



THE SONTAG FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2023

www.sontagfoundation.org



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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2023 has been a year of expansion and outreach for the Sontag Foundation. The year began by celebrating the 20th anniversary of our founding with a major event featuring Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa from Mayo Clinic speaking about his work helping brain tumor patients in Latin America and the Far East. As the year progressed we expanded our Sontag Innovation Fund by making four more venture capital investments in technologies that could help combat the disease of brain tumors. Then we finished the year by granting three more Distinguished Scholar Awards, making a total of 69 DSA grants given since our founding.

We likewise built out our Foundation connections to other organizations closely allied with our mission. We hosted a Fly In get together assembling many other brain tumor groups for the purpose of streamlining our combined approaches for research funding and patient support. We formed closer alliances with organizations such as the American Association for Cancer Research and the American Cancer Society. And we worked with our sister organization Brain Tumor Network to get out the story of all we do to make the lives of brain tumor patients better.

-RICK SONTAG

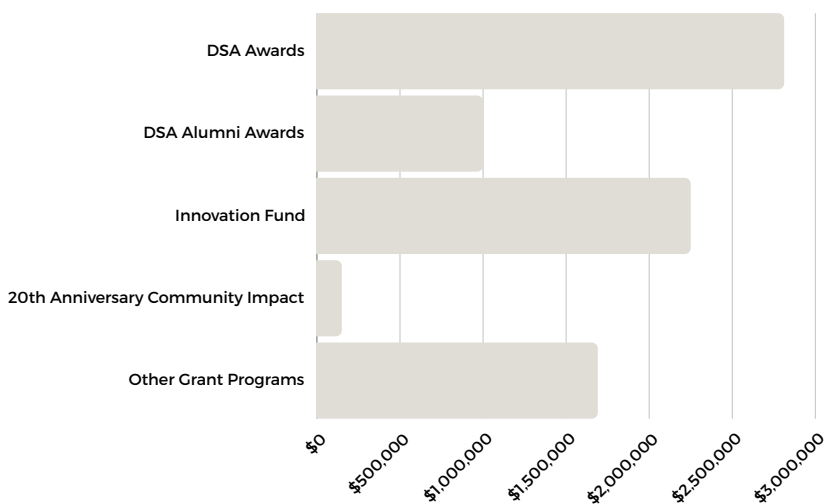
*President & Founder,
The Sontag Foundation*

The 2023 DSA Scientific Retreat

The Foundation hosted its 20th annual DSA Retreat in February. With over 60 participants, the event featured scientific panels focusing on the role of metabolism in cancer, best practices in scientific modeling, and innovative clinical trial design. Participants also heard from alumni and currently funded grant recipients and had opportunities to meet informally to discuss opportunities for collaboration.



Grant Snapshot



In 2023, The Sontag Foundation granted

\$7,924,334

including \$2,250,000 in program related investments through the Sontag Innovation Fund.

Over 97%

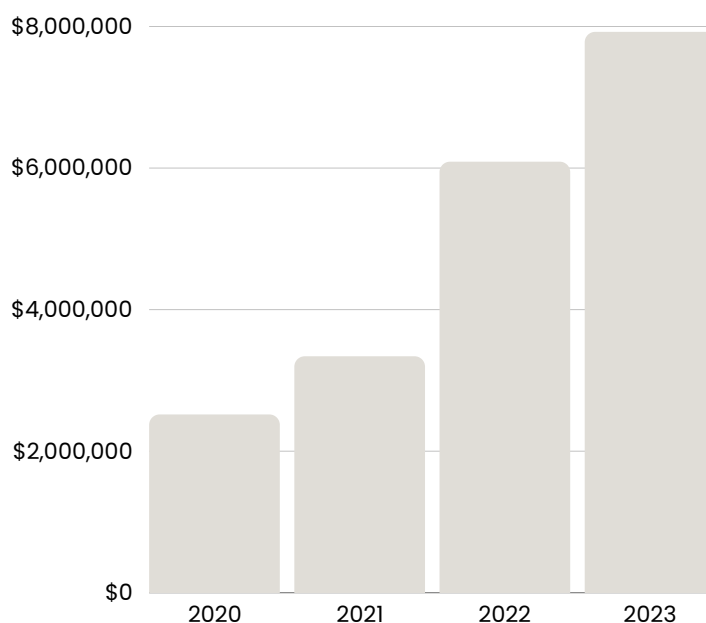
of the funds support brain tumor related programming.

