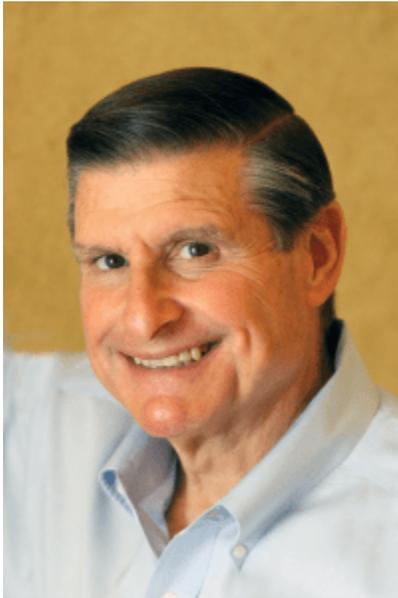


2021 Joel A. Gingras, Jr. Award Recipient



American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) leadership is pleased to announce Rick Sontag as the 2021 Joel A. Gingras, Jr. Award recipient. Since 2011, the ABTA has awarded the Joel A. Gingras Jr. Award, our highest honor, to recognize an individual, organization or group that has made significant contributions to the Association's mission through philanthropy, advocacy, discovery, or patient care.

In 1994, Rick's wife, Susan Sontag, was diagnosed with and began treatment for a Grade 3 Astrocytoma, the most common form of glioma. In the time that followed, the family experienced firsthand the frustration of dealing with a disease that was not well understood by either the medical community or the general public. That year a dream was born: to do something about brain cancer. Susan is a survivor and in March of 2002, Rick and Susan established The Sontag Foundation.

Today, The Sontag Foundation is one of the largest private funders of brain cancer research in the United States. The foundation has awarded 51 grants to researchers at 34 institutions through its annual Distinguished Scientist Award. Since 2002, the Foundation has funded over \$40 million in grants for brain cancer research.

In late 2014, Rick Sontag and The Sontag Foundation launched The Brain Tumor Network, Inc. (BTN), a nonprofit organization with the mission to aid adult patients with primary brain tumors who seek personalized information about treatment options-even beyond standard of care.

The Sontag Foundation has had a long partnership with ABTA. In 2001 and 2002, the foundation donated a total of \$180,000 to ABTA's research program. In 2003, the ABTA partnered with the Sontag Foundation and James S McDonnell Foundation, as well as other brain tumor organizations, to form the Brain Tumor Funders Collaborative (BTFC). We continue to work collaboratively with The Sontag Foundation through the BTFC to jointly fund brain tumor research projects that are larger than we would be able to fund individually. More recently, we have partnered with the Brain Tumor Network to jointly refer patients to each other's services. We refer patients to BTN who are in need of high touch navigation or clinical trials, and in turn, BTN refers patients to the ABTA who are looking for educational information, resources and support around brain tumors. Also, in 2020, the Sontag Foundation was our National Conference presenting sponsor for the first time ever and we are very grateful for their support.

Since its founding in 2002, The Sontag Foundation has passionately supported people and organizations who make a significant and continuing impact in the lives of individuals with a major strategic focus on brain cancer research and support for patients with brain cancer. As such, we believe that Rick Sontag meets the criteria for this annual award recognizing individuals, organizations, or groups who, through philanthropy, advocacy, discovery, or patient care and support, have had a transformative impact on the ABTA's mission advancement.