MUSELLA
FOUNDATION

BRAIN TUMOR RESEARCH
AND INFORMATION

Dear Friend,

As 2025 ends, we at the Musella Foundation want to take a moment to remember the compassionate support shown by our community. Thanks to generous donors like you, as highlighted in the attached, we initiated groundbreaking studies focused on innovative treatment approaches, provided expert guidance and critical copayment assistance to hundreds of families, provided vital information and educational resources to newly diagnosed patients, and expanded our patient navigation program to reach more individuals in need. Through advocacy efforts, we also helped advance policies that improve access to promising therapies.

None of these efforts would have been possible without the help and dedication of our donors, partners, and volunteers. Your kindness has made a real difference in the lives of patients and families navigating the challenges of brain tumors. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to bring hope and practical support to them.

We are proud of the progress we've made, but our work is far from done. Going into 2026, our mission remains the same: accelerate the search for a cure for brain tumors while providing immediate, life-changing support to patients and their families. In 2026, we aim to expand our research funding, increase the number of patients served by our educational and treatment navigation program, continue funding our critical copayment assistance program, and continue advocating for better brain tumor treatment options. We humbly ask that you consider including us in your end-of-year giving. Together, we can make 2026 a year where every patient's journey is met with compassion, expertise, and tangible support.

As we look forward to 2026 filled with hope and possibility, we invite you to make your tax-deductible donation today and be part of the difference we'll make together in 2026.
Happy Holidays!

Warmly,
The Musella Foundation Team

[*Check back of page for a message from our new chief scientific advisor*]

1100 PENINSULA BLVD.

HEWLETT, NEW YORK 11557

Dear Reader (and Community Leader),

We are at an historical inflection point; many cancers are now controlled due to remarkable technological advances.The immuno-revolution transformed previously intractable tumors such as leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and melanoma. Brain tumors are more stubborn. The most challenging and consequential work remains to be done. The annual report (attached) shows breathtaking progress. We need, however, your voice, and yes, your dollars, to reach the goal off finding a cure.

I am honored to have been figuratively tapped on the shoulder by the Musella Foundation to serve as its Chief Scientific Advisor to bring scientific concepts to clinical reality. Glioblastoma is cured daily in the laboratory, in mice, but not in our patients — and this gap keeps me up at night. Clinical trials are expensive, with a poor track record. We can change the paradigm to make progress. In the attached report, you will be inspired, by the remarkable achievements of the Musella Foundation: impact-driven research, empowerment of patients and caregivers through education, patient-focused advocacy, and assistance with copayments to lessen the financial burdens on families.

Specifically, we are on the cusp of 6 emerging technologies that will be game-changers: 1) **Immuno-oncology** with a pipeline of immunotherapies, that can switch glioblastoma from being immunoresistant to immunoresponsive; 2) the development of **mRNA vaccines** already showing promise in early clinical trials; 3) **cancer neuroscience** showing new ways to harness the nervous system, including neuromodulation, to control inflammation and glioma growth; 4) **advanced neuroimaging,** including connectomics, PET scanning, and multimodal MRIs to provide sensitive, specific biomarkers to assess the effect of new agents; 5) blood and CSF **biomarker**s (liquid biopsy); 6) **artificial intelligence**, already showing proof-of-concept that we can enhance the precision of surgery, pathology, radiation therapy, discover new drugs, and new combination therapies. We will build the dream teams to gather the best minds in the nation. We can intercept gliomas at an earlier stage before they spread throughout the brain. I am pledged to do my utmost, and I am sure we can count on your help. Every dollar moves the needle, and ultimately we will flip the narrative on gliomas.

Winston Churchill famously said, "*To each, there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing…*" I have attended too many funerals to be ignorant of the pain and talked to too many long-term survivors to lose hope. Working together with the Musella Foundation, we will win. But we need your help. No contribution is too small or too big. We will give our utmost to win this war, and we thank you in advance for your commitment. Your support is so incredibly meaningful. Please do that '*very special thing*.'

Respectfully,

Steven Brem, MD
Chief Scientific Advisor, Musella Foundation
Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania

Musella Foundation 2025 Highlights

Thanks to your generous support, the Musella Foundation continues to be a driving force behind some of the most promising breakthroughs in brain tumor treatment. Here's a look at what you've helped make possible — and what's on the horizon.

