
A Funding Collaborative Takes on Brain Tumors

There are more than 120 known types of brain tumors, some more prevalent and deadlier than others. An estimated 700,000 Americans are living with a brain tumor and approximately 70 percent of those with a malignant tumor will not survive as a result of their diagnosis. For the most common form of primary malignant brain tumors—glioblastoma multiforme, which afflicted John McCain—the five-year relative survival rate is only 5.6 percent. Brain and other nervous system cancer is the 10th-leading cause of death for women.

The Brain Tumor Funders' Collaborative (BTFC) is a partnership of six organizations—the American Brain Tumor Association, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, James S. McDonnell Foundation, Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, Sontag Foundation and an organization wishing to remain anonymous—that have pooled their resources to become more strategic by focusing their research support on specific therapeutic goals. The collaborative approach provides a level of support that would normally be beyond the scope of any individual funding organization. To that end, the BTFC announced \$3 million in grants to fund four projects that will examine vaccination strategies, the tumor's microenvironment, anti-tumor T-cells and personalized immunotherapy approaches.