Spence Family
Synovial Sarcoma Foundation

Our research *and how we fund it*

Before we commit a dollar, our global research audit reviews every synovial sarcoma program and clinical trial we can find, along with the scientists who lead them. That work shows us where the science is strongest and where patients stand to gain the most. We then fund the most promising programs in stages. Each new payment follows results the research team has agreed to deliver, so our donors' support goes to work that is moving forward.



Our AI-assisted audit tracks every synovial sarcoma program and trial we can find.

30+
research institutions and biotech companies we work with worldwide

83
programs reviewed and followed in 17 countries by our ongoing research audit

6,166
studies in our research library

Programs on the horizon

Three areas we are pursuing now

TOP RESEARCH PRIORITY

SUMO inhibition

SB-4826 · UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Synovial sarcoma depends on the SUMO pathway more than almost any other cancer tested. SB-4826, a pill that blocks it, is in a first-in-human trial.

UNDER EVALUATION

mRNA vaccine

Shared-antigen design · CHOP and Penn Medicine

It targets antigens shared across synovial sarcoma, so one off-the-shelf vaccine could reach many patients. We are evaluating it now.

UNDER EVALUATION

Functional testing

SageMedic · Certis Oncology

SAGE Oncotest runs about a dozen drugs on a patient's own tumor cells in 7 to 10 days. YourPDX grows the tumor in mice for a longer drug study. We are evaluating both.

Programs we fund

Six programs, each funded in stages

UNDER REVIEW — 4 vaccine · 8 cell therapy · 5 small-molecule · 5 data and models

DATA AND TISSUE — ~$1M

Registry and Biorepository

CHOP and Penn Medicine · Dr. Ted Laetsch

198 patients are enrolled, with 2,000+ imaging studies. It banks flash-frozen and FFPE tissue.

- Free to join from anywhere.

SCAN TO JOIN

SURGERY — ~$700K

Pediatric TumorGlow Trial

CHOP and Penn Medicine · Drs. Mattei and Singhal

A glowing dye helps surgeons find tumor tissue. The trial is for ages 12 to 17 with sarcoma that has spread to the lungs.

- Planned enrollment of 20 patients.

DRUG DISCOVERY NEW — $500K

Drugging the SS18-SSX Fusion

Dana-Farber · Dr. Cigall Kadoch

The team is screening 80,000 compounds for a drug that hits the fusion protein at a point healthy cells lack.

- Milestone review at 12 months.

IMMUNOTHERAPY NEW — $200K

CXCR4 Blockade and Interferon

Northwestern and Huntsman · Drs. Pollack and Jones

The study tests whether an FDA-approved drug plus interferon lets T cells reach and attack the tumor.

- Aiming for a Phase 1 trial in about 18 months.

TUMOR BIOLOGY — Funded

Recurrence and Resistance

Penn Medicine and CHOP · Drs. Haldar and Hurley

Dr. Hurley studies why some synovial sarcomas come back, using registry samples taken over time.

- New ALDH-targeting drugs in testing.

CLINICAL CARE — Funded

Synovial Sarcoma Tumor Board

CHOP and Penn Medicine · Dr. Ted Laetsch

Each month, sarcoma specialists from around the world review complex cases in children and adults.

- Any clinician can present a case.

SCAN TO JOIN

AN IDEA TO BORROW

Map the whole research field, and track every program that could matter for your disease.

Collaborate with us on research and data sharing

Contact Nathan Imperiale at
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X @curesynovial
LinkedIn @synovialsarcomafoundation

Join the registry
Scan for our registry page