

Sontag Foundation Awards \$2.25 Million Dollars for Brain Cancer Research
The Sontag Foundation is one of the Largest Private Funders of Brain Cancer Research in North America

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida- November 10, 2023- The Sontag Foundation announces the three winners of its Distinguished Scientist Award, a \$750,000 grant awarded through a competitive scientific review process. These three extraordinary scientists, with the potential to make a significant impact in the field of brain cancer, are selected to join the prestigious network of Sontag Foundation award recipients. To date, the Foundation has invested over \$65 million dollars to launch the careers of young scientists at academic medical institutions throughout North America.



The following **Distinguished Scientist Awardees will receive \$750,000** to advance their research on brain cancer:

- Dr. Kyle P. Eagen, Baylor College of Medicine
- Dr. Leyuan Ma, University of Pennsylvania/Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- Dr. Deblina Sarkar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“It is great to see these three scientists join our 66 previous Distinguished Scientist award winners to help advance new technologies and defeat this horrible disease.” Rick Sontag, President.

“I am humbled and grateful to be a Sontag Foundation DSA awardee,” says Dr. Kyle P. Eagen, one of the three 2023 award recipients. “It is not often that a scientist can pursue a new research direction, but support from the Sontag Foundation will allow my lab to do just that. When embarking on a new adventure it is important to have great people around you. I am particularly excited to become a part of the Sontag community so I can interact with other outstanding investigators to generate new ideas to better understand and treat brain tumors.”

To view our full list of grantees or learn more about the program, please visit our website [here](#).

In February 2024, the Foundation will host its 21st annual scientific summit in Amelia Island, Florida, bringing current and past awardees together to engage in collaborative conversations to drive science forward to make a difference in the field of brain cancer and in the lives of brain cancer patients. Our keynote speaker features Captain Robert “Hoot” Gibson. Captain Gibson served as a Fighter Pilot, Test Pilot and Navy Astronaut for over 50 years before becoming a Pilot of Southwest Airlines in 1996. He’s flown 5 Space Flights, 4 of them as the Mission Commander. Captain Gibson has received numerous awards and was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2003 and enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2013.



About The Sontag Foundation

The Sontag Foundation, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, is one the largest private funders of brain cancer research in North America. The Foundation was established in 2002 by Frederick and Susan Sontag following Susan’s battle with a lethal form of brain cancer. To date, the Foundation has granted over \$65 million in funding to support brain cancer research. In 2014, the Sontags established The Brain Tumor Network, to provide free navigation services for patients with brain tumors, helping to connect them to brain cancer specialists, second opinions and clinical trials. Since its inception, the Sontags have invested over \$25 million to support the critical work of The Brain Tumor Network.

To learn more about The Sontag Foundation, visit the website at www.sontagfoundation.org. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, visit Brain Tumor Network’s website at www.braintumornetwork.org or call 904-395-5220 for free patient navigation services.