



RUTLEDGE  
CANCER FOUNDATION

Easing Cancer's Impact • Raising Survival Rates  
Finding a Cure

Newsletter

FALL 2020

Meeting the needs of our cancer patients is more critical than ever. You are our lifeline and we are incredibly grateful for each of you!



Dear Friends and Family of RCF,

As many of you know, Carley, our 26 year old daughter, relapsed again on September 24th with her battle with Ewing sarcoma. After two emergent spinal surgeries to remove the primary tumor, she is in treatment and gaining strength every day. The outpouring of love, prayers, and support has lifted our family and allowed us to focus on Carley and her healing. We are incredibly grateful to each

of you during this time.

Although my focus is back on the front line, the work of RCF continues in full force. Our staff, Brenda Lammers, Business Manager and Carley's Closet Coordinator, Carolyn Roberts, Development Director and Adrienne Stephens, Community Events and Engagement Manager, are committed more than ever to fulfill our mission and continue the daily work to help our young adult cancer patients. Our Board, with Kyle Kight as our President, are leading the foundation into our second decade with strength, purpose and vision.

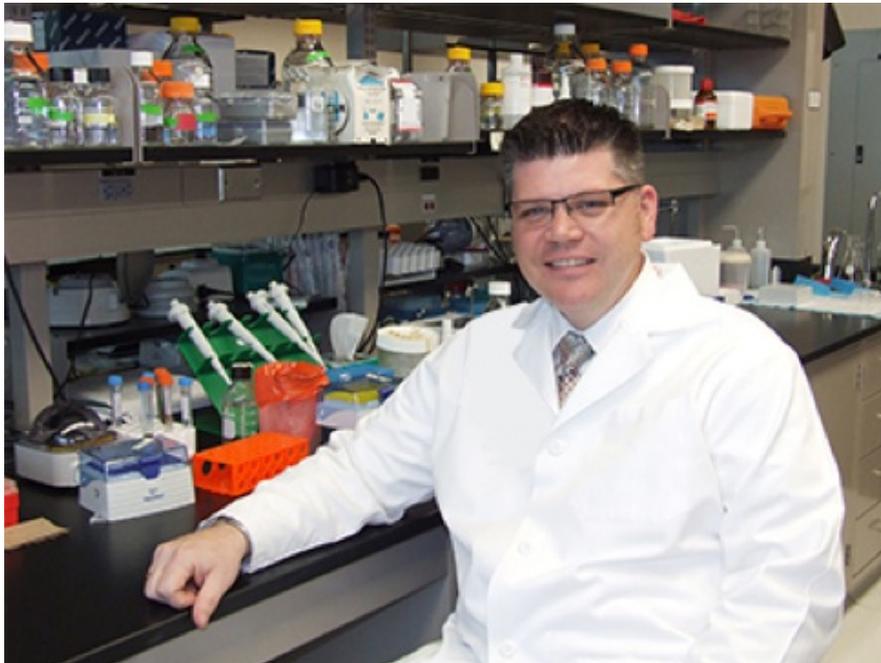
I am more personally committed than ever to press on toward a cure for pediatric/young adult sarcomas. Please join me in this pursuit-until our work is complete.

Laura Rutledge

Thank you for helping  
*Ease Cancer's Impact, Raise Survival Rates,  
and Find A Cure!*

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## RCF Advances Novel Therapies for Pediatric Sarcomas



*Dr. Greg Aune, Greehey Children's Cancer Research Center, San Antonio*

Cancer arises in different tissues and forms, but researchers have identified a handful of characteristics common across cancers. Recently, researchers have discovered that many tumor cells over-express high levels of cholesterol on the surface of cells – the product of the gene is called *Scarb1*. This traceable pattern has been documented in over a dozen tumor types ranging from myeloma to pancreatic cancer to pediatric sarcomas.

For several years, RCF has been working with three cancer research labs to develop novel therapies that target the *Scarb1* gene to treat pediatric sarcomas. These sarcomas are in desperate need for less toxic and more curative treatments. We are thankful for the collaborative efforts of the Lacko lab at UNTHSC, the Yustein lab at Texas Children's and the Aune lab at Greehey Children's Cancer Research Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio to help bring these therapies to patients.