2020-2023 Annual Giving

Since 2020, The
Sontag Foundation
has awarded over

\$20 Million

to support brain
cancer research
& organizations
providing brain
tumor patient
resources.



Distinguished Scientist Award

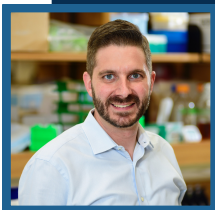
\$750,000 disbursed over 5 years

Since 2003, the Foundation has invested over

\$65 million

to support the scientific careers of young investigators pursuing high-risk projects at a critical stage in their research. The 2023 award winners, with the potential to make a significant impact in the field of brain cancer, were selected to join the prestigious network of Sontag Foundation award recipients.

To learn more about the Distinguished Scientist Award, visit the Foundation's website:
www.sontagfoundation.org/explore/



Kyle P. Eagen, Ph.D.

Dr. Eagen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. The title of his funded project is: Transcriptional Regulation and Drug Sensitivity Through Chromosome 3D Structure Rewiring by a Brain Tumor Fusion Oncoprotein.



Leyuan Ma, Ph.D.

Dr. Ma is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania/ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The title of his funded project is: Engineering a Sustainable Pan-brain Tumor Targeting CAR T Cell Therapy Via Microenvironment Sensing.



Deblina Sarkar, Ph.D.

Dr. Sarkar is an Assistant Professor in Media Arts and Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts. The title of her funded project is: In situ Self-Implanted Bioelectronic Therapy for Glioblastoma.

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2024 Grant Application Deadline

Have a question? Shandra Koler manages the portfolio of grants and contracts for the Foundation and assists grant applicants interested in applying. Connect with Shandra via email at skoler@sontagfoundation.org.

SONTAG INNOVATION FUND

The Sontag Innovation Fund, led by Scott Davis, PhD, made four new investments in 2023 totaling \$2.25 million.

The Sontag Innovation Fund, is a venture philanthropy and impact investment fund wholly-owned by the Sontag Foundation. The Fund focuses on early-stage investment opportunities with the ability to materially accelerate the development of therapeutics or technology to diagnose, treat, prevent and cure brain cancer. Learn more at <https://sontagfoundation.org/innovation-fund/>

4
New
Investments

\$2.25
Million

Investments



Initiatives We Support

ASCO Conquer Cancer

2023 Sontag Foundation Young Investigator Award

The Sontag Foundation is a proud sponsor of the ASCO Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award. These \$50,000 one-year awards provide funding to physicians focusing on brain tumor research during the transition from a fellowship program to a faculty appointment.



ASCO Conquer Cancer

Nina Yoh, MD
Columbia University
Medical Center

Dr. Nina Yoh, Hilary Keeley, Executive Director, and Dr. Scott Davis, Senior Life Sciences Associate, Sontag Innovation Fund at the 2023 ASCO Annual Meeting

Arthritis National Research Foundation (ANRF)

Sontag Foundation Fellow

Prior to the founding of the Sontag Foundation, the Sontag family was a long-standing funder of ANRF in memory of Rick's mother who died of complications from rheumatoid arthritis.

In 2012, the Sontag Foundation awarded a \$1 million endowment to fund the ANRF award in perpetuity.



**Margaret Chang,
M.D., PhD**

Boston Children's Hospital
2023 Sontag Foundation Fellow



21st Annual Scientific Retreat



Special Guest Speaker

Captain Robert
"Hoot" Gibson



February 12-15, 2024

Ritz Carlton Amelia Island

Please check our website
for the most up to date
information.

[https://sontagfoundation.org/
2024-scientific-retreat/](https://sontagfoundation.org/2024-scientific-retreat/)



Brain Tumor Network

Providing free, individualized brain tumor support to help patients overcome treatment obstacles and facilitate access to quality healthcare.

Visit Us Online at [BrainTumorNetwork.org](https://www.BrainTumorNetwork.org)