to support sarcoma research nationally and in local communities where some races are held. Volunteers help us maximize these dollars by connecting us to local resources and sponsors, identifying race venues and helping us plan and execute the races.

Ready to join us? Complete the volunteer interest form and someone from SFA will be in touch.

For more information on any of the Race to Cure Sarcoma events or to register for any of our events please visit [www.curesarcoma.org/race](http://www.curesarcoma.org/race).

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**
Our Contact Information
Sarcoma Foundation of America
9899 Main Street Suite 204
Damascus, MD 20872
301-253-8687
http://www.curesarcoma.org