Most recently, RCF has brought together Dr Greg Aune's Lab, in partnership with Qana Therapeutics, to develop a novel therapeutic that uses *Scarb1* to target anti-cancer drugs to tumors, sparing healthy tissues. It is currently being developed

specifically for pediatric and young adult sarcomas. Chemotherapy cardiotoxicity is Dr. Aune's focus. He himself is a pediatric cancer survivor who experienced serious cardiac disease almost a decade after his cancer treatment. Dr. Aune has developed a unique mouse model that allows researchers to measure tumor response and cardiotoxicity in parallel.

Early results are promising, showing that Qana's novel delivery platform can focus drug delivery to tumor cells while sparing the heart. We hope to advance this program towards the clinic in the coming year, potentially providing a safer alternative to current chemotherapy mainstays.

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## AYA Patients and Families Attend Drive-through *Boo at the Zoo*

*"Last year, I was in treatment in Houston. Sadly, that meant that I missed out on having a "normal" Halloween with my girl. It was very generous of Rutledge Cancer Foundation to provide such a sweet, safe way to celebrate this Halloween." -Johanna, AYA Cancer Survivor*



*Boo at the Zoo* looked a little different this year! For the first time ever, The Fort Worth Zoo invited guests to drive their own vehicle through the Zoo's main path while enjoying music, costumed characters, entertainment, treats, and encounters with wildlife along the way! RCF was able to provide an opportunity for 200 young AYA patients and their families to enjoy a safe and social distanced Halloween.

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## Mother of AYA Cancer Survivor Organizes Local Blood Drive and Give-Back



*Pictured from left: Michelle Fisher, Sarah Kight, Adrienne Stephens, Laura Rutledge, Deepa Broker*

Michelle Fisher, a volunteer of Rutledge Cancer Foundation (RCF) and mother of a Ewing Sarcoma survivor, joined forces with other mothers of Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer patients in her community to organize a blood drive and Give-Back for RCF. Their goal was to help bridge the blood shortage at our local hospitals and raise money for the foundation that gave her hope during her son's cancer treatments.

***“We wanted to do something that would not only raise awareness for RCF but fill a need in our community that’s been affected by the pandemic,” Fisher said. “There’s been a lingering blood shortage in our area for some time, and it seemed like an easy way for people to give.”***

A Carter BloodCare donation bus was on site at the Chicken Salad Chick – Hurst location. Over 30 people donated blood and were tested for COVID-19 antibodies and blood type. Chicken Salad Chick - Hurst also donated 15% of the day's proceeds to RCF to support crucial patient programs, events and research.

***“We feel extremely lucky to have the support of our volunteers, Carter BloodCare, and Chicken Salad Chick during this time, and we are thankful that people came out to donate blood and give to our mission,”***

*RCF Executive Director Laura Rutledge said.*

Fisher first learned about RCF when Sarah Kight, a volunteer and mother of a Ewing Sarcoma survivor was visiting Cook Children's Medical Center while Fisher's son was being treated, to offer encouragement and support to AYA patients and their families undergoing treatment.

***"RCF was definitely a gift sent from God. They were exactly what I needed during that time, and once my son was better, I wanted to volunteer and help make a difference for others," Fisher said.***



**The AYA Cancer Mom #Dreamteam**  
*Left to Right: Sarah Kight, Michelle Fisher, Deepa Broker*



**Michelle Fisher, event organizer, created t-shirts to sell at the event. [Click here](#) to purchase a t-shirt.**



**Over 30 people donated blood. We are incredibly thankful to those who donated especially during a shortage!**

[Host a Giveback for RCF](#)

[Purchase a t-shirt](#)

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**Childhood Cancer Awareness Month  
...because one month isn't enough!**



This past September was Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This year, RCF was able to flutter awareness with RCF butterfly yard signs across the metroplex to promote childhood cancer awareness month. The campaign was a success and we will continue the tradition each year. We also encourage you to leave your sign up, because one month isn't enough!

[Become A Monthly Donor](#)

[Purchase a yard sign](#)

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## Thank you to our 2020 Hearts of Gold Giving Sponsors!

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**Thank you to our 2020 Grantors!  
We could not do what we do without you!**

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A portion of your purchase will go toward supporting crucial RCF  
Patient Programs like Carley's Closet.



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