Impact-driven research

In 2025, we awarded over **$490,000 in new research grants**, bringing our total to more than **200 grants and $7 million** invested in innovative brain tumor research. Our focus is early-stage, high-impact work that often doesn't attract government or industry funding.

We're seeing real results: One of the therapies we helped fund in its earliest stages, ONC201 (now Modeyso), received accelerated FDA approval this year for treating H3K27M-mutant gliomas. We co-sponsored the **expanded access program** that allowed patients to receive this treatment prior to approval—helping families in real time while accelerating data collection used in support of regulatory approval.

What lies ahead: We're proud to have provided early seed funding for **DCVax-L**, a tumor lysate vaccine on the verge of regulatory approval in the UK, with hopes it will soon follow in the U.S. This could mark a major step forward for immunotherapy in glioblastoma.

Several other Musella-funded projects are advancing toward the clinic. **FLAG-003** and **ThermoDox**, both promising therapeutic candidates, are expected to complete key preclinical work that will pave the way for human trials.

We're also eagerly watching progress on the Phase 1 trial of **oral gallium maltolate**, a therapy we've helped support through an expanded access program. This option remains available today for patients with recurrent GBM who have run out of standard treatments.

At the Musella Foundation, we're building a pipeline of potential breakthroughs. With the guidance of our new Chief Scientific Advisor, Dr. Steven Brem, a leader in translational neuro-oncology, we're entering a pivotal moment. The science is ready, the tools are here, and we are pushing the envelope to achieve better patient outcomes during our lifetime.

Patient and family empowerment through education

BCSSA: In 2025, we increased funding for our patient navigation program, the Brain Cancer Support & Solutions Alliance (BCSSA), a partnership between the Musella Foundation, Head for the Cure, and Cancer Commons. The BCSSA was established in mid-2024 to give brain tumor patients and caregivers comprehensive and real-time support, education, and guidance during their treatment journey. During its first year, the BCSSA served 580+ brain tumor patients and caregivers. Learn more at https://virtualtrials.org/navigation.cfm!

Online Education Resources: Our website, virtualtrials.org, stands out as one of the most trusted and comprehensive brain tumor resources available, providing thousands of patients and caregivers with timely articles, guides, and webinars and empowering families with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions.

Brain Tumor Guides: In January 2025, we proudly released the first edition of our Low-Grade Brain Tumor Guide. We're also preparing the 13th edition of our Brain Tumor Guide for the Newly Diagnosed, a crucial resource for anyone facing a high-grade brain tumor. Together, these guides reach over 10,000 families each year.

Patient-focused advocacy

We continue to champion the Promising Pathway Act (https://virtualtrials.org/ppa), which will create faster, smarter access to promising treatments and expedite progress towards a cure. A revised version of the bill will be reintroduced to Congress soon.

Additionally, we fought for legislation requiring New York's Medicaid program to cover wearable alternating electric fields devices (such as Optune) for glioblastoma and other cancers. With your help, the bill successfully passed in the New York State Senate, and we'll continue advocating for its passage in the Assembly next year.

Copayment Assistance

Over the last two decades, we've given more than **$12 million** to help patients cover the cost of brain tumor treatment copayments. Funding has been limited recently, so we've had to close the program for much of 2025. Your continued support is essential to help us reopen this vital safety net that helps keep patients from facing treatment interruptions.

Your Support Matters

When you give online at **https://virtualtrials.org/donate**, you can choose how your donation will be used:

- **Research Only:** 100% of your donation goes to research.
- **Co-Payment Assistance Program:** 91% of your donation supports patients in need, and 9% covers program costs.
- **Unrestricted:** Allows flexibility to use funds where they are most needed.
- **Special Research or Memorial Funds:** Available through our website.

You can also give via **recurring donation**s, **cryptocurrency, stock, donor-advised funds, wire transfers, Venmo** or even via **texting**!

We hope you'll join us in transforming the future for brain tumor patients. As always, feel free to contact us at **888-295-4740** or **musella@virtualtrials.org** with any questions!